

Table 8.1 summarises the modifications made to the soybean plant to produce LibertyLink® soybean.

Table 8.1

name of introduced gene	gene donor organism	gene product	function of gene product
<i>pat</i>	<i>Streptomyces viridochromogenes</i>	phosphinothricin <i>N</i> -acetyltransferase	stops action of glufosinate, a herbicide

- [4

- [1]

- [1]

- [3]

- MLD is caused by mutations in the *ARSA* gene located on chromosome 22. The *ARSA* gene, which is 3150 base pairs (bp) in length, includes 8 exons and is shown in Fig. 5.1.

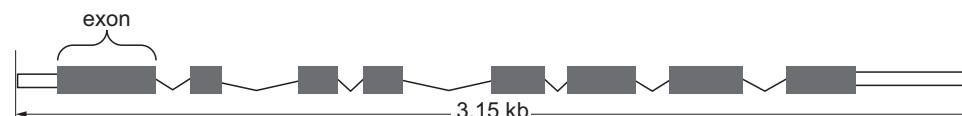


Fig. 5.1

The test involves a number of different stages:

- Genomic DNA is extracted from a blood sample.
- Polymerase chain reaction (PCR) using 5 pairs of primers selects 5 different DNA fragments of the *ARSA* gene.
- Gel electrophoresis is carried out on the DNA fragments.
- The DNA fragments are sequenced and analysed for mutations.

Table 5.1 shows the length of the DNA fragments and the exons present in each DNA fragment.

Table 5.1

fragment number	DNA fragment length / bp	exons in DNA fragment
1	405	1
2	737	1-2
3	706	2-4
4	860	5-7
5	916	7-8

Name **two** other substances that are added to the PCR machine, **and** explain why each substance is added.

[4]

..... [2]

[3]

- (c) Calculate the number of copies of DNA that are obtained if PCR is run for 35 cycles.

Assume that there is only 1 copy of DNA at the start of PCR.

Give your answer in standard form to **two** significant figures.

number of copies

[1]

- (d) MLD is a rare autosomal recessive disease. It is estimated that there is one case of MLD in every 40 000 births worldwide. Children with MLD have a reduced life expectancy.

- MLD is a degenerative disease that causes severe disability.
- Before 2022, there was no known cure for MLD and the only treatment for symptoms was to provide pain relief.

A new gene therapy treatment known as Libmeldy® became available in a number of countries in 2022. The treatment must start before symptoms are present. Although the treatment may provide a cure for MLD, a single dose is extremely expensive.

Blood samples from newborn babies are screened for a number of rare genetic diseases (neonatal screening) in most countries of the world, but none include screening for MLD.

Discuss the social and ethical considerations of including screening for MLD when carrying out neonatal screening in a country where gene therapy for MLD is available.

[4]

[Total: 14]

- 3 (a) Genetic engineering is a modern method for producing crop plants with improved characteristics.

One example of a crop plant with improved characteristics is soybean, *Glycine max*, which has been genetically modified to make it resistant to a herbicide. This genetically modified soybean is called GM soybean.

To create GM soybean, a bacterial gene and a section of regulatory DNA were introduced into soybean cells.

Outline the roles of enzymes and a section of regulatory DNA in the creation of genetically modified organisms such as GM soybean.

. [5]

- (b) In 2018, an area of 123.5 million hectares was used to grow soybean crops worldwide. GM soybean was grown in 73% of this area.

In 2018, soybeans accounted for 50% of the total GM crop area worldwide.

Calculate the total area used to grow GM crops worldwide in 2018.

Show your working.

... hectares [2]

(c) Discuss the social implications of growing GM crops.

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..... [4]

[Total: 11]