

LK English Q3 Creative task: Visions of the Future in the year 2050

As part of the semester on "Saving the Planet" and the subtopic "How Do We Want to Live in the Future, in the Year 2050?", students were asked to imagine and share their ideas about the future. These four stories, that were selected by the course members, explore different perspectives on how technology, society, and personal dreams might shape our lives in 2050. Each story touches on unique aspects, like the impact of technology on immortality, the influence of powerful leaders, ethical questions about technological progress, and the everyday experiences in a futuristic world. Through these imaginative stories, students consider the challenges and moral choices that could come with creating a better world in 2050.

Melina Rath



I.

When I was younger, I used to look out of the school window while in class and think about what life would have to offer me. I was imagining the future to be incredible. I would often read my father's engineering magazines, talking about these incredible things that we all believed would become a reality. I imagined myself living in a beautiful world, not having to work, and being able to spend a lot of time with my family. Spending my afternoons dreaming of futuristic houses and ways of learning that would be so fast and easy had become my day-to-day life.

As I got older and became a teenager, I still imagined the future and was even more excited as new inventions were becoming available every day. Then home computers and the internet were introduced to me. I still remember the day when I first saw a home computer in my school; I was in awe at what this machine could do and at the possibilities it offered. When the early internet was growing day by day, I was reading posts about programming. And I thought, since maybe none of the inventions from those old magazines my father let me read would ever become a reality, I might as well use the one invention that will surely be a big part of the future to do something great.

After I finished school, I quickly decided that I wanted to have a degree in IT. So, I studied at a university and finally got my degree. After that, I originally wanted to work in the IT section of Google. But an opportunity that would change my life forever presented itself just five days after graduating. A fellow graduate's father, whom I was close to, gave me an opportunity. He said his son told him that I was the best in the class and he wanted to test me. He gave me a budget of 60,000 euros and said that I should develop a complete organization and scheduling program for a hospital in three months, and so I did. After finishing work, he suggested that he would give me the funding to start my own company. I didn't have to think about it twice and took his offer. Now I just had to figure out what my company would be doing. And then, I remembered one day when I was in the hospital testing the system. I walked by a room with a crying mother next to her son who was diagnosed with cancer. I thought to myself that it's not fair that a life this young should end so soon. And so, I knew what I should do with my company. I was going to try to prevent death by developing a program that can scan a brain and digitize it while keeping the person's consciousness intact, giving them a chance to survive digitally.

Several years went by without success. My company had attracted investors from all over the world. I would have never needed to work again, but I made myself a promise that I would achieve my goal. Then, the global rise of AI came, and we started using AI to correct our code and help us, which made it possible. In the year 2040, we successfully scanned the brain of a mouse, which was then able to control a robot mouse through a maze. We had done it after 30 years of development. We managed to achieve our goal. Then we just had to try it on a human. But since no one wanted to, I volunteered, and it worked. From there, I was able to watch years go by in seconds, no longer bound to a certain lifetime by aging. And then it was 2050, the world was everything I imagined as a child. There were flying cars that anyone could buy, school had been modernized, learning had become easy, every student was being supported to achieve their optimum. New and improved vertical farming towers meant that starvation basically wasn't a problem anymore. In the entire world, every human had access to clean water thanks to desalination plants and wells. And in this time of great improvements to society, I was just one of the many people who presented their research and technology to the world.

But no one wanted to digitize their consciousness since medicine was able to prolong natural life by 80 years. And so, I'm one of the very few immortal consciousnesses. It is the year 2290, and I am now nothing more than a source of information about the past. Since I am unable to forget anything, existence has become an obligation, not a right. In all this time I have been conscious, I have witnessed more pain, more wars, more suffering than any human should ever have to witness. I have come to the conclusion that no human should live this long. It's been 300 years; I say we should accept death as a part of life, as big as birth. Without death, there wouldn't be motivation to achieve something. That sense of pressure, that feeling that time is running out, is what pushed people to achieve great things. I don't have that pressure and therefore no ambition to do anything. We have shut down the program. No one can digitize their consciousness anymore, for the good of humanity.

Bosse Schlenz, Q3



II. The C.E.O.s of the world

Hello, dear diary. Today, I will once again be complaining to you about all my worries. So, thank you for listening. In the Metaverse, they always say how life under the Triumvirate is the best there ever has been. And to a certain degree, that's probably true. But there are so many steps back. I mean, sure, after "your Majesties" - the eternal Emperor Jeff Bezos, the Omni-Lord of the Metaverse Mark Zuckerberg, and the perfect Conqueror Elon Musk took over, life expectations, infrastructure, economy, and science are steadily rising. But at what cost? There are still people out there who aren't willing to let go of the past and are still resisting the World Government™, and honestly, I can't condemn them.

The people out there are getting more and more careless because everything can be healed in minutes via nanotech. They are getting more slothful because robots take care of everything. They are getting more gluttonous because you can get every meal you want within seconds from the nearest Foot-O-Mat, even though it will always taste like plastic, in my opinion, no matter how many flavor enhancers they pump into that. And because everyone spends most of their time in the Metaverse, the concept of family will probably be forgotten by the end of the

century. The birth rates are also plummeting since virtual reality takes care of most sexual desires. If it weren't for the rebels, the human race will probably be extinct by the end of the next century. But do their "lordships" care? Of course not! After Bezos linked himself to some life-sustaining systems and the world A.I., he has become more and more of a lifeless husk each time we see him, caring less and less about humans and only about his algorithms. Zuckerberg uploaded himself into the Metaverse and only pays attention to energy and other hardware issues, otherwise ignoring reality. And Musk has set off with his personal flotilla to "conquer" other planets, even though we're still alone in our galaxy. He has probably forgotten about us, only caring about obtaining more genes to "become the perfect being." Ah! It's getting late, so goodbye!

by Erik Trips, Q3



III.

Dear Diary,

I can't help but feel overwhelmed by the rapid advancements in technology these days. It seems like our world has become a hurricane of innovation, but I wonder if we're losing something precious in this process.

Even though we can communicate instantly with anyone around the world, we're losing the warmth and intimacy of face-to-face interactions. Our communities are fragmented because people no longer rely on physical closeness for solidarity.

The rise of automation has led to a loss of jobs. While productivity is on the rise, so is unemployment. It is so sad to witness that skilled workers progressively lose their jobs and have to fight for working spaces to meet their basic needs. Income inequality has reached an uncontrollable level. Will I still have a job at all? Am I still valuable in this society?

I can't stand this persistent fear that has been walking around at the corners of my mind. The year 2050 has brought us incredible advancements in technology, but it has also revealed disadvantages that I can't ignore. One of my biggest concerns is the spread of 3D-printing technology and the possibility that it might be misused. As I watch the news and read reports, I can't help but think about the potential for 3D-printing to be exploited for creating dangerous weapons. The thought that people can individually produce firearms at home is alarming. 3D-printing might cure world hunger soon, since scientists already produced vegetables and some fruits, but the consequences of this technology falling into the wrong hands could be catastrophic.

Another problem is definitely BCI-technology, where memories of individuals are transferred to computers and then implanted into other brains. Consequently, I question whether human dignity will not suffer because we are so much more than our pure knowledge. Wouldn't it also lead to social inequalities if experts and specialists were then perceived as more important than people who take on simple but important jobs? My grandfather, for example, is a craftsman, and I cannot live with the idea that he is not valued as much as everyone else.

I am in the middle of an existential crisis because of all the changes, including nano-technology. If everyone has infinite access to knowledge and we become so powerful, what is the point of education and science at all? I believe that discipline and a willingness to learn are important qualities for self-development. People have to follow their path in life and not become omniscient from one moment to the next. I'm afraid that we'll lose what's human about us and soon become robots, too.

I try not to worry about it anymore. The world as it is today is constantly working and evolving. Every day, scientists are researching new medical treatments, and soon it will be possible to cure major diseases such as malaria and cancer. Technology also has a positive side that will help us in the future. I try to concentrate on this now and not to give so much space to my fears and worries. My friend got the latest Tesla model from her parents yesterday. Totally modern, drives itself, and can easily transport all my best friends with it, and the battery life has finally been improved.

Neele Tornus and Greta Marx, Q3



IV.

4th February 2050. I woke up as usual at 6 o'clock, took a cold shower, and went to the kitchen to make myself some scrambled eggs. I haven't made myself breakfast in years. Normally, Peter does that for me, but yesterday his batteries started leaking and cauterized multiple cables, so I had to bring him to our home mechanic.

As I stepped through the door, an angry lady bumped into me. She was complaining about her robot and that it is brand new and shouldn't be causing problems just now. These new-generation robots cause stress all the time. Companies use less and less quality material, and those robots, in general, caused horror from the beginning. I'm happy I got lucky with one of the first to ever come out; they don't have a lot of malfunctioning problems like the other ones do. I ignored her because I didn't have much time.

Luke's office was filled with all kinds of robotic stuff. Some legs in the right corner, some arms there and there, and in the middle of it all, Luke, working on a brand-new Nimbus 3000z robot. He greeted me happily and asked me how I was doing, so I had a little chat with him complaining about robot companies and how they get rich by fooling innocent people. We

together came to the conclusion that life without them wasn't so bad after all. I mean, my eggs tasted better when I made them today instead of Peter. We agreed on a fair price for the reparation, and I went to work.

I remember 20 years ago when Elon Musk built the first "Hyperloop," and it was presented as the best transportation device to lower carbon dioxide emissions. HA, HA, HA, what a joke. These high-speed transportations cost a fortune and are only reserved for top-class businessmen. The bus ride was as comfortable as ever, a big guy sitting next to me squeezing me into the window, and a ton of other people pushing others into the bus so they have enough space to fit in themselves. Three stops later, I had to squeeze through multiple people to get off.

I took a deep breath and went to work. At around 9 pm, I was done. Work was good today; I got rid of all the tasks on my work screen. Paper has been abolished for years. I took the bus at 9:21 pm and was home at 10 pm. Peter was already delivered home. I asked him to cook me some pasta and got ready to go to bed. I ate the pasta that tasted like paper and went to sleep. This was my day. See you tomorrow.

Finn Beck, Q3