

# VIVEK TUTORIALS

English Language  
Practice Test  
Max Marks: 30

Date : //

Grade: 8th (ICSE)

Time: 30Min

**Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow:**

1. Like the geography of the planet, the human body has until now represented a fixed point in human experience, a "given." (Today we are fast approaching the day when the body can no longer be regarded as fixed. Man will be able, within a reasonably short period, to redesign not merely individual bodies, but the entire human race. Molecular biology is now about to explode from the laboratories. New genetic knowledge will permit us to tinker with human heredity and manipulate the genes to create altogether new versions of man. 20

One of the more fantastic possibilities is that man will be able to make biological carbon copies of himself. Through a process known as "cloning" it will be possible to grow from the nucleus of an adult cell a new organism that has the same genetic characteristics of the person contributing the cell nucleus. The resultant human "copy" would start life with a genetic endowment identical to that of the donor, although cultural differences might thereafter alter the personality or physical development of the clone.

Cloning would make it possible for people to see themselves born anew, to fill the world with twins of themselves. Cloning would, among other things, provide us with solid empirical evidence to help us resolve, once and for all, the ancient controversy over "nature vs. nurture" or "heredity vs. environments." The solution of this problem, through the determination of the role played by each, would be one of the great milestones of human intellectual development

But, cloning could also create undreamed of complications for the race. There is a certain charm to the idea of Albert Einstein bequeathing copies of himself to posterity. But what of Adolf Hitler? Should there be laws to regulate cloning? Nobel Laureate Joshua Lederberg, a scientist who takes his social responsibility very seriously, believes it conceivable that those most likely to replicate themselves will be those who are most narcissistic, and that the clones they produce will also be narcissists.

How close is cloning? "It has already been done in amphibian," says Lederberg, "and somebody may be doing it right now with mammals. It wouldn't surprise me if it comes out any day now. When someone will have the courage to try it in a man, I haven't the foggiest idea. But I put the time scale on that anywhere from zero to fifteen years from now. Within fifteen years."

During those same fifteen years scientists will also learn how the various organs of the body develop, and they will, no doubt, begin to experiment with various means of modifying them. Says Lederberg

"Things like the size of the brain and certain sensory qualities of the brain are going to be brought under direct developmental control... I think this is very near."

It is important for laymen to understand that Lederberg is by no means alone worrier in the scientific community. His fears about the biological revolution are shared by many of his colleagues. The ethical, moral and political questions raised by the new biology simply boggle the mind. Who shall live and who shall die"? What is man? Who shall control research into these fields?

How shall new findings be applied? Might we not unleash horrors for which man is totally unprepared? In the opinion of many of the world's leading scientists the clock is ticking for a "biological Hiroshima."

(a) Give the meaning of each word as used in the passage. One word answers or short phrases will be accepted. [3]

- (i) tinker
- (ii) endowment
- (iii) empirical

(b) Answer the following questions briefly in your own words:

- (i) What are we "fast approaching"? [2]
- (ii) How will new genetic knowledge help human beings? [2]
- (iii) What is "cloning"? [2]
- (iv) What would be one of the greatest milestones of human intellectual development? [2]
- (v) Describe what scientists could do in fifteen years? [3]

**Fill in the blanks with appropriate words:**

2. (i) What prevented Rita \_\_\_\_\_ coming here?
- (ii) Gita excels \_\_\_\_\_ Carnatic music
- (iii) They charged the man \_\_\_\_\_ murder.
- (iv) Ravi proved the poor \_\_\_\_\_ food and clothing.
- (v) Mary dreamt of skiing \_\_\_\_\_ the Alps.
- (vi) Please ask the ambulance \_\_\_\_\_ wait.
- (vii) Cover yourself up \_\_\_\_\_ the harsh sun.
- (viii) He sat \_\_\_\_\_ the table doing his work.

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**Joint the following sentences to make one complete sentence without using and, but or so.**

3. (i) My grandfather is very old. He is very active.
- (ii) Mala is not in the class. Mala is not the library.
- (iii) She was so excited about her performance. She could not sleep at night.
- (iv) Mumbai is densely populated. It is one of the major cities in the country.

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**Re-write the following sentences according to the instructions given after each. Make other changes that may be necessary, but do not change the meaning of each sentence.**

4. (i) The identity cards of the students are checked. (Begin: Are.....)
- (ii) All the girls were wearing beautiful dresses. (Begin: Each of.....)
- (iii) Although he was poor, he helped the old man. (Begin: In spite of.....)
- (iv) This room needs to be painted before the wedding. (Begin: We must.....)
- (v) Gold is the most expensive metal. (Change to Positive degree)
- (vi) He finished his dinner and went to bed. (Use: Having.....)
- (vii) This sum is too difficult for me to solve. (Remove: too)
- (viii) No sooner did I hear the noise than I rushed out to help. (Begin: As soon as .....)

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----- All the Best -----