Big think question

**Is it good to clone humans?**

**My opinion before research:**

I think cloning humans is bad because the population of people on earth would be over exceeded and therefore the earth would be over populated. This means that there will be a shortage of food, water and space creating world famine. As well as this, things like deforestation would happen twice as quick because there would be a huge requirement for wood etc. to meet people’s demands.

**Research:**

The first website I looked at was a website called oxplore (reference A). After looking on this link, it said how cloning humans is good because it could change the entire human race now and in the future. For example, if you cloned yourself young, you would never get old; if you cloned youself healthy and skinny, you would never get cancer or get obese. We could literally be perfect. However, did you know, cloning humans doesn’t mean making an exact copy of us. It also means copying only the required cells from other animals and putting them along with other human cells to create a supernatural being. Something that scientists are tring to perfect making humans glow in the dark by cloning jellyfish cells into human cells.

In the second part of my research, I looked at a variety of videos. One of the video’s that I watched was called “its okay be smart clone” (reference B). In this video they talked about how clones already existed and how we call them identical twins. Although they may look identical from the outside they are not identical from the genes and DNA. They stated that identical twins had their own personality and some did not even look alike but they are individuals.

Another video I watched called “Could we clone humans? Earth Lab” (reference C) revealed that cloning has been tried out as we all know the first cloned mammal - Dolly the sheep. However, she unfortunatly only lived for 6 years( half the age of an average sheep) Since then, cloning has been tested on other animals such as: dogs, cats, rabbits, mice, rats and more. We’ve never tested “artificial” cloning on humans. This is because, we don’t know how dangerous it is. Also, cloning humans is illegal in most countrys.

The last piece of reasearch I carried out was found on a website called “NewScientist” (Reference D) which stated that there has been a cloned human birth. Eve (the cloned babys name), was born 26th November 2002. She was supposed to be the clone of her 31-year-old American mum. As great as the arrival of Eve may be, some people aren’t happy about this idea of real human cloning. After the birth, until the results came in, a DNA test was taken between the baby and the mother. It took 9 days until the results came in. However, a year later, there still is no proof about her being a clone – or even existing. So we can’t be sure if human cloning has ever happened.

**Interviewing**

**Author**: Do you agree with human cloning?

**Zoe (Sister)**: It can save lives because if you needed something for surgrey, you could get it from your clone. It is also bad because people are already cuttting down trees and killing animals and then, if you get a clone, everything would be doubled because more resources would be needed.

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**Mrs B (ICT Lecturer)**: I don’t think we should clone humans as we are playing god.

**Author**: What do you mean by that?

**Mrs B (ICT Lecturer)**: God put us on this earth for only a certain period of time and unfortunately some people live longer than others. Some people die at a young age and other people will live to a ripe old age. By cloning humans we are playing god as we will be expecting our clone to provide us with body parts which in reality we, in todays socieity have no access to. If we did decide to clone humans then where would everyone live. What would your clone be kept? Surely they have the right to live as they too are humans and where are their rights? What if the clones eventually found out that they were only breed for their parts and just like machines (machines are becoming more powerful therefore could they take over the world?) could they take over the world? And what if they wanted to wipe out the rest of the human race to survive?

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**Mr B (Company Director)**: I think it’s a good thing because, if I ended up in a car crash, I could use parts from my clone. However, I don’t belive clones will be walking around but instead be hooked to a machine. Also, how do you know that we’re not clones?

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**Gill (Curriculum Leader at Shrewsbury College):** I think it’s a good idea to have clones because if you were in a fire and you unfortunately lost your life and died, to save your family from going through this horrific tradegy and grief of loosing you we could replace you with your clone. This would save your family from a lot of heart ache.

**Catherine (Historical Renactment)**: I’m unfortunately against cloning. I personally feel that cloning humans doesn’t achieve anything. If it was only body parts that they were cloning, I could accept that but I think we already have enough people on this earth. If clones did have emotions, and we killed them, would it not be classed as murder? Also, would clones also get a say in court, or not? For this reason I feel that cloning humans really achieves nothing.

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After, completing all my research and asking a variety of people on their opinions, I think my opinions have some what changed seeing both the advantages as well as the disadvantages to it. I agree that it’s good because if you needed extra skin tissue for example, your clone could provide you with this and there would be no issue, of if it was an exact match in DNA or not. However, this could be bad because if your clone had feelings, it might not want to donate to you. Also, Dolly the sheep only lived half a sheeps average lifespan of only 6 years due to clones ageing quicker. So, if we did clone a human, would this therefore mean that they too would have a short life span? At the end of the day no one really knows the answer to this question.

**Reference for websites used**

Reference A - <https://oxplore.org/question-detail/is-it-ok-to-clone-a-human-being#424>

Reference B - <https://www.pbs.org/video/its-okay-be-smart-cloning/>

Reference C- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=41&v=bKHK2EwJIoI>

Reference D- <https://www.newscientist.com/article/dn3217-first-cloned-baby-born-on-26-december/>