

KEY QUESTIONS BIOETHICS

1. Is choosing life over certain death always the best solution?

- a. In the case of an incurable disease, there are two options
- b. Either you choose to put an end to it when you are terminally-ill, choosing assisted suicide
→ You may have to challenge the law, because, apart from countries such as the Netherlands and Belgium, euthanasia is not legal
- c. Or you prefer not to tamper with the “normal” course of existence and prefer to resort to heavy doses of pain-killer IVs and see your suffering alleviated
- d. There is a debate between right-to-die activists and the pro-life movement (often the Christian right in the USA for example)

2. Can doctors use their patients as research subjects?

- a. Can man become a commodity, a means to another end, a commodity?
- b. It may advance science in the case of a terminally-ill patient
- c. Man as a guinea-pig
- d. Other case of human beings used as commodities: organ donation (before or after death), saviour sibling (a child conceived thanks to genetic screening cf PGD to save an older sibling with a genetic disease and whose healthy genes will be used to replace the mutated gene), embryonic stem cells

3. Discuss the pros and cons of human cloning?

We have to draw a line between therapeutic cloning and reproductive cloning

- i. Reproductive cloning, as was the case for Dolly the sheep, aims at reproducing an identical animal or human being
Human cloning is frightening because it could open Pandora’s box as we could imagine all kinds of mad scientists carrying out crazy experiments to create a master race (risks of eugenics)
- ii. Therapeutic cloning aims at simply using the stem cells of the clone to cure a patient

So, we should tread carefully on those issues (*nous devons aborder de tels sujets avec précaution*)