

GATTACA Biology Practice Exam (Sample)

Study Guide



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SAMPLE

Questions

SAMPLE

- 1. What is the purpose of genetic screening in GATTACA's society?**
 - A. To enhance physical appearance and abilities**
 - B. To predict and control human potential and health**
 - C. To select partners for genetic compatibility**
 - D. To eliminate diseases completely**
- 2. How does GATTACA portray the concept of determinism?**
 - A. It shows how education can alter destiny**
 - B. It suggests that genes largely determine one's destiny**
 - C. It illustrates randomness in genetic outcomes**
 - D. It denies the importance of genetics**
- 3. What key event does Vincent undergo to maintain his deception as Jerome?**
 - A. He changes his appearance to match Jerome**
 - B. He moves to a different city**
 - C. He provides blood and urine samples to pass genetic testing**
 - D. He takes classes to enhance his skills**
- 4. How does GATTACA define the concept of "true identity"?**
 - A. As strictly determined by one's DNA**
 - B. As something shaped by social status**
 - C. As something that transcends genetic makeup and societal labels**
 - D. As a reflection of one's job and success**
- 5. What consequence does genetic discrimination have on Vincent's life?**
 - A. He is celebrated for his uniqueness**
 - B. He cannot pursue his dreams**
 - C. He gains special privileges**
 - D. He exceeds everyone's expectations**

- 6. Who does the detective leading the murder investigation turn out to be?**
- A. Vincent's father**
 - B. Vincent's brother**
 - C. A close friend of Vincent**
 - D. Another investigator**
- 7. What role do the "valids" play in Vincent's relationships?**
- A. They serve as confidants and friends**
 - B. They often represent both opportunity and the barriers created by genetic superiority**
 - C. They are seen as rivals to be defeated**
 - D. They do not influence his relationships**
- 8. What is the primary ethical concern depicted in the film GATTACA?**
- A. Genetic enhancement and societal progress**
 - B. Genetic discrimination and eugenics**
 - C. Environmental impacts of genetic engineering**
 - D. Privacy in genetic data**
- 9. Who appears to blend humor with a touch of irony in their observations?**
- A. Irene**
 - B. Lamar**
 - C. Vincent**
 - D. Jerome**
- 10. What does GATTACA imply about the limits of human potential?**
- A. They are fixed and unchangeable**
 - B. They can be altered through social structures**
 - C. They can be overcome with determination and effort**
 - D. They are strictly defined by genetics**

Answers

SAMPLE

- 1. B**
- 2. B**
- 3. C**
- 4. C**
- 5. B**
- 6. B**
- 7. B**
- 8. B**
- 9. B**
- 10. C**

SAMPLE

Explanations

SAMPLE

1. What is the purpose of genetic screening in GATTACA's society?

- A. To enhance physical appearance and abilities**
- B. To predict and control human potential and health**
- C. To select partners for genetic compatibility**
- D. To eliminate diseases completely**

The purpose of genetic screening in GATTACA's society primarily revolves around predicting and controlling human potential and health. This advanced form of screening allows individuals to be assessed based on their genetic makeup, including traits such as intelligence, athletic ability, and susceptibility to diseases. As a consequence, these assessments inform life choices, from career paths to relationships, effectively determining an individual's place within society. In GATTACA, genetic screening serves as a means to establish a 'genetic hierarchy,' where those deemed genetically superior often enjoy greater opportunities and societal advantages. This predictive capability reduces the unpredictability associated with natural variation in human genetics, thus enabling societal norms that favor specific genetic profiles. The other options reflect aspects that may tangentially relate to the themes in GATTACA, but they do not capture the primary focus of genetic screening in this dystopian society. While enhancing physical attributes could be a byproduct and selecting partners for genetic compatibility could occur, these are not central to the overarching narrative. Eliminating diseases, while an appealing prospect, is less feasible in the complex genetic landscape portrayed, as it implies a level of control over genetics that far exceeds current capabilities.

2. How does GATTACA portray the concept of determinism?

- A. It shows how education can alter destiny**
- B. It suggests that genes largely determine one's destiny**
- C. It illustrates randomness in genetic outcomes**
- D. It denies the importance of genetics**

GATTACA powerfully illustrates the concept of determinism by showing how genes largely dictate an individual's fate within the society it portrays. The film presents a dystopian world where one's social status, career opportunities, and personal relationships are significantly influenced by genetic makeup. Characters are often judged by their DNA profiles, which leads to a system where "valids"—those born through genetic engineering with superior traits—hold societal advantages over "in-valids," or those conceived naturally with potential genetic flaws. The protagonist, Vincent, represents an individual who struggles against the deterministic nature of this society. Despite his genetic predisposition branding him as inferior, he seeks to transcend these limitations through sheer will and determination. This highlights the film's central conflict between genetic destiny and personal ambition. By illustrating the consequences of a society that prioritizes genetic determinism, GATTACA raises profound questions about the nature of identity, free will, and the ethical implications of genetic engineering.

3. What key event does Vincent undergo to maintain his deception as Jerome?

- A. He changes his appearance to match Jerome**
- B. He moves to a different city**
- C. He provides blood and urine samples to pass genetic testing**
- D. He takes classes to enhance his skills**

The key event that Vincent undergoes to maintain his deception as Jerome is providing blood and urine samples to pass genetic testing. In the context of "GATTACA," individuals are often subjected to rigorous genetic testing to determine their genetic identity and suitability for certain roles in society. In order to conceal his true identity as a naturally conceived individual who is considered "invalid," Vincent adopts Jerome's identity, which includes using Jerome's genetic samples. By submitting blood and urine samples from Jerome, Vincent is able to successfully pass the genetic screenings that would otherwise reveal his true identity. This act is crucial to his plan to achieve his aspirations and defy societal expectations based on genetic predispositions. The focus on genetic identity is central to the film's themes of determination and the struggle against predetermined societal roles.

4. How does GATTACA define the concept of "true identity"?

- A. As strictly determined by one's DNA**
- B. As something shaped by social status**
- C. As something that transcends genetic makeup and societal labels**
- D. As a reflection of one's job and success**

The concept of "true identity" in GATTACA is portrayed as something that transcends genetic makeup and societal labels. The film emphasizes the struggle of the protagonist, Vincent, who was conceived without genetic enhancement, showing that despite society's emphasis on DNA as a determinant of potential and worth, a person's true identity is defined by their choices, dreams, and intrinsic qualities rather than their genetic code. Throughout the narrative, Vincent's journey illustrates that he is capable of achieving his goals and aspirations regardless of the societal expectations grounded in genetic engineering. His ability to go against the odds and prove his worth, not through his DNA but through determination and perseverance, reinforces the idea that identity is shaped by personal experiences and aspirations rather than merely by one's biological inheritance. This perspective resonates deeply, demonstrating that true identity encompasses more than just the physical attributes granted by one's genes.

5. What consequence does genetic discrimination have on Vincent's life?

- A. He is celebrated for his uniqueness**
- B. He cannot pursue his dreams**
- C. He gains special privileges**
- D. He exceeds everyone's expectations**

Genetic discrimination significantly impacts Vincent's life by limiting his opportunities and preventing him from pursuing his dreams. In the society depicted in GATTACA, individuals are judged based on their genetic makeup, and those deemed "invalid" — like Vincent, who was conceived naturally and is not genetically superior — are often denied access to various opportunities. This includes being relegated to menial jobs and being systematically excluded from endeavors that require a genetically elite status, such as space travel. Vincent's struggle illustrates how societal prejudices based on genetic information can hinder personal aspirations and lead to systemic barriers, deeply affecting his pursuit of a fulfilling life. The narrative strongly emphasizes the tragic consequences of such discrimination, highlighting the emotional and practical challenges faced by individuals like Vincent who do not conform to the genetic ideal.

6. Who does the detective leading the murder investigation turn out to be?

- A. Vincent's father**
- B. Vincent's brother**
- C. A close friend of Vincent**
- D. Another investigator**

The detective leading the murder investigation turns out to be Vincent's brother, which adds a complex layer to the narrative of "GATTACA." This revelation is significant because it intertwines personal relationships with professional duties, highlighting the theme of genetic identity versus personal identity. Vincent, who is a genetically engineered individual striving to overcome societal prejudice, must now navigate his relationship with his brother, who embodies both familial ties and the law. This familial connection intensifies the stakes of the investigation, creating tension between Vincent's desire to prove himself and his brother's role in enforcing the societal standards that deem Vincent inferior. The discovery that the detective is Vincent's brother complicates the emotional landscape of the story, ultimately reflecting the broader themes of family loyalty, genetic determinism, and individual aspirations in a society that values genotype over phenotype.

7. What role do the "valids" play in Vincent's relationships?

- A. They serve as confidants and friends
- B. They often represent both opportunity and the barriers created by genetic superiority**
- C. They are seen as rivals to be defeated
- D. They do not influence his relationships

In the context of "GATTACA," the "valids" represent individuals who have been genetically engineered to be superior in terms of physical and mental capabilities. They embody the societal ideals of success, and their presence in Vincent's life significantly impacts his relationships. Vincent's interactions with valids reveal a complex dynamic where they symbolize both opportunity and challenges. On one hand, they present opportunities for advancement, as Vincent navigates a world that favors genetic perfection. Securing a job, forming relationships, or achieving personal goals often hinges on Vincent's ability to confront or manipulate the advantages that valids possess. On the other hand, valids also function as barriers due to the societal prejudice against those who are not genetically elite. This creates an environment of competition and discrimination that complicates Vincent's relationships—both personal and professional. The pressure to prove himself in a world that devalues him because of his DNA leads to feelings of inadequacy, driving Vincent's determination to overcome these obstacles. Thus, the concept of valids in Vincent's life captures the duality of opportunity and inequality, highlighting how genetic superiority shapes social dynamics and personal interactions in this dystopian world.

8. What is the primary ethical concern depicted in the film GATTACA?

- A. Genetic enhancement and societal progress
- B. Genetic discrimination and eugenics**
- C. Environmental impacts of genetic engineering
- D. Privacy in genetic data

The primary ethical concern depicted in the film "GATTACA" revolves around genetic discrimination and eugenics. The storyline explores a future society where individuals are classified and judged based on their genetic makeup. Those who are deemed "valid" - born from genetic engineering and thus possessing superior traits - have better opportunities, while "in-valids," often conceived naturally, face significant discrimination and limited access to various aspects of life, including careers and social status. This form of discrimination raises critical ethical questions about the morality of valuing human worth based on genetic attributes and highlights the dangers of eugenics, where societal ideals about genetics can lead to class divisions and violation of individual freedoms. Through the protagonist Vincent's struggle against this system, the film critiques the potential consequences of allowing genetic information to dictate societal roles and individual potential, ultimately advocating for the inherent value of all human beings, regardless of their genetic traits.

9. Who appears to blend humor with a touch of irony in their observations?

- A. Irene
- B. Lamar**
- C. Vincent
- D. Jerome

Lamar stands out in the narrative for blending humor with a touch of irony in his observations. He often makes comments that are reflective of the societal pressures and absurdities within the genetically engineered world of GATTACA. His approach allows him to highlight the contradictions in the society, where perfection is valued yet often leads to unexpected and humorous consequences. This ironic perspective serves to provide a critical lens through which the audience can examine the themes of genetic determinism and human potential. The nature of his humor complements the film's exploration of identity and the struggles of individuals like Vincent, who challenge the constraints placed upon them by a society obsessed with genetic superiority. By incorporating wit into his observations, Lamar effectively conveys deeper truths about the world of GATTACA, making his character memorable and thought-provoking.

10. What does GATTACA imply about the limits of human potential?

- A. They are fixed and unchangeable
- B. They can be altered through social structures
- C. They can be overcome with determination and effort**
- D. They are strictly defined by genetics

The notion that human potential can be overcome with determination and effort is a key theme portrayed in GATTACA. The film emphasizes the importance of personal will and perseverance in the face of societal expectations and genetic predetermination. The main character, Vincent, is born with a genetic disadvantage in a society that heavily values genetic profiles. Despite this, he demonstrates that hard work and determination can lead to success, showcasing that individuals have the capacity to rise above the limitations imposed upon them by their genetic makeup. GATTACA ultimately suggests that while genetics may influence certain traits and abilities, they do not dictate the entirety of a person's potential. This serves as a powerful commentary on the human spirit and the drive for self-improvement, highlighting that through effort and determination, people can achieve their goals regardless of their biological beginnings.