

GATTACA Discussion Questions

NAME _____

Provide thoughtful answers to the following questions in **complete sentences**.

1. For each word below, write a definition based on each word's usage in the movie:

- a. de-gene-erate -
- b. valid -
- c. in-valid -
- d. faith baby -
- e. genetic engineering -
- f. borrowed ladder -
- g. genoism -

Now look up

Invalid –

Eugenics –

2. What is the significance of the film's title "GATTACA"?

3. Compare Jerome and Vincent. What were their strengths and their weaknesses. In what ways were they the mirror image of each other?

4. Compare Anton and Vincent, the two brothers. How was Vincent able to beat Anton at swimming despite Vincent's "weak" heart?

5. What, if anything, do you think is wrong with the society portrayed in "Gattaca"?

6. Wouldn't every parent want to ensure that their child was perfect and had the attributes of physical attractiveness, intelligence, creativeness, and athletic prowess to be able to do whatever he or she wanted in life? If so, why is the society portrayed in this film so devoid of happiness, vitality and fun?

7. What made Vincent able to qualify for the Saturn mission despite his physical infirmities (weakness) and lack of genetic perfection?

8. If you were the president of a corporation that could hire genetically enhanced individuals, would you do so (remember you make a living from how well your cooperation does)? If you didn't, how could you compete with corporations that did hire only the genetically improved? What are the implications of this for our future?

9. Soon, life insurance companies, health insurance companies, and employers will have the tools to predict our potential future health. Is this good or bad? Why?

10. The character of the Director told the investigators that there was no indication of violence in his genetic make-up. What were the screenwriters trying to tell us by this scene?

11. What were the screenwriters trying to tell us through the scene of the 12 fingered pianist? What is wrong with engineering children to have 12 fingers if, as a result, they will be able to make extraordinarily beautiful music? Is it a good idea and why?
12. What limits should be placed on genetic engineering? Should it be allowed at all? Should it be limited to the elimination of disease and physical imperfections? Why or why not?
13. How was the director able to do what he did with his genetic profile?
14. Did this society, with its rigid requirements of genetic perfection, foster the ethical value of respect for the differences among people?
15. Was the society described in this film one in which fairness was a value? What problems were caused by the failure of the society to promote fairness?
16. Why do you think the real Jerome took his “trip”?