

**Text: What is Genetic modification?**

Genetic medication is the process of altering the genetic makeup of an organism. This has been done indirectly for thousands of years by controlled or selective, breeding of plants and animals. Modern biotechnology has made it easier and faster to target a specific gene for more-precise alteration of the organism through genetic engineering.

The terms “modified” and “engineered” are often used interchangeably in the context of labeling genetically modified, or “GMO”, foods. In the field of biotechnology, GMO stands for genetically modified organism, while in the food industry, the term refers exclusively to food that has been purposefully engineered and not selectively bred organisms. This discrepancy leads to confusion among consumers, and so the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) prefers the term genetically engineered (GE) for food.

Genetic modification dates back to ancient times, when humans influenced genetics by selectively breeding organisms, according to an article by Gabriel Rangel, a public health scientist at Harvard University. When repeated over several generations, this process leads to dramatic changes in the species.

Dogs were likely the first animals to be purposefully genetically modified, with the beginnings of that effort dating about 32,000 years, according to Rangel. Wild wolves joined our hunter-gatherer ancestors in East Asia, where the canines were domesticated and bred to have increased docility. Over thousands of years, people bred dogs with different desired personality and physical traits, eventually leading to the wide variety of dogs we see today.

The earliest known genetically modified plant is wheat. Ancient farmers selectively bred wheat grasses beginning around 9000 B.C. to create domesticated varieties with larger grains and harder seeds.

**QUESTIONS: (20 POINTS)**

**I. READING COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS: (05 PTS)**

**A. MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS: (1PT)**

**Copy the complete sentence containing the correct answer:**

- 1. Genetic modification alters the genetic .....of an organism.** a) grains  
b) label  
c) constituents  
d) species
- 2. It is .....to repeat genetic modifications over several generations.** a) safe  
b) good  
c) dangerous  
d) wise

## B. True/ False statements: (02pts)

Copy the true sentences and correct the false ones:

1. Genetic modification is a new practice.
2. Wheat is the first animal to be genetically modified.
3. The animal on which man first practiced genetic modification is the dog.
4. Wild wolves were domesticated to become more dangerous.

### C. Answer the following questions based on the text:

(02 pts) 1. How long has genetic modification been practiced?

2. Why is there a wide variety of dogs now?

## II. LANGUAGE: (10PTS)

- A. Copy down each word from the list on the left with one from the right so as to make pairs of synonyms:

(2 pts)

A1

Discrepancy

Modify

Ancient

Variety

A2

change

difference

kind

past

### B. Fill in the blanks with ANY/NO/SOME or their compounds: (02 pts)

1. The lady was picking .....oranges.
2. I heard a knock. Is there .....at the door?
3. This exercise is too difficult. ....can do it.
4. The classroom is empty there aren't.....pupils there.

### C. Function: (02 pts)

Aly wants to follow a football match at the stadium 26 Mars while his friend Seydou wants to attend a concert at Palais de la Culture Amadou Hampate Ba.

Build up a dialogue between Aly and Seydou.

### D. Translate into English: (2pts)

Ces tomates sont-elles génétiquement modifiées ? Gaoussou cultive beaucoup de légumes dans son jardin.

### E. Translate into French : (02 pts)

“Genetic modification has been done indirectly for thousands of years. Modern biotechnology has made it easier and faster to target a specific gene.”

## III. COMPOSITION: (05 PTS) Choose only one topic.

1. Are you for or against genetic engineering? Justify your choice.
2. Moulaye Koné, a farmer in Koumantou wants to send a postcard to his former classmate Moussa Kida an engineer in agriculture living in Ouolofobougou Rue14, porte 125 asking for advice about the use of genetically modified seeds. Write Moulaye's postcard with the appropriate layout.