

C1-C2 Worksheet: Would People Really Want To Live To 150? - 05

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Article

Recent coverage of longevity science has brought an old fantasy back into public view: the possibility that some people alive today might live to 120, 130 or even 150. The most plausible research is not promising immortality, but it does ask whether biological ageing is as inevitable as we once assumed. Scientists are studying peptides, stem-cell treatments and drugs that could target frailty, inflammation and cellular decline. Yet the public still has to face up to a more awkward question: if medicine can hold out the prospect of a far longer life, would people actually buy into it?

Part of the appeal is obvious. Few people would rule out extra decades if those years were healthy, autonomous and mentally robust. But the promise begins to wear off if longer life simply means prolonged dependence, unaffordable treatment or a pension system stretched beyond recognition. Radical longevity could also sharpen existing inequalities if only the affluent can keep up with the newest therapies. A society that manages to scale up life extension without making it equitable may discover that living longer is not the same as living better.

The issue may ultimately come down to purpose rather than years. A life of 150 would force people to rethink education, work, marriage, inheritance and retirement, not merely healthcare. Some would set aside the fear of ageing and welcome the chance to begin again several times over. Others would push back against a culture that treats death as a technical failure instead of a human boundary. For now, healthy scepticism is justified: the science is promising, but the moral case for indefinite life remains far less settled.

True/False

Decide if each statement is True (T) or False (F).

1. The article says current longevity research is mainly promising literal immortality.
2. The writer suggests that living much longer would raise social questions as well as medical ones.
3. The article presents good health as an important condition for longer life to seem attractive.
4. The writer argues that radical longevity would automatically make society fairer.
5. The article suggests that only wealthy people benefiting from new treatments could deepen inequality.
6. The final paragraph claims that the moral argument for indefinite life is already settled.
7. The article connects longer life with possible changes to work, education and retirement.
8. The writer implies that scepticism about anti-ageing breakthroughs can be reasonable.

Phrase Match

Match the phrases (1-10) to the correct definitions (A-J).

Phrases (1-10)	Definitions (A-J)
1. face up to	A. to offer hope or a possible benefit
2. buy into	B. to resist or oppose something
3. hold out	C. to put something to one side
4. rule out	D. to confront or accept a difficult reality
5. wear off	E. to expand something so it operates more widely
6. keep up with	F. to gradually disappear or become less strong
7. scale up	G. to accept or believe an idea
8. come down to	H. to exclude something as impossible or unsuitable
9. set aside	I. to stay informed about or level with something
10. push back against	J. to be essentially a matter of something

Synonym Match

Match the words (1-10) to the correct synonyms (A-J).

Words (1-10)	Synonyms (A-J)
1. plausible	A. wealthy
2. inevitable	B. fair
3. boundary	C. credible
4. frailty	D. uncertainty
5. radical	E. weakness
6. affluent	F. unavoidable
7. equitable	G. unlimited
8. scepticism	H. extreme
9. robust	I. limit
10. indefinite	J. strong

Use the new language

Please choose 5 words or phrases and make your own sentence using the new word or phrase.

Discussion Questions

Student A

1. Would you personally want to live to 150 if you stayed healthy?
2. What age would feel like a good long life to you?
3. Would extra decades make life more exciting or more complicated?
4. How would your career plans change if people regularly lived much longer?
5. Would you buy into anti-ageing treatments if they became safe and affordable?
6. What parts of ageing do people fear most: illness, dependence, loneliness or something else?
7. Should society focus more on longer life or better health in old age?
8. Do you think people would keep up with new treatments, or become tired of constantly managing their bodies?

Student B

1. Is ageing best understood as a disease, a natural process or a social category?
2. Would radical longevity make society wiser, or simply more unequal?
3. How would marriage, inheritance and retirement have to change if many people lived to 150?
4. Should governments fund anti-ageing medicine if the main beneficiaries are already affluent?
5. Could longer life weaken people's sense of urgency and purpose?
6. At what point should medicine push back against death, and at what point should it accept limits?
7. Would the planet be able to sustain dramatically longer human lives?
8. If the science eventually works, will refusing life-extension treatment seem irresponsible or deeply human?

Answer Key

True/False: 1=F, 2=T, 3=T, 4=F, 5=T, 6=F, 7=T, 8=T

Phrase Match: 1=D, 2=G, 3=A, 4=H, 5=F, 6=I, 7=E, 8=J, 9=C, 10=B

Synonym Match: 1=C, 2=F, 3=I, 4=E, 5=H, 6=A, 7=B, 8=D, 9=J, 10=G

Example sentences with the phrases

1. We need to face up to the fact that healthcare costs are rising.
2. Many people still do not buy into the idea of biological age testing.
3. The new treatment seems to hold out hope for patients with severe frailty.
4. Doctors cannot rule out side effects until larger trials are completed.
5. The excitement around a new wellness trend often begins to wear off.
6. Older workers may need support to keep up with rapid technological change.
7. A small clinical trial is difficult to scale up across a whole health system.
8. The debate may come down to whether longer life would actually mean better life.
9. Researchers must set aside hype and examine the evidence carefully.
10. Some ethicists push back against the idea that death is merely a technical problem.