EUGENICS
Eugenics is the attempt to improve the human species by controlling which individuals can or cannot reproduce.

Eugenics has had disastrous social consequences whenever it was applied.
DNA

The genetic information contained in cells, the fundamental working units of all organisms.
GENE
An arrangement of DNA which produces proteins and acts as the functional unit of heredity.
ALLELE
ALLELE

A particular variant of a gene.

For example, some alleles of a certain gene might produce lighter pigmentation, while others might produce darker pigmentation.

For most human genes, individuals have two alleles (one inherited from the mother, and the other from the father).
HOMOZYGOUS
HOMOZYGOUS

Having two identical copies of the same allele.
HETEROZYGOUS
HETEROZYGOUS

Having two different copies of the same allele.
GENOME

All of the genetic material of an organism.
HEREDITARY
HEREDITARY

Inherited; passed down from parent to child. This includes traits like hair or eye color, or particular genes or DNA variants; some diseases are inherited.
ENVIRONMENT
The non-genetic factors which influence the development of traits and individuals (nutrition, stress).

An environment is also the physical area in which individuals live and to which they adapt over time (e.g. UV exposure).
EPIGENETICS
EPIGENETICS

The turning off and turning on of genes that changes how the genes work, but not the genetic sequence itself. It relates to human diseases such as cancer.
MICROBIOME
The bacteria found all over and in the human body, including on the skin and in the gut. They begin accumulating at birth, and are important for immunity to infection, digestion, and other functions.
ANCESTRY
A person’s family background or genealogy.

In genetics, it is often used to describe the particular alleles (or gene variants) that an individual received from each of his or her ancestors.

For example, a person with one African parent and one European parent will have "African ancestry" for some genes and "European ancestry" for other genes.
RACE
One of the groups into which people can be divided based on certain physical qualities.
ETHNICITY
An ethnic group or ethnicity is a category of people who identify with each other based on similarities, such as common language, ancestry, social or cultural groups, or national experiences.
PHRENOLOGY
PHRENOLOGY

The study of the size and shape of a person’s skull, used to determine a person’s character and mental abilities.

Phrenology was based on the idea that certain parts of the brain are associated with certain mental traits.

Although popular in the early 1800s, today, it is not considered a real science.
BIAS
Prejudice; preconceived notions that tend to result in unfair treatment.
SOCIAL IDENTITY
SOCIAL IDENTITY

A person’s sense of who they are, based on the groups to which they belong
POLYGENESIS
The idea that different races evolved separately from pre-human ancestors.
MONOGENESIS

The idea that all humans evolved as a single species from the same pre-human ancestors.