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Mind and body

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Lead-in

In small groups discuss the following questions:

1. Which science fiction books have you read or science fiction films have you seen?

2. Which ideas from these books/films do you think might come true in the future?

SPEAKING

Imagine that before you were born your parents could modify your genes and change your character. Answer the questions.

- 1 Which two things would you have liked them:

■ to change?

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■ to keep the same?

2 How would your life be different because of the changes that they made?

2 Read the article and answer the questions. In which paragraph does the writer mention:

Question	Paragraph
1 the ethical problem in relation to genetic engineering?	
2 that our society is becoming similar to the one in Gattaca?	
3 a difficult decision the parents have to make?	
4 why Vincent won't realize his ambitions?	
5 why genetic engineering is a logical step for society?	
6 the selection process parents might go through?	
7 laws which could enforce genetic engineering?	

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3 SPEAKING Discuss the questions.

1. How do you think Vincent feels about his brother Anton? How would you feel?

2. Do you think parents have a right to 'play God' and genetically engineer their children? Why might they be considered 'immoral' if they don't?

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Vocabulary

Verbs and nouns with the same form

4 Study the highlighted words in the article. Complete the pairs of sentences with a highlighted word. What is the difference in meaning? Find three more examples in the article.

a Don't look at the computer for too long. You'll get a headache.

b Doctors had to people for bird flu, to try and stop it from spreading.

2 a Einstein had an amazing He thought about science in a different way from other people.

b I don't if you disagree with me, just listen to my point of view.

3 a Designer babies will a lot of problems in the future.

b This charity is a good to support.

4 a There needs to be a in attitude – we need to start accepting genetic engineering.

b Can you these boxes out of the way? They're blocking the corridor.

5 a The whole area of genetics will us with serious ethical debates.

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b Old people often live in care homes because they don't want to be a on their children.

6 a My brother is passionate about science and mathematics. He plans to become an

b She tried to influence and the debate so she was the clear winner.

Lesson feedback (write about 70-100 words for each question):

1. What are the pros and cons of screening embryos for conditions such as depression and tendency to addiction?

2. Would you genetically engineer a child if this gave them a better chance in life?

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