

OUTLINE PROPOSAL FORM: EXAMPLE A

for Cambridge Pre-U/AS Level

Please read the instructions printed overleaf before completing this form

Name of Centre	XXXX	Centre Number	XXXX
Candidate Name (if required)	XXXX XXXX	Candidate Number	XXXXXX
Syllabus Title	Global Perspectives	Syllabus Code	9239
If this is a re-submission, please check box <input type="checkbox"/>		Component Number	4
Examination/Assessment Session:	June <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> November <input type="checkbox"/>	Year	

Title of Proposal	Should the United Kingdom legalise embryonic gene manipulation for disease eradication? (1)
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Details of Proposal (see over)	<p>Research conducted on embryonic gene manipulation has increasingly been brought into headline news due to advances in technology and science. By the end of my IRR, I hope to have a greater understanding of the reasons behind why one may be opposed to such research, whilst others believe that it is the future of medicine. In the introduction I will describe the already existing laws within the United Kingdom surrounding embryonic research, and give a breath outline of the structure of this essay. (2)</p> <p>My initial argument will begin by evaluating the ethics supporting the research into embryonic gene manipulation. (3) Some argue that by removing a disease from an embryo, will later on provide a better quality of life for the individual, likewise improving the lives of family and careers. However the risk of what genetic manipulation can lead to will be used to dispute this line of argument. The desire to achieve a perfect race (eugenics) and yearn for “designer babies”, potentially pose a threat to society and can ultimately lead to the genocide of many people – for example in Germany prior to World War 2. Furthermore, the possible abuse, coupled with the danger of the unknown and conflict with religious beliefs and Natural Law, all will be investigated before a conclusion is made concerning the ethics of such research.</p> <p>I will analyse the cost of treatments such as pre-implantation genetic diagnosis and compare this to the already existing treatment of diseases such as breast cancer. (4) By doing so I will be able to evaluate if treatments such as pre-implantation genetic diseases are worth the price, if in the long term, the embryo will not develop potentially life threatening diseases that will create costly medical bills. By evaluating this, I will therefore be able to determine if such treatments will be beneficial for the NHS to provide, in the hope to decrease the number of long term patients, reducing the overall cost of the NHS and helping eliminating the deficit the organisation faces.</p> <p>This debate will lead onto the final strand, debating if the eradication of certain diseases will lead to the discrimination of existing sufferers of the disease. The social drift theory (5) will be explored and the prospect of designer babies will be further investigated. Additionally, I will assess whether parents may feel pressurised into having treatment to achieve the “perfect child”. Furthermore adding, that if such treatment was not available to all, will it create a divide within society of those who have the “perfect” genes and those that do not. Additionally, I will consider if a difference in healthcare systems will also lead to a divide in society. I will question whether the likelihood of all within society receiving treatments, such as pre-implantation genetic diagnosis, will be affected by the country having a healthcare system such as the NHS or one such as the American system. Finally, I will consider the possibility of people travelling to countries such as America, that have more relaxed laws around embryonic gene manipulation to receive the treatment, and then returning to the United Kingdom, and evaluating the effect this may pose on society.</p>
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In my conclusion I will weigh up the conclusions made from the ethical, economic and social arguments before reaching a final conclusion, deciding whether the UK should legalise embryonic gene manipulation for disease eradication, or keep the laws as they are currently.

I will be analysing the sources to determine whether the argument is up to date and valid. (6)As this debate is constantly changing due to advancements being made in technology and research, many sources will come under scrutiny if written or produced many

years ago. Additionally, I will also be looking into the nature of the source to determine the reasoning behind why it was written, (7) many sources on such controversial topics can be biased and make many claims rather than constructing an argument with evidence to support the ideas put forward. I will also look at whether the articles corroborate or contradict one another thus strengthening or weakening one's argument. Furthermore, I will consider the place of publication and whether this affects the credibility of the argument, sources from highly credited news outlets or journals will be valued more than those from blogs or tabloid newspapers.

Source I will use: (8)

- <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/22/section/3>
- <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/04/15/AR2008041501620.html>
- <http://www.jbiomeds.com/biomedical-sciences/human-social-and-environmental-impacts-of-human-genetic-engineering.pdf>
- <https://www.cbirc.iastate.edu/files/2014/08/Designer-Babies.pdf>
- <http://www.fertility-docs.com/programs-and-services/fertility-procedure-fees.php>
- http://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/judaism/jewishethics/genetic_1.shtml#h1
- <http://humrep.oxfordjournals.org/content/13/8/2238.full.pdf>
- <http://home.earthlink.net/~davidlperry/genengin.htm>
- <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/feb/02/genetic-editing-playing-god-children-british-scientists-embryos-dna-diseases>
- Life Before Birth – The Mortal and Legal Status of Embryos and Fetuses by Bonnie Steinbock
- From IVF to Immortality – Controversy in the Era of Reproductive Technology by Ruth Deech and Anna Smajdor

Date	XX/XX/XX
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Comments:

This is a methodical and well-considered proposal which can be accepted without any proviso. The subject is an interesting and complex one, and the candidate has thought about how to approach it as a researcher. There is mention of the various forms of evidence to be used, an understanding of the research methodology required and the importance of evaluating all sources based on the evidence that supports the arguments they bring to the discussion. The research question is precise and clear, and although it is confined to a UK context, it is an issue with wider global significance. The candidate is aware of the seriousness of the subject which has been debated from a variety of perspectives, and how the different views interact. There is clearly a discussion that can be developed and the research will not be restricted to explaining one perspective. The approach adopted by the candidate- indicating ethics, cost and social implications- indicates that the discussion is wide enough to be sustained. There is an awareness of the importance of sources and the proposal also indicates the candidate's approach to the research will be undertaken and how the various forms of evidence will be assessed.

				Adviser's Initials	XX	Date	XX/XX/XX
For CIE use only:	APPROVED	APPROVED WITH PROVISO (see comments)	NOT APPROVED	More information required	Approval not required; please see comments		
	<input type="checkbox"/> X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>