



GOBIERNO DE LA CIUDAD DE BUENOS AIRES



INSTITUTO DE ENSEÑANZA SUPERIOR EN LENGUAS VIVAS  
"JUAN RAMON FERNANDEZ"

INSTITUTO DE ENSEÑANZA SUPERIOR EN LENGUAS VIVAS  
"J. R. FERNÁNDEZ"

## ENTRANCE EXAM – MARCH 2021

PAPER 1

**DNI:** Haga clic aquí para escribir texto.

**Candidate's full name:** Haga clic aquí para escribir texto.

### READ THE FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS VERY CAREFULLY

- You have **60 MINUTES** to finish the test. The invigilator will tell you the exact time before which you should send your test. You will find this information in the chat box on Meet. Tests emailed after the deadline will not be accepted.

- You must save the file as follows:

**APELLIDO, nombre – Examen de ingreso 2021 – Sala (número) – Ejercicio A**

*Example:* GÓMEZ, Luisina – Examen de ingreso 2021 – Sala 12 – Ejercicio A

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### EXERCISE A: READING COMPREHENSION (15 marks)

Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions below:

## GENETIC ENGINEERING – THE UNIMAGINABLE FACE OF THE FUTURE?

*paragraph 1*

If we now know enough to be able to make changes in the genetic material that we hand on to our children, why not seize this power? Why not control what has been left to chance in the past? Social and environmental influences already control many other aspects of our children's lives and identities. We do not quarrel with the use of orthodontics to straighten teeth, or good nutrition and education to enhance intelligence. Can we really reject positive genetic influences on the next generation's minds and bodies when we accept the rights of parents to benefit their children in any other way?

*paragraph 2*

It seems to me inevitable that genetic engineering will eventually be used. It will probably begin in a way that is most ethically acceptable to the largest portion of society to prevent babies inheriting conditions that have a severe impact on the quality of life, such as heart or lung conditions. The number of parents needing or desiring this service might be tiny; but their experience would help to ease society's fears, and geneticists could then begin to expand their services to prevent the inheritance of genes leading to other disorders that have a less severe impact, or an impact delayed until adulthood. At the same time, other genes could be added to improve various health characteristics and disease resistance in children who would not otherwise have been born with any particular problem.

*paragraph 3*

The final frontier would be the mind and the senses. Here, genetic engineering would have enormous benefits. Alcohol addiction could be eliminated, along with tendencies toward mental disease and antisocial behavior like extreme aggression. People's senses of sight and hearing could be improved, allowing for new dimensions in art and music. And when our understanding of brain development has advanced, geneticists will be



able to provide parents with the option of enhancing various intellectual attributes as well.

*paragraph 4* Is there a limit to what can be accomplished with genetic enhancements? Some experts say there are boundaries beyond which we cannot go. But humans have a tendency to prove the experts wrong. One way to identify types of human enhancements that lie in the realm of probability –no matter how outlandish they may seem today- is to consider what already exists in the living world. If another living creature already has a particular attribute, then we can work out its genetic basis and eventually we should be able to make it available to humans. For example we could provide humans with a greatly enhanced sense of smell like that of dogs and other mammals and the ability to “see” objects in complete darkness through a biological sonar system like the one that allows bats to find their way in the dark.

*paragraph 5* In the longer term, it might be possible to identify the genetic information which allows creatures to live under extreme conditions here on earth –like the microscopic bacteria that live in scalding hot water around volcanic vents on the ocean floor, far removed from light and free oxygen, and other creatures that use a biological form of antifreeze to thrive in sub-zero temperatures around Antarctica. One day it may even be possible to incorporate photosynthetic units into human embryos so that humans could receive energy directly from the sun, just like plants. Such genetic gifts could allow these genetically modified humans to survive on other planets in the solar system, where they could in turn use genetic engineering to further enhance the ability of their own children to survive in their chosen worlds.

*paragraph 6* In the short term, though, most genetic enhancements will surely be much more mundane. They will provide little fixes to all of the naturally occurring genetic defects that shorten the lives of so many people. They will enrich cognitive and physical attributes in small ways. But as the years go by over the next two centuries, the number and variety of possible genetic extensions to the basic human genome will rise dramatically –like the additions to computer operating systems that occurred during the 1980s and 1990s. Extensions that were once unimaginable will become indispensable –to those parents who are able to afford them.

**Now, answer the questions below using your own words. Do not simply copy from the text. You may use derivation (i.e. change a noun into a verb or an adjective into a noun) but not lift full phrases. Your answer should not exceed 60 words.**

- 1) What point is the author trying to make by connecting orthodontics and genetic engineering in paragraph 1?

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**For examiner's use only:** Elija un elemento.

- 2) According to the author, what could be the benefits of developing genetic engineering in a way that is "most ethically acceptable to the largest portion of society"?

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**For examiner's use only:** Elija un elemento.

- 3) Explain why the author refers to "boundaries", "limits" and "frontiers" in his discussion of genetic enhancements.

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**For examiner's use only:** Elija un elemento.

- 4) What are the key differences between the genetic enhancements the author describes in paragraph 4 and those in paragraph 5?

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**For examiner's use only:** Elija un elemento.

- 5) Is the author in favour of genetic enhancements? Justify your answer by summarizing the most relevant arguments the author mentions.

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**For examiner's use only:** Elija un elemento.

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Score: Haga clic aquí para escribir texto.



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### EXERCISE B: WRITING (15 marks)

Choose **ONE** of the following and write between **250 and 300 words** on it. The following criteria will be used to assess your work:

- **Task achievement and discourse management:** has the task been achieved? Are all aspects of coherence and cohesion fully covered? Are ideas relevant and complex throughout?
- **Grammatical resource:** are grammatical structures varied and complex? Are grammatical structures used accurately and naturally?
- **Lexical resource:** is vocabulary varied? Is vocabulary used naturally, accurately and appropriately? Are spelling and punctuation accurate?

A) Write an **ESSAY** on the effects of genetic engineering on people’s lives. You may wish to consider the following points:

- How contemporary society could benefit from genetic engineering.
- The dangers behind genetic engineering and genetic enhancements.
- The moral issues around genetic engineering.

B) You have just read a newspaper article about the use of genetic engineering to fight certain diseases. You have very strong views about this issue. Write a **LETTER** to the editor of the newspaper expressing your opinion.

C) Imagine you are a happy parent whose child has already benefited from genetic engineering. Write an **ARTICLE** entitled “How genetic engineering can change family life”, making reference to your experience and telling readers how you feel about it.

**I’VE CHOSEN OPTION:** Elija un elemento.

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**For examiner's use only**

- Task achievement: Elija un elemento.
- Grammatical resource: Elija un elemento.
- Lexical resource: Elija un elemento.

**FINAL SCORE:** Haga clic aquí para escribir texto.

**Corrected by:** Haga clic aquí para escribir texto.