

Grading Rubric for Questions 4 - 6

Question	0	1	2	3
Explain how you could use a plasmid to make a bacterial cell glow.	No idea.	Makes an attempt at the question, but the answer is wildly incorrect.	Demonstrates a simple understanding of what a plasmid and a bacterium are but cannot connect the parts into a functional "glowing" system.	Demonstrates a correct understanding that plasmids are DNA and must enter a bacterium for "glowing" to occur.
If you could use a plasmid to do anything, what would you use it for? Why?	No idea.	Would use the plasmid in an entirely inappropriate way (i.e. outside of a microbial system).	Understands the appropriate use of a plasmid but answer demonstrates that the reader cannot think of a way a plasmid would be useful.	Ideas demonstrate critical thinking. Answers should be reasonable but need not be entirely realistic.
What is your opinion of <b>synthetic biology</b> (modification of biological systems to do something useful for man)?	"No idea," or no attempt to answer the question.	Answer demonstrates that the reader does not know what synthetic biology is.	The reader understands the term "synthetic biology" well enough to articulate an opinion but cannot defend it.	Articulates and defends an opinion.