Year 12 Visual Text Study - *Gattaca*

Key Terminology

*Define the following terms and support with examples from the film*

**Allegory:**

**Metaphor:**

**Genetic Engineering:**

**Cinematography:**

**Style:**

**‘Gattaca’ Lexicon**

**Valid:** This is the official term for a member of the genetic elite in GATTACA, almost always the product of genetic engineering. Since there are infinite levels of perfection, your ‘grade’ is called your ‘G.Q.’ (Genetic Quotient)

**In-Valid:** The official term for a member of the genetic underclass. For moral, or more likely, economic reasons, the parents of such a person refrained from tampering with their offspring’s genetic make-up and had a ‘natural birth’

**De-Gene-Erate:** A member of the genetic underclass who assumes the identity of a member of the elite in order to circumvent society’s systematic discrimination. This is usually done with the assistance of a DNA ‘Broker’. This procedure is also referred to as a ‘Borrowed Ladder’

**Genoism:** Official term for genetic discrimination. Although such discrimination is outlawed the laws are unenforceable since your ‘Genetic Quotient’ is known since birth

**Hoover:** A slang term for a member of Gattaca’s law enforcement personnel – a reference to their habit of vacuuming up genetic evidence at crime scenes. Also called ‘Cleaners’ or ‘J. Edgars