

VARIANT 7

Task 1. Read a magazine article about the technologies of future. Match the headings (A-J) with the paragraphs (1-7). There are three extra headings that you do not need to use.

LIFE AT THE CLICK OF A BUTTON.

1. The smart fridge will be connected to the Internet as part of a home network that runs your domestic life, interacting with the barcodes on your food, and reordering them online as you use them. Virtually all domestic appliances will be linked by computer, so that the fridge can communicate with the cooker and rubbish bin, coordinating complex tasks such as cooking a meal.
2. Children of the future will never be able to complain that there's no one to play with. Equipped with virtual reality headsets, they will be taking part in global games, for example, in medieval jousting tournaments. Their opponents, selected by the computer, will probably live on the other side of the world.
3. Cars of the future will take much of the strain out of driving. The intelligent navigation system will be able to choose the best route for you by monitoring an online traffic database for holdups, while the cruise control keeps a constant distance from the car in front. And if you exceed the speed limit, the speedometer will give a polite warning to you.
4. Holographic conferencing and virtual reality meetings will allow people to interact with colleagues and clients via computer, without needing to leave the comfort of their own homes. This will also mean that a lot more people will either work freelance from home, or on flexible short-term contracts. The old concept 'jobs for life' will be a thing of the past.
5. In the future it will become harder to tell the difference between the human and the machine. All body parts will be replaceable. A computer will function like the human

brain with the ability to recognize feelings and respond in an emotional way. We will then be able to create a machine duplicate of ourselves and transfer our spirit so we will be able to live for as long as we want.

6. There will be great changes to the environment particularly because of the rising sea levels. Global warming is expected to cause oceans to rise by one meter, which will increase the risk of flooding. It will happen regardless of any future actions to curb greenhouse gases. Projected climate change will also tend to degrade water quality through higher water temperatures.

7. We will not rely so much on cash as we do now. It will mainly be digital money, the inevitable medium of exchange for an increasingly wired world. We will no longer need to carry a wad of bills or fumble for exact change. Supermarkets will have iris recognition systems so the money for our groceries will automatically be transferred from our bank accounts as we're standing at the checkout.

- A. Behind the Wheel
- B. Pessimistic Predictions
- C. Ocean Desalination
- D. Intelligent House
- E. New Possibilities for Business
- F. Permanent People
- G. Greenhouse Effect
- H. Easy Shopping
- I. Future Entertainment
- J. Instant Speeding Penalties

Adopted from <https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/why-have-smart-fridge-vitalii-vashchuk/>

Keys: 1D, 2I, 3A, 4E, 5F, 6B, 7H.

Task 2. You are going to read an article about the solar farm. For questions 7-12, choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which you think fits best according to the text.

The Barnley Village Committee is opposed to plans to build a 6,890-panel solar farm on a 15-acre site adjacent to the village recreation ground, currently used for agriculture. Under the proposed scheme, the area will be surrounded by an 8ft-high fence. The panels themselves will be about 7 feet high.

The committee has already lodged an appeal to the local authority against construction of the solar farm. The councilors are due to meet on 13th March to vote whether or not plans will go ahead. Local residents are invited to attend. Our objections will be presented before the board, and a representative from the solar firm *SunGen* will put forward the case for the development.

Residents are encouraged to voice their objections to the development. These must address the aspects of the scheme that violate the current planning policy. However, you are welcome to make your objections personal, by stating how the plans will affect you as a user of the recreation ground. Some of the most common objections are listed below:

The extensive views from the village and recreation ground across the open country will be blocked by the panels and high fencing. Furthermore, once the site has been built upon, it may be considered brownfield, thus an acceptable site for housing or industrial development. It does not, therefore, comply with the local policy which states that developments must not *adversely effect on the appearance or character of the landscape*.

The recreation ground has recently undergone major improvements including a perimeter running track, new playground equipment and seating. It is heavily used by

families, sports teams and dog walkers, and is regularly used for village events. Cricket and football teams regularly use the recreation ground and it is not uncommon for balls to enter the field. Cricketers are worried that they may become liable for damage to solar panels. If teams are forced to relocate, this would adversely affect the character of the village, and may jeopardise participation in the children's teams. This goes against the National Planning Policy Framework which requires developments to *promote high quality public space* and *encourage the active and continual use of public areas*.

There has been no assessment of the extent to which noise from inverters and cooling fans will affect local residents.

As the ground beneath the solar panels will be surfaced, there will be more additional run-off of rainwater. The recreation ground already has problems with drainage, and these may be exacerbated by this development. A formal flood risk assessment must be submitted.

The lighting and security systems have not been outlined, it is not clear how the area will be made safe for children

8. What is the committee's opinion of the development?

- A. It is opposed to the development.
- B. It supports the development.
- C. It is waiting for comments from residents before taking a viewpoint.

9. The solar farm would be built...

- A. on the recreation ground.
- B. in an agricultural field.
- C. on a brownfield site.

10. People who want to object the development are advised...

- A. not to write about their personal feelings.

- B. to refer to the village's planning policy.
- C. to send a letter in the mail.

11. What is inferred about brownfield sites?

- A. It is easier to get permission to develop brownfield sites.
- B. There are already too many brownfield sites in the village
- C. A brownfield site is not a suitable location for a solar farm.

12. Teams may no longer play on the recreation ground because...

- A. parents will be worried about their children's safety.
- B. spectators won't want to watch matches at the recreation ground.
- C. players will be worried about damaging the panels.