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ENGINEERING & MANAGEMENT EXAMINATIONS, JUNE – 2009
rDNA TECHNOLOGY
SEMESTER – 2



Time : 3 Hours]

[Full Marks : 70

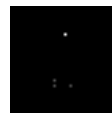
The figures in the margin indicate full marks.

Candidates are required to give their answers in their own words as far as practicable.

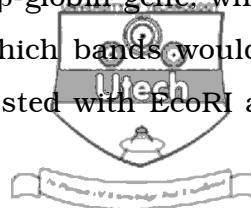
GROUP - A

Objective Type (Compulsory)

1. Answer the following : 10 × 1
- i) Which group for Endonucleases (restriction enzymes) comprise two different enzymes for modification or cleavage yet recognize the same symmetrical target sequence ?
 - ii) Which viruses are used as high-efficiency vectors for long-term, stable gene expression ?
 - iii) What two vital features would you consider important in order to maximize high-level transgene expression in animal cells ?
 - iv) Name two techniques to study protein-protein interactions.
 - v) Name an appropriate method to determine a full length mRNA.
 - vi) Give examples of neoschizomers.
 - vii) Name an appropriate means to terminate a growing DNA chain.



- viii) The DNA shown below is from the 3' end of the β -globin gene, which is mutated in sickle cell anemia (autosomal recessive). Which bands would be seen in a Southern blot of DNA from normal subjects digested with EcoRI and hybridized with Probe A ? (Select the right option)

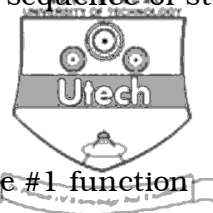


- a) 6 kb band only
b) 6 kb band and 10 kb band
c) 4 kb band, 6 kb band and 10 kb band
d) 4 kb band and 10 kb band
e) 4 kb band only.
- ix) A particular RFLP is diagrammed below. 'E' represents invariant EcoRI restriction sites. '*' represents polymorphic EcoRI sites. The dark box represents the location of a particular DNA probe 'A'. What are all the possible alleles (i.e. size of bands) seen on a Southern blot probed with 'A' ? (Select the right option)

- a) 1 kb, 2 kb, 3 kb, 4 kb, 5 kb, 6 kb
b) 1 kb, 3 kb, 4 kb, 6 kb
c) 3 kb, 4 kb, 6 kb
d) 2 kb, 3 kb, 6 kb
e) None of these.



x) Choosing from the list below, which is a reasonable sequence of steps for cloning a piece of foreign DNA into a plasmid vector ?



1. Transform competent cells
 2. Select from the lack of antibiotic resistance gene #1 function
 3. Select for the plasmid antibiotic resistance gene #2 function
 4. Digest vector and foreign DNA with EcoRI, which inactivates antibiotic resistance gene #1
 5. Ligate the digested DNA together.
- a) 4, 5, 1, 3, 2
 - b) 4, 5, 1, 2, 3
 - c) 1, 3, 4, 2, 5
 - d) 3, 2, 1, 4, 5
 - e) None of these.

GROUP - B

Answer any six questions.

6 × 10 = 60

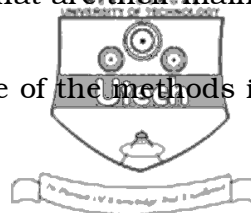
2.
 - a) What is the alpha complementation test ?
 - b) Illustrate very briefly the phenomena of restriction-modification (R-M) of a phage λ on *E.coli* C and *E.coli* K.
 - c) Outline the steps involved in screening a cDNA library in λ phage. 4 + 3 + 3
3.
 - a) Explain schematically the cloning of genomic fragments in any one high capacity vector that you know of.
 - b) Many gene products (proteins) when overexpressed may be toxic to the host cell. Explain with a suitable example how this problem may be overcome with special reference to genes that express under the control of viral promoters.
 - c) Name two appropriate vector systems used for expressing proteins fused to protein tags. 4 + 4 + 2



4. a) Merely increasing annealing temperature may not be sufficient to reduce non-specific amplification of undesired products during PCR. Suggest any suitable means (with proper examples) to conduct PCR in order to reduce non-specific product amplification.
- b) What is RNAase protection assay and why is it preferred over conventional Northern blotting experiments ?
- c) In Real time PCR, which of the two methods, Sybr green or Taqman probe, is more reliable in monitoring DNA synthesis/product formation and why ? 3 + 3 + 4
5. a) Some cancers are caused by the overexpression of a “normal” protein. What therapeutic strategy can be used to treat this type of disease ?
- b) Viral-based vectors may be utilized to correct the defect in patient's cells. Briefly explain a method which seems practical.
- c) How would you achieve site-directed mutagenesis using PCR techniques ?
3 + 3 + 4
6. a) Distinguish between primer walking and chromosome walking ?
- b) What are reporter genes and how are they useful for promoter analysis ? Explain with a suitable example.
- c) How would you select cells that are stably transfected ?
4 + 4 + 2
7. a) How would you check protein-protein interaction using an appropriate hybrid system ?
- b) Explain schematically how you would introduce foreign DNA using embryonic stem cells.
- c) Illustrate with a suitable example how a transgene expression can be targeted to specific tissues.
4 + 3 + 3



8. a) What are heterologous expression systems and what are their main uses ?
- b) Single-stranded DNA is used as a template in one of the methods in site-directed mutagenesis. What is that method ?
- c) In an expression construct, the junction between the promoter and coding sequence can be made in two functionally different ways, that is, transcriptional or translational fusions. Describe what are meant by a transcriptional fusion and a translational fusion. What are their relative advantages and disadvantages ?
- d) How would you purify recombinant proteins and check for purity ? 3 + 1 + 3 + 3
9. a) What is a microsatellite ? Give a very brief description.
- b) What type of DNA methods are RAPD and RFLP ?
- c) Describe briefly how RAPDs differ from more standard applications of this type of method ?
- d) Describe the technique of DNA footprinting in brief. 2 + 4 + 2 + 2



END