Introduction

In the last 50 years or so, there has been an explosion in technological development. For example, the developments in microprocessors and materials technology have allowed the world to witness a greater rate of scientific development during this time than at any other time in history. On the other hand, with new abilities used to enhance the quality of life or search for answers to difficult questions, there are many moral and ethical questions which have risen and to this day are still debated. Moral means what is observed to be right and wrong in human behaviour. Ethical means the philosophy of questioning right or wrong issues.

Cloning

Cloning is a process which produces organisms, called clones, that are exactly identical to each other. This process can happen naturally in example identical twins or they can be made in a lab. Benefits of cloning:

- Cloning helps infertile couples to have children. This is done by using a donated egg and sperm to get embryonic stem cells, and then they change the genetic imprint. This is beneficial to the couple because now they would be able to have children and cloning wasn’t discovered, then infertile couples would have no children and for some couples this is the only opportunity for them to have children.
- Cloning allows there to be organ replacement. This is done by taking cells from a donor and harvesting a new functioning one. This is beneficial because there are people who need organ replacements and now with cloning discovered, this is now possible.
- Cloning is done to animals for research purposes. This is done by using genes to alter animals so that researchers can replicate the animals needed for specific experiments. This is beneficial because people won’t be worrying because the animals cloned, especially for the purpose of research.

Moral and Ethical Issues

- A moral and ethical issue would be that it would be difficult to identify a cloned human through its DNA. Nowadays, when a crime is committed, forensic scientists look at the DNA structure to identify who committed the crime. The cloned person’s DNA will decrease the reliability of this evidence because the DNA is no longer a unique feature of that person.
- A moral and ethical issue is that children believe that every life is sacred and special to God. For a clone to be successful, scientists fertilise several embryos to the best one is chosen and the rest are discarded. This is wrong to do because the embryos could develop into a human but they are discarded by the scientists. The scientists are playing god which it why Christians refute cloning.
- A moral and ethical issue is that even scientists and physicians believe that it would be unethical to attempt to clone humans. Experiments which have been attempted to be cloned, many fail and 90% of those successful are affected with congenital anomalies and die prematurely from illness. This is expected to happen in human cloning. This is wrong to do because scientists are working embryos on cloning what they could be used for other useful purposes such as stem cell research.