



Name _____

Group _____

Reading

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 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 want to change the world.
 - B there weren't many clever people.
 - C nobody invented anything.
 - D progress wasn't as fast as it is now.
- 2 What does the writer say about aeroplanes?
 - A The first planes weren't a success.
 - B They were the best way to get across the Atlantic.
 - C They changed transport very quickly.
 - D They didn't carry many people.
- 3 Graphene will help us to
 - A make things in factories.
 - B grow things in our gardens.
 - C produce new materials.
 - D get information more quickly.
- 4 What does the writer say about space solar power?
 - A It's a science fiction idea, and nobody really thinks it will work.
 - B People tried it in 1941, but they didn't succeed.
 - C It's an old idea, but people are only starting to develop it now.
 - D It's much easier to build a solar power station in space than on Earth.
- 5 The best title for the article would be:
 - A The history of science
 - B From aeroplanes to space travel
 - C Predictions for the next century
 - D The speed of change

Listening

Listen to 5 extracts and choose the correct answers.

- 1 Which of the following is an opinion and not a fact?
 - A The Univac 1 was a very big machine.
 - B The first computers were built in the thirties and forties.
 - C The first computers were difficult to program.
- 2 In extract 2, who is the speaker?
 - A a radio presenter
 - B a scientist
 - C a film director
- 3 What does the girl want to do?
 - A complain about the phone
 - B buy a new phone
 - C show the phone to a friend
- 4 What is the most important thing about the Smart 1022?
 - A You can use it in different ways.
 - B It's the best tablet computer in the shops.
 - C You won't need another computer if you buy it.
- 5 The girl's grandpa is talking about
 - A how computers were difficult to use in the past.
 - B how he taught computing at school.
 - C how he studied computing at university.