Read the text and answer the questions.

In the past, technology and progress was very slow. People 'invented' farming 12,000 years ago, but it took 8,000 years for the idea to go around the world. Then, about 3,500 years ago, people called 'potters' used round wheels to turn and make plates. But it took hundreds of years before some clever person thought, 'if we join two wheels together and make them bigger, we can use them to move things'.

In the last few centuries, things have begun to move faster. Take a 20th-century invention like the aeroplane, for example. The first aeroplane flight on 17 December 1903 only lasted 12 seconds, and the plane only went 37 metres. It can't have been very exciting to watch, but that flight changed the world. Sixteen years later, the first plane flew across the Atlantic, and only fifty years after that, men walked on the moon. Technology is now changing our world faster and faster. So what will the future bring?

One of the first changes will be the materials we use. Scientists have just invented an amazing new material called graphene, and soon we will use it to do lots of things. With graphene batteries in your mobile, it will take a few seconds to charge your phone or download a thousand gigabytes of information! Today, we make most products in factories, but in the future, scientists will invent living materials. Then we won't make things like cars and furniture in factories – we will grow them!

Thirty years ago, people couldn't have imagined social media like Twitter and Facebook. Now we can't live without them. But this is only the start. Right now, scientists are putting microchips in some disabled people's brains, to help them see, hear and communicate better. In the future, we may all use these technologies. We won't need smartphones to use social media or search the internet because the internet will be in our heads!

More people will go into space in the future, too. Space tourism has already begun, and a hundred years from now, there may be many hotels in space. One day, we may get most of our energy from space too. In 1941, the writer Isaac Asimov wrote about a solar power station in space. People laughed at his idea then, but we should have listened

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to him. Today, many people are trying to develop a space solar power station. After all, the sun always shines above the clouds!

1 The writer says that in the past
A people didn't invent many things.
B most inventions were to do with farming.
C people didn't want to use wheels.
D it took time for new ideas to change things.

2 Why does the writer use the example of the aeroplane?
A To explain how space travel started.
B Because he thinks it's the most important invention in history.
C To show how an invention developed quickly.
D To explain why transport changed in the 20th century.

3 What does the writer say about the future of communication?
A We won't need devices like smartphones.
B We can't know what the most popular social media will be.
C We won't use the internet as much.
D Microchips will become faster.

4 In the future, people will use space for
A making things in space factories.
B getting between places on Earth faster.
C living and visiting on holiday.
D producing energy and visiting.

5 The best title for the article would be:
A More and more inventions
B Progress now and then
C Man in space
D Will computers rule the world?

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