

• Plate out: Leave with them free up to day

### Preparation of competent *E. coli*

1. Inoculate 50ml of Lennox broth (with appropriate antibiotics) in a 250ml conical with 1.0ml of an overnight culture of *E. coli*.
2. Incubate at 37°C until mid-logarithmic phase ( $A_{650} \sim 0.3-0.5$ , approx. 2h).
3. Transfer culture to a sterile, chilled centrifuge tube and incubate on ice for 10 min.
4. Harvest cells by 5 min. centrifugation at 4000 rpm at 4°C. Discard the supernatant.
5. Resuspend cell pellet in 25ml of ice-cold 0.1M  $\text{CaCl}_2$  and incubate on ice for 20 min. //
6. Harvest cells by 5 min. centrifugation at 4000 rpm at 4°C. Discard the supernatant.
7. Resuspend pellet in 3.3ml of ice-cold freeze-thaw buffer. Incubate on ice for **at least** 30 min. prior to use (competence will increase for up to 24 hours if the cells are stored on ice).  
*or 0.1M  $\text{CaCl}_2$  if cells are not to be stored @ -70°C*

### Transformation of competent *E. coli* with plasmid DNA

1. Add the DNA to be transformed to an empty, chilled eppendorf. *> 10  $\mu\text{l}$*
2. Add 100 $\mu\text{l}$  of competent *E. coli*, 200 $\mu\text{l}$  if transforming 5A DNA.
3. Incubate on ice for 60 minutes (or longer to increase competence - for 2h if 5A). *→ Make plates during this time*  
*→ Spin out 11-10*
4. Heat shock by placing at 42°C for 2 minutes, then back on ice briefly.
5. Add 0.5ml of Lennox broth and incubate at 37°C for 30-60 minutes. *4.10*
6. Pellet the cells by spinning briefly in a microfuge. Discard about 500 $\mu\text{l}$  of the supernatant.
7. Resuspend each pellet in the remaining 100 $\mu\text{l}$  of Lennox broth and plate out onto an agar plate containing appropriate antibiotics for plasmid selection. Incubate the plate at 37°C overnight.

N.B. To store competent cells @ -70°C aliquot into 1ml and add 333 $\mu\text{l}$  of 50% Glycerol  
*2x 18-25 37.5g 750ml → 25 + Plate*  
*100mg/ml stock*  
*Use at 100mg/ml in plates or LB etc*  
*Autoclave*  
*Pair*