

5 Some of the characteristics of an organism are due to polygenic inheritance.

(a) Every person has a Rhesus characteristic.

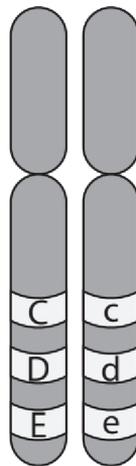
People who are Rhesus positive have one or more of three types of Rhesus antigen C, D or E, on the cell surface membrane of their red blood cells.

Each Rhesus antigen is coded by a dominant allele of gene C or gene D or gene E.

People who are Rhesus negative for one of these genes will have two recessive alleles.

For example, a person who is Rhesus D negative will have inherited two recessive d alleles.

The diagram shows the loci of these three genes on a pair of chromosomes.



(i) State what is meant by the term **allele**.

(1)

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