

## Unit 12: Thinking about the future

### READING 01 Why scientists could easily be ruling the world

Read the text below, then choose the correct answer (A, B, C or D) for questions 1–5. Put a cross (✗) in the correct box. The first one (0) has been done for you.

#### Why scientists could easily be ruling the world

Recent advancements made in the fields of biological and genetic research might signal that science is on its way to claim its place among the most influential factors determining the world's future course. When cloning became a reality, there were not only voices of approval to be heard, but many opponents offered warnings on how this could easily affect the way we as a society were dealing with imperfection. Does being capable of eliminating any birth defects and diseases in animals make it the right thing to do? To take this thought a step further, if we were able to produce animal offspring to fit an order placed before they were ever even conceived, then what would stop us from taking this a step further and producing seemingly "perfect" human beings while refusing to accept less impeccable ones? There have always been countries for example in which one gender is preferred over the other, creating a dangerous imbalance. Giving people the possibility to make decisions about the genetic make-up of their future offspring could easily cause more problems than it might ever solve.

There are many dangers in enabling mankind to decide what kind of genetic material is deemed acceptable and what is not. Apart from the understandable and acceptable desire to prevent any illnesses or genetic defects before they even appear, it would in all likelihood not take long before even slightest physical problems would be subject to improvement. It seems that from there it would not be a far step to eliminate every detail that is not considered perfect about a human being. However, is a world without any flaws really what we want?

Giving science such a great amount of control over ourselves and our future generations could result in a dependence on science by entirely eliminating the natural selection process. Along the same lines we might welcome the possibility of growing organs from stem cells on the one hand, but should be aware of concerns pointing out that we might interfere with nature too much. We seem to be torn between the fact that we do not want our fellow human beings to suffer and being scared of the impact genetic manipulation might have on all of us.

Taking into consideration that agricultural products are already being genetically manipulated, economic power might be shifting to where science laboratories could actually control our food resources. This is not to say that every scientific advancement should be stopped, but that regulatory systems should be implemented to ensure these technologies are utilised in a safe way. The creation of biological weapons for example is an area where a safe environment is of utmost importance. The fact that such weapons exist and could be used to decide wars and destroy entire cultures should remind us of our responsibility towards humanity. The answer will most definitely not lie in controlling science too tightly, or many discoveries may never be made. However, science should to a certain extent be subject to control mechanisms ensuring progress as well as sustainment.

- 0** In the future, science will
- A** become more influential. ☒
  - B** celebrate faster advancements. ☐
  - C** determine the world's future. ☐
  - D** become even more dangerous. ☐
- Q1** After scientists had successfully produced clones,
- A** many people did not understand the procedure. ☐
  - B** most people believed society would change. ☐
  - C** many people were scared of the consequences. ☐
  - D** most people celebrated the end of imperfection. ☐
- Q2** Cloning humans could lead to
- A** imperfect children being rejected. ☐
  - B** genetic material being damaged. ☐
  - C** fewer babies being born. ☐
  - D** people making wrong decisions. ☐
- Q3** The reason to consider changing genetic material lies in
- A** being able to heal diseases. ☐
  - B** being able to avoid the occurrence of illnesses. ☐
  - C** being able to get rid of all physical imperfections. ☐
  - D** being able to perfect human beings. ☐
- Q4** According to the article, empowering science
- A** makes us less dependent on natural selection. ☐
  - B** makes it possible to grow organs. ☐
  - C** stops fellow humans from suffering. ☐
  - D** endangers certain natural processes. ☐
- Q5** In order to ensure safe scientific advancements
- A** clear regulations must be put into place. ☐
  - B** science must be kept under tight control at all times. ☐
  - C** no biological weapons should be produced. ☐
  - D** science labs must hold no economic power. ☐

READING 02 What ordinary people can achieve

Read the text below, then choose the correct heading (A–I) for each paragraph (1–6). There are two extra headings you should not use. Write your answers in the boxes provided. The first one (0) has been done for you.

**An interview with author David DeFord about his book *Ordinary people can achieve the extraordinary – a practical guide to goal achievement***

(0) \_\_\_\_\_

DeFord: It all came to me last year at a New Year's party that I had been invited to. At some point a friend of mine asked the classic question: What's your New Year's resolution? I didn't have one. In fact, I was a bit annoyed by the question itself, because I thought about all those resolutions people have around New Year's Day but never take seriously.

(Q1) \_\_\_\_\_

DeFord: I do not have any numbers to prove my theory but I would say that the top three plans for the coming year are "stop smoking", "lose weight and exercise" and "spend more time with family and friends".

(Q2) \_\_\_\_\_

DeFord: For sure, there are some people who get their act together, stay focused and try to achieve the goals they have set themselves. The majority of people, however, are not determined enough to resist certain temptations.

(Q3) \_\_\_\_\_

DeFord: Not necessarily, but I just think their approach could be different. This is actually what I talk about in my book. I have met so many people who complain about their jobs, their partners, their children or their looks. They are very passionate about the fact that they want to change. If I ask them what they are already doing to change their lives, they usually do not know what to reply.

(Q4) \_\_\_\_\_

DeFord: Well, I am convinced that if you keep doing what you are doing at the moment, you will keep getting exactly what you are getting right now. If you really want to break this cycle, you need to change the way you approach your problems.

(Q5) \_\_\_\_\_

DeFord: Reading my book, people might for example find an answer to the question of how to finally take control of their future, how to find their "great one thing" or how to select the right goals. They will learn about the benefits of keeping a journal and about different ways to overcome their fears and doubts.

(Q6) \_\_\_\_\_

DeFord: If you want to break the – what I call – New Year's resolution cycle, you need to focus and finally take some action. It's all about setting yourself a goal and being determined and willing to do whatever it takes to eventually achieve it.

<b>A</b>	Would you say that people are not strong enough?
<b>B</b>	What made you write this book?
<b>C</b>	Would you say some people have got the wrong dreams?
<b>D</b>	Do you think that most people do not abide by their resolutions?
<b>E</b>	What are some of the issues that you address in your book?
<b>F</b>	What will happen if you do not change anything in your life?
<b>G</b>	What would you say are common New Year's resolutions?
<b>H</b>	What message are you trying to send to your readers?
<b>I</b>	Do you have an answer for people lacking determination?

<b>0</b>	<b>Q1</b>	<b>Q2</b>	<b>Q3</b>	<b>Q4</b>	<b>Q5</b>	<b>Q6</b>
<b>B</b>						

## VOCABULARY 03 Horoscopes

Read through the text. Some words are missing. Choose the correct answer (A, B, C or D) for each gap (1–8).

### Horoscopes

Horoscopes are something people **(0)** ... totally different about. Some people loathe the idea **(Q1)** ... being influenced in their way of feeling and acting by what seems to be **(Q2)** ... predictions. Others, however, cannot wait to open up the paper in the morning and see what the future **(Q3)** ... for them so that they know how to act in their jobs or private lives. And then there are those who might **(Q4)** ... read their horoscope but not take it too seriously. These are usually people **(Q5)** ... like having good things confirmed and do not care about negative statements **(Q6)** ... much.

Horoscopes have to do with astrology, which is a set of systems and beliefs based **(Q7)** ... the idea that the position of the planets and stars can predict a person's fate. Even though people might be sceptical towards astrology, they have been dealing with it **(Q8)** ... thousands of years.

- |    |  |  |                                     |                                      |
|----|--|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 0  | A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> feel | B <input type="checkbox"/> discuss     | C <input type="checkbox"/> argue    | D <input type="checkbox"/> decide    |
| Q1 | A <input type="checkbox"/> of              | B <input type="checkbox"/> from        | C <input type="checkbox"/> for      | D <input type="checkbox"/> about     |
| Q2 | A <input type="checkbox"/> random          | B <input type="checkbox"/> impossible  | C <input type="checkbox"/> various  | D <input type="checkbox"/> illogical |
| Q3 | A <input type="checkbox"/> holds           | B <input type="checkbox"/> was holding | C <input type="checkbox"/> has held | D <input type="checkbox"/> held      |
| Q4 | A <input type="checkbox"/> well            | B <input type="checkbox"/> good        | C <input type="checkbox"/> badly    | D <input type="checkbox"/> bad       |
| Q5 | A <input type="checkbox"/> who             | B <input type="checkbox"/> which       | C <input type="checkbox"/> whose    | D <input type="checkbox"/> whom      |
| Q6 | A <input type="checkbox"/> too             | B <input type="checkbox"/> to          | C <input type="checkbox"/> pretty   | D <input type="checkbox"/> fairly    |
| Q7 | A <input type="checkbox"/> on              | B <input type="checkbox"/> at          | C <input type="checkbox"/> over     | D <input type="checkbox"/> of        |
| Q8 | A <input type="checkbox"/> for             | B <input type="checkbox"/> up to       | C <input type="checkbox"/> since    | D <input type="checkbox"/> so far    |

## VOCABULARY 04 Extroverts

You are going to read a text about extrovert people and whether they have an easier life. Some words are missing from the text. Choose from the list (A–P) the correct part for each gap (1–13) in the text. There are two extra words you should not use. Write your answers in the boxes provided. The first one (0) has been done for you.

### Do extrovert people have an easier life?

Do you see yourself as an extrovert (0) ... ? Today's society tells us that being an introvert (Q1) ... is old-fashioned and makes your life much harder than it has to be. People who are (Q2) ... seem to have many benefits in everyday life. They are said to achieve higher job positions, tend to be better paid and find partners more (Q3) ... . But is it true that holding back and displaying (Q4) ... can have a negative effect on your (Q5) ... and professional life?

While it must be said that most people respond (Q6) ... to an open attitude and a (Q7) ... behaviour, this does not mean that introverts are automatically perceived as (Q8) ... or unsociable. Even if you are a shy person, you can send the right (Q9) ... in almost every social context. For example, you can easily communicate that you are interested in what others have to say by holding eye-contact and nodding. Smiling goes a long way, too, if you are too timid to speak your mind (Q10) ... . So instead of trying hard to be something you are not, make sure the (Q11) ... you try to communicate are the right ones. You might already have discovered that (Q12) ... behaviour that does not fit your personality is usually not successful. People will perceive you as more honest and (Q13) ... if you admit to your weaknesses and work on improving your strong points.

- |                      |                     |                      |                     |
|----------------------|---------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| <b>A</b> adopting    | <b>E</b> extroverts | <b>I</b> messages    | <b>M</b> positively |
| <b>B</b> charming    | <b>F</b> initially  | <b>J</b> person      | <b>N</b> shyness    |
| <b>C</b> differently | <b>G</b> likeable   | <b>K</b> personal    | <b>O</b> signals    |
| <b>D</b> easily      | <b>H</b> openness   | <b>L</b> personality | <b>P</b> unfriendly |

0	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10	Q11	Q12	Q13
J													

## VOCABULARY 05 Exam preparation

You are going to read a text about exam preparation. In most lines of the text there is a word that should not be there. Write that word in the space provided after each line. Seven to nine lines are correct. Indicate these lines with a tick (✓). There are two examples at the beginning.

### Exam preparation

The life of a student is not as pleasant as many adults remember it to	✓	0
be. There are tests and exams to <b>be</b> take, home assignments and	be	00
papers to write, and the hundreds of pages of studying material to go		Q1
through them. Thus, it has become more and more important to		Q2
prepare for an exam effectively in order to receive good grades.		Q3
The first step students should have take when studying for exams is to		Q4
create their own perfect learning environment. This does usually		Q5
includes a quiet and well-organised workspace, good lighting and few		Q6
of distracting devices such as computers or televisions.		Q7
Finding out about any learning preferences and to utilising them to		Q8
study more quickly and more efficiently is at the next important step.		Q9
Some students might need the visual support, while others learn best		Q10
by reading the information of out loud or moving around their room		Q11
when studying. Depending on the individual's learner type the ideal		Q12
preparation method should be chosen.		Q13
Since the studying is commonly an activity that people do not enjoy		Q14
doing, it makes sense to form study groups. Revising on material		Q15
together with other people usually means more fun, especially if it is a		Q16
group of friends sitting around a table. In addition, you do not get stuck		Q17
in as easily, because others might have knowledge you are lacking and		Q18
are able to explain topics that are unclear to you.		Q19

## Answer key

### READING 01 Why scientists could easily be ruling the world

- 0–A become more influential  
 Q1–C many people were scared of the consequences.  
 Q2–A imperfect children being rejected.  
 Q3–B being able to avoid the occurrence of illnesses.  
 Q4–D endangers certain natural processes.  
 Q5–A clear regulations must be put into place.

### READING 02 What ordinary people can achieve

0	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6
B	G	D	A	I	E	H

### VOCABULARY 03 Horoscopes

- |    |   |   |  |   |
|----|---|---|--|---|
| 0  | A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>feel</b> | B <input type="checkbox"/> discuss                  | C <input type="checkbox"/> argue                   | D <input type="checkbox"/> decide               |
| Q1 | A <input type="checkbox"/> about                  | B <input type="checkbox"/> from                     | C <input type="checkbox"/> for                     | D <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>of</b> |
| Q2 | A <input type="checkbox"/> impossible             | B <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>random</b> | C <input type="checkbox"/> various                 | D <input type="checkbox"/> illogical            |
| Q3 | A <input type="checkbox"/> has held               | B <input type="checkbox"/> was holding              | C <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>holds</b> | D <input type="checkbox"/> held                 |
| Q4 | A <input type="checkbox"/> badly                  | B <input type="checkbox"/> good                     | C <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>well</b>  | D <input type="checkbox"/> bad                  |
| Q5 | A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>who</b>  | B <input type="checkbox"/> which                    | C <input type="checkbox"/> whose                   | D <input type="checkbox"/> whom                 |
| Q6 | A <input type="checkbox"/> to                     | B <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>too</b>    | C <input type="checkbox"/> pretty                  | D <input type="checkbox"/> fairly               |
| Q7 | A <input type="checkbox"/> over                   | B <input type="checkbox"/> at                       | C <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>on</b>    | D <input type="checkbox"/> of                   |
| Q8 | A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>for</b>  | B <input type="checkbox"/> up to                    | C <input type="checkbox"/> since                   | D <input type="checkbox"/> so far               |

VOCABULARY 04 Extroverts

0	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10	Q11	Q12	Q13
J	L	E	D	N	K	M	B	P	O	F	I	A	G

VOCABULARY 05 Exam preparation

The life of a student is not as pleasant as many adults remember it to be. There are tests and exams to **be** take, home assignments and papers to write, and **the** hundreds of pages of studying material to go through **them**. Thus, it has become more and more important to prepare for an exam effectively in order to receive good grades. The first step students should **have** take when studying for exams is to create their own perfect learning environment. This **does** usually includes a quiet and well-organised workspace, good lighting and few **of** distracting devices such as computers or televisions. Finding out about any learning preferences and **to** utilising them to study more quickly and more efficiently is **at** the next important step. Some students might need **the** visual support, while others learn best by reading the information **of** out loud or moving around their room when studying. Depending on the individual's learner type the ideal preparation method should be chosen. Since **the** studying is commonly an activity that people do not enjoy doing, it makes sense to form study groups. Revising **on** material together with other people usually means more fun, especially if it is a group of friends sitting around a table. In addition, you do not get stuck **in** as easily, because others might have knowledge you are lacking and are able to explain topics that are unclear to you.

✓	0
be	00
the	Q1
them	Q2
✓	Q3
have	Q4
does	Q5
✓	Q6
of	Q7
to	Q8
at	Q9
the	Q10
of	Q11
✓	Q12
✓	Q13
the	Q14
on	Q15
✓	Q16
✓	Q17
in	Q18
✓	Q19