Conjoined Twins: Defining the Individual Organism

After viewing the video *Joined at Birth*, and reading articles *A Doctors Duty* and *Kill Mary to Save Jodie?*, complete the questions below. Answer them using complete sentences on a separate sheet of paper.

1. Consider all of the conjoined twins we have studied in this activity: Chang/Eng; Lelah/Ladan; Mary/Jodie; Emily/Claire; Lori/Dori; Ronny/Donny; Abigail/Brittany. Rank each set of twins based on their degree of connectedness, from least connected to most connected. Represent your decisions by placing each set of twins on a line from ‘most connected’ to ‘least connected.’

Most connected

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Least connected</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Most connected</td>
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2. What are the key organs that make an individual an individual? To what organ systems do these organs belong?

3. State your definition of an individual functioning organism. Be sure your definition includes a way to resolve the ‘gray area’ situations we have discussed in class. Provide a brief explanation/defense of the details in your definition.

4. If you were a parent of conjoined twins, would you separate your twins at all costs, or let them live life together? Should laws be instituted to regulate who makes the decision to separate? Should laws be instituted to regulate the criteria for which a doctor can attempt a separation?
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   • 6 pts total. Each set of twins (7 total) placed along the line below. Exact positioning is NOT important.

<table>
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2. What are the key organs that make an individual an individual? To what organ systems do these organs belong?

   • 3 pts total. Most likely answers include: brain/nervous system or heart/cardiovascular. Accept any answer and give (2) pts for the organ/organ(s) and (1) pt for the system.

3. State your definition of an individual functioning organism. Be sure your definition includes a way to resolve the ‘gray area’ situations we have discussed in class. Provide a brief explanation/defense of the details in your definition.

   • 3 pts total.
     2 pts = state definition that includes presence/absence of specific systems/organ(s)
     1 pt = examples of how their definition solves/answers the question of a specific set of conjoined twins.

4. If you were a parent of conjoined twins, would you separate your twins at all costs, or let them live life together? Should laws be instituted to regulate who makes the decision to separate? Should laws be instituted to regulate the criteria for which a doctor can attempt a separation?

   • 3 pts total
     1 pt = opinion on separation or no separation
     1 pt = opinion on laws about/directing these decisions
     1 pt = opinion on laws regulating criteria for separation