

Genetic Engineering

LI: To understand what genetic engineering is.

SC: To consider how far people should go in defending and promoting life from an ethical standpoint.

Discuss

Babies should be born
perfect or not at all.....

Gattaca – watch the clip!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=06lJhEc7zIo>

What do you think
about using Genetics
to determine life?



Write your glossary ...

Embryology

The science of living things as they grow in early stages.

Genetic engineering

Genetic engineering means many different things. However, to explain it basically it is about changing or destroying parts of a humans genetic make up in the embryonic stages of life.

Screening is one of the main reasons for embryos to be tampered with. This is when embryos are tested for genetically inherited diseases, so they don't get passed on.

Case Study

Sarah has found out recently that she has Huntington's disease. She and her husband want to start a family, she is a Christian but does not want to pass her disease on. She can go to the hospital and have her embryos checked to make sure only those without the disease develop. Those with the disease will be destroyed. Sarah is now 35 and is has just started to develop symptoms.

What should she do?

Is it right?

- ☐ Is it right to screen for an incurable genetic disease that doesn't show itself till middle-age, like Huntingdon's disease?
- ☐ Is it right to end a life because it's not perfect?

for

against

In your books list the reasons for Genetic screening and the reasons that could be used against it. Then give your own opinion using reasons to back up your thoughts!

Opinion line ...



Put your name on your post-it!

Stick it on the board where your opinion lies!

A Christian view ...

Christians are generally against genetic engineering.

They believe that people are created in the image of God and entitled to life.

They believe that genetic engineering encourages people who are not 'perfect' to be destroyed before they are born. Christians believe that every person has the right to life

However, some Christians believe that God gave us the gift of science, therefore, science is part of God's will too.

Islamic view ...

Generally, for genetic engineering, Muslims believe that Allah has given them the gifts of modern science and that they should be used for good.

Also, many Muslims believe that the embryo at the early stages isn't a viable life.

It is in this belief that Muslims and Christians separate on the issue of genetic engineering.

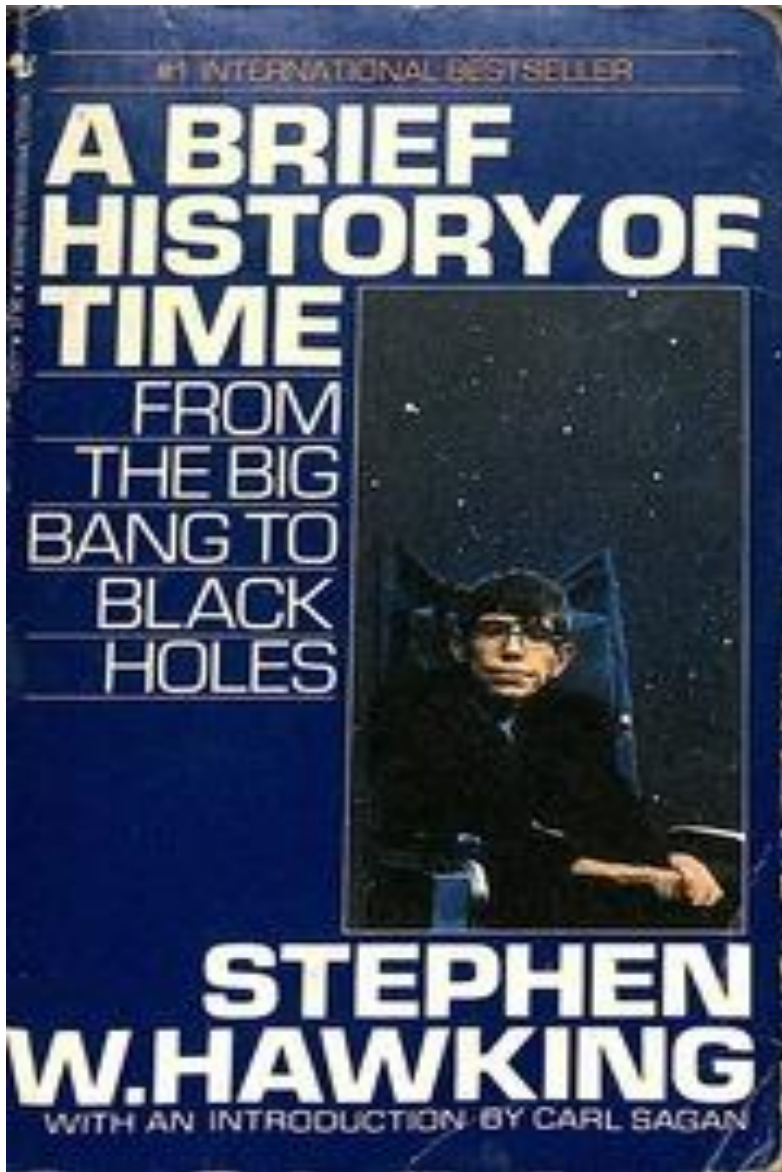
Muslims generally believe that prevention is better than cure.

Write and discuss ...

- ☐ Does having a disability make life less important?
- ☐ Is it better to destroy embryos which are not perfect?
- ☐ Is it better to save society money?
- ☐ Does the idea of genetic engineering value humans for the wrong reasons?
- ☐ Is discarding an embryo based on imperfection immoral?
- ☐ Is it better to live than not live at all, no matter what?

Group feed back ...

- **Each group needs to feedback to the rest of the class on the points they discussed.**
- **Be ready to feedback 3 issues/conclusions that your group discussed!**
- **Put your 3 points on your large piece of paper!**
 - ❖ **These can be questions that the group raised in addition to the ones to be discussed.**



'I am quite often asked: How do you feel about having ALS? The answer is, not a lot. I try to lead as normal a life as possible, and not think about my condition, or regret the things it prevents me from doing, which are not that many.'

This image is in the Public Domain

Extension question ...

Genetic engineering is always wrong'.

Do you agree? Show you have thought about more than one point of view. 6 marks

Tip!

Include points that were made in your group work.

Plenary

5 volunteers to read out their answers

In your books –

What did they do well?

What could they improve?

What mark would you give them out of 6? Why?