

CONCEPT: REVIEW OF PROKARYOTIC VS EUKARYOTIC GENE EXPRESSION

- Prokaryotic & eukaryotic gene expression differs significantly in both transcription & translation:

Prokaryotic vs. Eukaryotic Gene Expression		
Characteristic	Prokaryotic	Eukaryotic
Requirements for Transcription Initiation	_____ factors	_____ factors
Ribosome Size	_____S (30S + 50S Subunits)	_____S (40S + 60S Subunits)
Location of Transcription & Translation	Transcription: _____ Translation: _____	Transcription: _____ Translation: _____
Simultaneous Transcription & Translation?	_____	_____
Requires mRNA Processing?	_____	_____
Introns & Exons?	_____	_____
Mono- vs. Poly-cistronic	BOTH mono & polycistronic	Only _____-cistronic

PRACTICE: Which of the following statements about gene expression is FALSE?

- More than one RNA polymerase can be transcribing a specific gene at a given time.
- Transcription begins at a DNA site called a promoter.
- Transcription factors are required for transcription initiation in eukaryotes.
- More than one ribosome can be translating a specific mRNA at a given time in prokaryotes.
- A stop codon in the mRNA signals the end of translation.

PRACTICE: Which of the following statements concerning transcription in bacteria is FALSE:

- There are a variety of sigma factors that affect transcription.
- Sigma factors are parts of RNA polymerase that recognize promoter regions.
- It occurs in the nucleus.
- Termination occurs when a stem-loop is formed or due to the presence of Rho protein.
- The prokaryotic mRNA does not include introns & does not need to be processed.

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PRACTICE: All the following are involved in prokaryotic transcription but:

- a) RNA polymerase.
- b) Transcription factors.
- c) A Rho protein.
- d) A promoter.
- e) A sigma factor.

PRACTICE: Which of these answers are major differences between eukaryotes and prokaryotes in gene expression?

- a) Eukaryotes have monocistronic mRNA while prokaryotes can have polycistronic mRNA.
- b) Eukaryotic transcription occurs in the nucleus, while prokaryotic transcription occurs in the cytoplasm.
- c) Eukaryotes use transcription factor proteins in transcription, while prokaryotes use sigma factors.
- d) Simultaneous transcription and translation occur in prokaryotes but not eukaryotes.
- e) All of the above are major differences between eukaryotic and prokaryotic transcription.

PRACTICE: Why can prokaryotes perform transcription and translation simultaneously while eukaryotes cannot?

- a) Because in prokaryotes, transcription and translation both occur in the cytoplasm.
- b) Because in eukaryotes, transcription and translation do not occur in the same location within the cell.
- c) Because prokaryotes have polycistronic mRNA while eukaryotes have monocistronic mRNA.
- d) Because prokaryotes use sigma factors while eukaryotes use transcription factors.
- e) A and B.
- f) B and C.
- g) C and D.