

1

MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY will conquer many diseases. Today there are electronic devices that connect directly to the brain to help people hear. By 2050, we will be able to help blind and deaf people to see and hear again. Scientists will know how to control genes. They are already producing clones of animals; by 2010, scientists will produce clones of people with predetermined characteristics in their appearance, intelligence and behaviour.

3

THE POPULATION in Europe is growing older. People are living longer and the birth rate is falling because young people have only one child or none at all. In five years, 35 per cent of the people in the European Union will be over sixty years old and this will be a serious problem for the governments because there won't be enough young people to pay for the old people's pensions. On the other hand, in most countries in the Third World, the population is growing very fast. In some African countries the population is doubling every 20 years and this will cause lack of food, medicines and education.

2

ROBOTS will replace people in factories. Many industries already use robots because they work without interruptions for 24 hours a day, and they can also do jobs too dangerous for people, such as working underwater, inside nuclear energy plants or in the outer space exploration. By 2050, we will see more robots everywhere – in schools, offices, hospitals, shops and homes. They will simplify people's lives making them more comfortable.

4

WATER will become one of our most serious problems in the near future. In many places agriculture is changing because people are growing fruit and vegetables to export, so they use large amounts of water. Another problem is that more countries will build dams to generate hydro-electricity. As a result, the nearby countries will have much less water for their population needs. The demand for water will increase ten times between now and 2050, so there will be serious shortages of this vital element and this may be the cause for wars among countries.

Task Seven. Look up at least five cognates in each text.

Task Eight. Find words in the texts to match these definitions. The first number in brackets refers to the text and the second, to the line in the text

1. Una copia exacta de un ser humano o de un animal (Text 1, Line 6) *clone*
2. Un malestar o disfunción del cuerpo o de la mente. (1; 2)
3. Dispositivos o artefactos diseñados para una tarea específica. (1, 2)
4. La masa gris, suave que es el centro del sistema nervioso. (1, 3)
5. Conducta o formas de comportamiento de las personas . (1, 9)
6. Facilitar o hacer que algo se haga más fácil. (2, 8).
7. El número de personas que nacen en un período de tiempo dado. (3, 2)
8. Por el contrario, por otra parte. (3, 8)
9. Ausencia, falta de algo. (3, 12)
10. La estructura construida en un río para controlar el flujo del agua. (4, 6)
11. Escasez o racionamiento de algo vital. (4, 11)