



Comsats University Islamabad, Lahore Campus

(Defence Road, Off Raiwind Road, Lahore)

Assignment <1> – Spring 2024

Course Title	Professional Practices in IT	Course Code		CSC110		Credit Hours	3(2,1)
Instructor (s)	Khaqan Zaheer	Program Name		BSSE			
Semester	6 th	Batch	FA21	Section	A	Date	April 18, 2024
Due Date	April 22, 2024	Maximum Marks		10			
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<u>Important Instructions/Guidelines:</u> 1. Read the questions carefully. 2. Copied assignment will not be accepted. 3. Attempt all questions. 4. Do not copy from any source. 5. Submit file FA21_BSE_XYZ.docx . 6. Late Submission will not be entertained.							

Question No 1.

CLO: <01>; Bloom Taxonomy Level: <Understanding>

Should we choose humans?

Professor John Wesley is a brilliant scientist with an enviable track record of medical success. In the last 5 years, he has carried out a dozen high-risk medical operations successfully and has become a must have on talk shows. He is a sought-after speaker on medical matters, and he is gifted on all reasonable subjects. He has led pioneering research in cloning and has been contemplating cloning some human replacement parts if he can only get a human body to give him a convincing push.

Mrs. Joan Kaggwa is a well-known and successful entrepreneur, a wonderful wife, and a philanthropist. She is a president of several local and national charity organizations. She sits on the boards of several national and international corporations. For the last 21 years of her marriage, she has worked hard for her family and community. Two years ago, however, her only son, a young man nearing his 18th birthday, was killed in an automobile accident. He was the apple of his parents' eyes. The family was devastated by the death. For a while now, Mrs. Kaggwa has been following the cloning stories that have appeared on television and in the newspapers, but without seriously giving them much thought until the day of her son's death. Then, with her insistence, and to the annoyance of her husband, the family agreed to keep their son's body with Infinite Life Corporation, a company that keeps human frozen bodies in liquid nitrogen for years. Mrs. Kaggwa hoped that someday science would bring her son back. Her prayers were answered, at least according to her, one Sunday morning when she was going through the Sunday paper just before church, a small article caught her eye. The article was about a planned cloning experiment by a young scientist. During the following 2 weeks, Joan made calls that led her and her husband to the waiting room of Professor Wesley to discuss the cloning of their beloved but dead son.

1. Are there justifiable reasons that lead people to clone their loved ones?

Human cloning raises profound ethical and moral questions, particularly when it comes to cloning loved ones. The desire to clone a deceased loved one often stems from deep emotional pain and the longing to fill the void left by their absence. For individuals like Mrs. Kaggwa, who have experienced the devastating loss of a child, the idea of cloning offers a glimmer of hope in an otherwise bleak reality. It's a desperate attempt to preserve a connection, to defy the finality of death, and to reclaim a sense of control over an uncontrollable situation. The emotional bonds we form with our loved ones are powerful, and the loss of someone dear can leave an indelible mark. In such circumstances, the idea of cloning may seem like a way to extend that bond, to continue a relationship that was cut short prematurely.

However, the decision to clone a loved one is not one to be taken lightly. While grief can cloud judgment and amplify the desire for reunion, it's essential to consider the broader implications of such a decision. Cloning raises profound questions about identity, individuality, and the nature of human existence. The cloned individual would not be a perfect replica of the original; they would have their own unique experiences, thoughts, and emotions. Additionally, there are ethical concerns about the potential exploitation of the cloned individual, the commodification of human life, and the impact on society's understanding of what it means to be human. As such, while the desire to clone a loved one may be understandable from an emotional standpoint, it's crucial to engage in thoughtful reflection and ethical deliberation before proceeding with such a complex and consequential decision.

In navigating the question of justifiable reasons for cloning loved ones, it's also essential to consider alternative avenues for coping with grief and honoring the memory of the deceased. While cloning may offer the illusion of reunion, there are other ways to preserve and cherish the legacy of a loved one. Creating memorials, establishing scholarships or charitable foundations in their name, and finding solace in shared memories and experiences can all provide meaningful ways to honor the departed. Moreover, seeking support from friends, family, or mental health professionals can help individuals navigate the grieving process and find healing in healthy and constructive ways. Ultimately, while the desire to clone a loved one may be driven by profound grief and longing, it's essential to approach the decision with careful consideration, ethical awareness, and a commitment to the well-being of all involved.

2. Is Mrs. Kaggwa justified in wanting to clone her son?

Mrs. Kaggwa's desire to clone her deceased son emerges from a place of profound grief and loss. Losing a child is one of the most devastating experiences a parent can endure, and the pain of such a loss can be all-consuming. In Mrs. Kaggwa's case, her son was not only the center of her world but also the embodiment of her hopes, dreams, and aspirations for the future. The sudden and tragic loss of her son shattered those dreams and left her grappling with an unimaginable void. In her desperation to hold onto any semblance of connection with her beloved son, Mrs. Kaggwa turns to the idea of cloning as a potential solution. Cloning offers the tantalizing possibility of bringing her

son back, of undoing the irreversible and reclaiming what was lost. For Mrs. Kaggwa, the desire to clone her son is rooted in a desperate yearning for closure, for the chance to see her son's smile again and to feel his presence in her life once more.

However, Mrs. Kaggwa's justification for cloning her son is not without its complexities and ethical considerations. While her grief is undoubtedly genuine and understandable, the decision to pursue cloning raises profound questions about the nature of identity, autonomy, and the sanctity of life. Cloning a human being is a deeply controversial and ethically fraught endeavor, with far-reaching implications for individuals, families, and society as a whole. Mrs. Kaggwa must grapple with the ethical implications of creating a new life with the explicit purpose of serving as a replacement for her deceased son. Is it morally justifiable to bring a cloned individual into existence for the sake of fulfilling one's own emotional needs? What rights and autonomy would the cloned individual have, and how would their existence be shaped by the expectations and desires of others? These are complex and weighty questions that Mrs. Kaggwa must confront as she considers the possibility of cloning her son.

Ultimately, Mrs. Kaggwa's justification for cloning her son reflects the deeply human impulse to seek solace and meaning in the face of overwhelming loss. Her desire to bring her son back, even in a cloned form, speaks to the depth of her love and the intensity of her grief. However, as she navigates this deeply personal and morally fraught decision, Mrs. Kaggwa must carefully consider the broader ethical implications and consequences of her actions. Cloning is not a simple solution to the complexities of grief, nor is it a decision to be made lightly. It requires thoughtful reflection, ethical deliberation, and a deep commitment to the well-being and dignity of all involved.

3. Do you think the Kaggwas' son, if successfully cloned, will be same as the dead son? Why or why not?

On a genetic level, the cloned son would indeed share identical DNA with the deceased son, as cloning involves replicating the genetic material of an existing individual. However, genetics alone do not determine identity. Identity is shaped by a myriad of factors, including personal experiences, memories, relationships, and environmental influences. As such, while the cloned son may share the same genetic blueprint as the deceased son, he would inevitably develop his own unique identity over time.

Moreover, the circumstances surrounding the cloned son's existence would also play a significant role in shaping his identity. Unlike the deceased son, who was born into a loving family and had the opportunity to form relationships and experiences within the context of his life, the cloned son would be brought into the world with the explicit purpose of serving as a replacement for his predecessor. This could have profound implications for his sense of self and autonomy, as he may feel pressure to live up to the expectations and desires of others.

Additionally, the cloned son's identity would also be influenced by societal attitudes and perceptions towards cloning. Cloning remains a deeply controversial and ethically fraught practice, and individuals created through cloning may face stigma, discrimination, and questions about their authenticity and humanity. These external factors could further complicate the cloned son's sense of identity and belonging.

In summary, while the cloned son would share the same genetic makeup as the deceased son, his identity would be shaped by a complex interplay of genetic, environmental, and social factors. While he may bear a physical resemblance to his predecessor, he would inevitably develop his own unique personality, experiences, and perspective on the world.

4. What compelling reasons can Professor Wesley give to justify in cloning Kaggwas' son?

There are several potential justifications that Professor Wesley could offer to justify cloning the Kaggwas' son, although each would come with its own ethical considerations and complexities. One argument could center around the concept of parental autonomy and the right of parents to make decisions about their own family and reproductive choices. From this perspective, Professor Wesley might argue that Mrs. Kaggwa has the right to pursue cloning as a means of coping with her grief and seeking closure after the loss of her son. He could emphasize the deeply personal nature of the decision and argue that it is not for society or outside parties to dictate how individuals choose to navigate their grief and loss.

Another compelling reason for cloning the Kaggwas' son could be framed in terms of the potential medical benefits and advancements that could arise from such a procedure. Professor Wesley could argue that cloning research has the potential to yield valuable insights into human development, genetics, and regenerative medicine, with potential applications in fields such as organ transplantation and disease treatment. By cloning the Kaggwas' son, Professor Wesley might argue that valuable scientific knowledge could be gained that could benefit not only the Kaggwa family but also society as a whole.

Additionally, Professor Wesley could highlight the importance of compassion and empathy in considering the Kaggwas' request for cloning. He could argue that Mrs. Kaggwa's profound grief and longing for her son are deeply human emotions that warrant understanding and support. By offering to help the Kaggwa family pursue cloning, Professor Wesley could position himself as a compassionate and empathetic ally who is committed to helping them find healing and closure in the wake of their devastating loss.

Ultimately, the compelling reasons for cloning the Kaggwas' son would need to be carefully weighed against the ethical, moral, and practical considerations inherent in such a decision. While there may be potential benefits and justifications for pursuing cloning in this case, it is essential to approach the issue with sensitivity, compassion, and a commitment to upholding the dignity and well-being of all involved.

5. Do you subscribe to such reasoning?

On one hand, I empathize with Mrs. Kaggwa's profound grief and her desire to find solace through the possibility of cloning her deceased son. Losing a loved one, especially a child, is an unimaginable pain, and the longing to have them back is deeply human. If cloning could offer a semblance of that connection and bring some measure of comfort to Mrs. Kaggwa and her family, it's understandable why they might pursue it.

However, there are ethical and practical considerations that cannot be ignored. Cloning raises complex questions about individuality, identity, and the sanctity of life. While cloning may replicate genetic material, it cannot recreate the unique experiences, memories, and personality traits that

made the original individual who they were. The cloned individual would have their own autonomy and rights, separate from the memories and expectations of the deceased.

Furthermore, the potential consequences for the cloned individual's well-being must be carefully considered. Cloning can carry risks of physical and psychological harm, and it's essential to prioritize the welfare of any beings created through such means.

6. What are the pros and cons of human cloning?

Pros:

Potential for advancements in medical research and treatment.

Possibility of producing genetically matched tissues or organs for transplantation.

Preservation of endangered species and biodiversity.

Cons:

Ethical concerns related to identity, individuality, and exploitation.

Risk of genetic abnormalities and health complications in cloned individuals.

Potential for misuse, such as reproductive cloning for eugenics or commercial purposes.

7. Animal cloning is now a routine. Why was there been no opposition to it?

Animal cloning has become more accepted due to its potential benefits in agriculture, such as producing livestock with desirable traits and preserving endangered species. Additionally, animal cloning does not raise the same ethical and emotional concerns as human cloning, as animals are often viewed differently in terms of their moral status and rights. However, animal cloning still raises ethical questions regarding animal welfare and the use of cloning for commercial purposes.