



## GIA SƯ CHUNG CƯ

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### THE JIM TWINS

You take it for granted that you are a unique person, different from everybody else on Earth, and you understand that everybody else is also unique. Identical twins are fascinating because they challenge this notion: they are unique people, of course, but they're also unnervingly similar to each other – and not only in terms of appearance. They often share opinions, mannerisms and personality traits.

Identical twins are rare, occurring in about three out of every 1,000 births. They seem to occur at random, regardless of the age or ethnic background of the mother (unlike non-identical twins which are, for example, far more common among Africans than Asians). Although

there may be tiny differences in physical appearances between two identical twins, which allow family and close friends to tell them apart, they do have exactly the same DNA. This is because they develop from a single egg which divides in two during the very early stages of pregnancy.

For scientists, the non-physical similarities between identical twins are the most interesting: are they the result of growing up together in the same home, or are they the result of their identical DNA? By studying identical twins who have not grown up together, researchers can see which similarities remain and which disappear. In other words, they can learn which aspects of a person's identity are determined by genes and which are influenced by the environment. The Minnesota Twin Study is probably the best-known twin study to date. The study provides information about how our environment and genes work together to influence everything from attitudes, talents and abilities, to job selection, to falling in love, to aging and health.

Identical twins Jim Lewis and Jim Springer were only four weeks old when they were separated; each infant was taken in by a different adoptive family. At age five, Lewis learned that he had a twin, but he said that the idea never truly "soaked in" until he was 38 years old. Springer learned of his twin at age eight, but both he and his adoptive parents believed the brother had died. The two Jims were finally reunited at age 39.

The similarities the twins shared not only amazed one another, but also amazed researchers at the University of Minnesota. The very fact that both twins were given the same name was a big coincidence. But there's more.

- As youngsters, each Jim had a dog named "Toy".
- Each Jim had been married twice – the first wives were both called Linda and the second wives were both called Betty.
- One Jim had named his son James Allan and the other Jim had named his son James Alan.
- Each twin had driven his light-blue Chevrolet to the same beach in Florida for family vacations.
- Both Jims had at one time held part-time posts as sheriffs.
- Both were fingernail biters and suffered from migraine headaches.

While not as eerily similar as the Jim twins, many more instances of strange likenesses can be found among twins who were raised apart. For example, identical twins Tom Patterson and Steve Tazurni had very different upbringings. Raised in a Christian family by two janitors in rural Kansas, Tom still managed to choose the same career as his brother. Steve, who lives in Philadelphia, was raised in a Buddhist

household. Both men own body-building gyms.

It's obvious from these twins' stories that genetics are a major factor in shaping who we are. In fact, research so far indicates that characteristics such as personality are mainly related to genes. This means that our character traits as adults are largely determined before we are born – and there is very little that we, or anybody else, can do to change them.

1. Identical twins look the same \_\_\_\_
  - A. but usually have very different characters.
  - B. and are usually identical in character too.
  - C. and are often very similar in character too.
  - D. but rarely think in the same way.
2. Unlike non-identical twins, identical twins are \_\_\_\_
  - A. more common among Asians than Africans.
  - B. becoming more and more common.
  - C. more common among older mothers.
  - D. equally common everywhere.
3. Scientists are particularly interested in identical twins who \_\_\_\_
  - A. have been raised by different families.
  - B. are genetically exactly the same.
  - C. look and behave in very similar ways.
  - D. are not alike in terms of personality.
4. While they were growing up, twins Jim Lewis and Jim Springer \_\_\_\_
  - A. were in regular contact.
  - B. knew about their twin, but had no contact.
  - C. did not know they had ever had a twin.
  - D. were prevented from seeing each other by their adoptive families.
5. When the two Jims met as adults, how did they react to the similarities between them?
  - A. They had always expected them.
  - B. They found them very amusing.
  - C. They did not realise how similar they were until the researchers told them.
  - D. They were very surprised.
6. As adults, the twins \_\_\_\_
  - A. both had only one child.
  - B. both got married twice.
  - C. had pets with the same name.
  - D. married women who were identical twins.

7. How do other cases of twins raised apart compare with the "Jim twins"?
  - A. They are all just as surprising.
  - B. They are less surprising, but often show interesting coincidences.
  - C. Many of them are even more surprising.
  - D. Most of them show that other pairs of identical twins are not very similar.
8. According to the text, you might find it difficult to change your personality because \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. only other people can change it.
  - B. it is determined mainly by how your parents treat you.
  - C. you can't control your surroundings.
  - D. you get your personality from your parents.

It is generally well known that in a number of particularly dangerous parts of the world, for example the Middle East and the India/Pakistan border region, there are countries which either possess, or have the technology to produce, nuclear weapons. It is also worth remembering, however, that the country which possesses more nuclear weapons than any other, the United States, is the only power ever to have used nuclear weapons against people.

Nuclear weapons were first developed in the United States during the Second World War, to be used against Germany. However, by the time the first bombs were ready for use, the war with Germany had ended and, as a result, the decision was made to use the weapons against Japan instead. Hiroshima and Nagasaki have suffered the consequences of this decision to the present day.

The real reasons why bombs were dropped on two heavily-populated cities are not altogether clear. A number of people in 1944 and early 1945 argued that the use of nuclear weapons would be unnecessary, since American Intelligence was aware that some of the most powerful and influential people in Japan had already realized that the war was lost, and wanted to negotiate a Japanese surrender. It was also argued that, since Japan has few natural resources, a blockade by the American navy would force it to surrender within a few weeks, and the use of nuclear weapons would thus prove unnecessary. If a demonstration of force was required to end the war, a bomb could be dropped over an unpopulated area like a desert, in front of Japanese observers, or over an area of low population inside Japan, such as a forest. Opting for this course of action might minimize the loss of further lives on all sides, while the power of nuclear weapons would still be adequately demonstrated.

All of these arguments were rejected, however, and the general consensus was that the quickest way to end the fighting would be to use nuclear weapons against centres of population inside Japan. In fact, two of the more likely reasons why this decision was reached seem quite shocking to us now.

Since the beginning of the Second World War both Germany and Japan had adopted a policy of genocide (i.e. killing as many people as possible, including civilians). Later on, even the US and Britain had used the strategy of fire bombing cities (Dresden and Tokyo, for example) in order to kill, injure and intimidate as many civilians as

possible. Certainly, the general public in the West had become used to hearing about the deaths of large numbers of people, so the deaths of another few thousand Japanese, who were the enemy in any case, would not seem particularly unacceptable – a bit of “justifiable” revenge for the Allies’ own losses, perhaps.

The second reason is not much easier to comprehend. Some of the leading scientists in the world had collaborated to develop nuclear weapons, and this development had resulted in a number of major advances in technology and scientific knowledge. As a result, a lot of normal, intelligent people wanted to see nuclear weapons used; they wanted to see just how destructive this new invention could be. It no doubt turned out to be even more “effective” than they had imagined.

1. In paragraph 1, the writer is suggesting that \_\_\_\_
  - the United States should, if necessary, use nuclear weapons again.
  - the United States is more likely than other countries to use nuclear weapons.
  - the United States is one of several countries to have used nuclear weapons.
  - the United States could potentially use nuclear weapons again.
2. The writer refers to “normal, intelligent” people in paragraph 6 because
  - he wants to emphasize the fact that they were among the cleverest scientists.
  - he feels the decision to use nuclear weapons against Japan was correct.
  - he believes this makes the decision to use nuclear weapons seem more shocking.
  - he wants to show how many people wanted to observe the bombs being dropped.
3. According to paragraph 3, a blockade would have been successful because
  - Japan has to import most of its natural resources like coal and steel.
  - Japan would not be resourceful enough to beat a blockade.
  - an attack would probably destroy Japanese resources within a few weeks.
  - the Americans could defeat Japan’s navy since it was short of resources.
4. In the last sentence of paragraph 6, the writer implies that \_\_\_\_
  - he agrees with the decision to use nuclear weapons against Japan.

B. he thinks the decision to drop nuclear bombs on Japanese cities was wrong.

C. nuclear weapons worked much better than the scientists probably expected.

D. the weapons proved to be effective because Japan surrendered soon after.

5. The first sentence of paragraph 6 suggests the writer believes that \_\_\_\_\_

A. the decisions were made by intelligent people and were difficult to follow.

B. his presentation of the argument in paragraph 5 is difficult to understand.

C. the reasons given for the decision are hard for us to accept nowadays.

D. the decisions were complex and made by highly intelligent people.

6. According to paragraph 5, which of the following is true \_\_\_\_\_

A. people in the West had got used to hearing the sounds of people dying.

B. it would probably not be wise to inform people in the West of the deaths.

C. scientists thought only a few thousand people would die if the bombs were used.

D. people in the West would accept that some people had to die to end the war.

7. How many reasons against using the weapons are given in paragraph 3?

A. two                    B. three                    C. four                    D. five

8. From the last sentence of paragraph 4, we can infer that \_\_\_\_\_

A. the real reasons for the decision may never have been made clear.

B. the writer probably expects us not to agree with his opinion.

C. the writer has not done much research on this subject to establish the facts.

D. the writer has attempted to present the facts as objectively as possible.

9. What does "this" refer to in paragraph 3 \_\_\_\_\_.

A. blockading Japan and dropping a nuclear bomb on an area of low population

B. using a bomb against some Japanese observers or on an area of low population

C. dropping a bomb in an area of low population in front of Japanese witnesses

D. dropping a nuclear weapon over a forest in Japan

10. Which of the following could best replace "natural resources" in paragraph 3 \_\_\_\_ .

- A. characteristics such as determination and resourcefulness
- B. ports and harbours
- C. workers with natural ability
- D. materials such as coal and iron

11. Which is closest in meaning to the last sentence of paragraph 2:

- A. the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki were badly damaged when they were bombed
- B. Hiroshima and Nagasaki suffered because Japan would not agree to end the war
- C. the awful effects of dropping nuclear bombs on these cities can still be felt
- D. the end of the war with Germany meant that Hiroshima and Nagasaki would suffer

12. "justifiable" in paragraph 5 is in inverted commas because \_\_\_\_

- A. the word is used in an unusual way.
- B. the writer is quoting from the decision makers.
- C. it is not really correct English.
- D. it might not be altogether appropriate here.