Technology of the future

VOCABULARY PRACTICE
INTERMEDIATE | B1-B2

Name: _____ Date: _____

1 Tick the correct category for each word.

Word | Field | Impact | Attitude | Process

1 biotechnology [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]
2 disruptive [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]
3 skeptical [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]
4 prototype [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]
5 renewable energy tech [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]
6 job displacement [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]
7 enthusiastic [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]
8 iterate [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]

2 Correct the mistake in each sentence.

1 She works in biotechnology of. _____
2 This is disruptive of innovation. _____
3 He is skeptical about of the claims. _____
4 They built prototype of the device. _____
5 They invest in renewable of energy tech. _____
6 Automation cause job of displacement. _____
7 She is enthusiastic about of the future. _____
8 They iterate of the design regularly. _____

3 Choose the more suitable description.

1 For technology involving living organisms and biological processes: biotechnology / mechanical engineering.
2 For an innovation that fundamentally changes an existing market: disruptive / incremental.
3 For doubting a claim without strong evidence: skeptical / gullible.
4 For an early working model of a new product: prototype / final product.
5 For technology harnessing wind, solar or similar sources: renewable energy tech / fossil fuel extraction.
6 For jobs lost due to automation or new technology: job displacement / job creation.

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4 Complete the reports with words from the box.

biotechnology | disruptive | enthusiastic | iterate | job displacement | prototype | renewable energy tech | skeptical

Report A: Investors remain 1 _____ about the pace of progress in 2 _____, despite promising early results.
Report B: The team built a working 3 _____ and continues to 4 _____ on the design each month.
Report C: Analysts described the innovation as genuinely 5 _____, likely to reshape the entire industry.
Report D: While some workers feared 6 _____, others were 7 _____ about new opportunities emerging in 8 _____.

5 Read the text and answer the questions briefly.

Balancing enthusiasm and caution

Technology forecasters increasingly caution against both uncritical enthusiasm and reflexive skepticism when evaluating emerging innovations. Genuinely disruptive technologies often follow an unpredictable path from initial prototype to widespread adoption, with early predictions of rapid transformation frequently proving overly optimistic, while genuinely transformative effects sometimes arrive later and in unexpected forms. Job displacement concerns, while legitimate, have historically been offset by new categories of work emerging alongside disruptive innovation, though this pattern offers no guarantee for future transitions, particularly given the speed and scale of contemporary technological change.

1 What do technology forecasters increasingly caution against? _____

2 What path do genuinely disruptive technologies often follow? _____

3 What do early predictions of rapid transformation frequently prove? _____

4 What sometimes arrive later and in unexpected forms? _____

5 What have job displacement concerns historically been offset by? _____

6 What does this pattern offer no guarantee of, according to the text? _____

6 Rewrite each phrase using the word in capitals.

1 This innovation could fundamentally change the market. DISRUPTIVE _____

2 They built an early working model. PROTOTYPE _____

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3 She doubted the claims without strong evidence. SKEPTICAL _____

4 Automation caused people to lose their jobs. JOB DISPLACEMENT _____

OVER TO YOU

Write a 100-120 word account of how a future technology might change a specific industry. Include both opportunities and challenges.

[ ] Use at least ten target expressions. [ ] Include polite, precise wording. [ ] Organise the account clearly.

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ANSWER KEY

1 Categories

1 Field 2 Impact 3 Attitude 4 Process 5 Field 6 Impact 7 Attitude 8 Process

2 Corrections

1 works in biotechnology 2 disruptive innovation 3 skeptical about the claims 4 built a prototype
5 invest in renewable energy tech 6 causes job displacement 7 enthusiastic about the future 8 iterate the design regularly

3 Suitable descriptions

1 biotechnology 2 disruptive 3 skeptical 4 prototype 5 renewable energy tech 6 job displacement

4 Reports

1 skeptical 2 biotechnology 3 prototype 4 iterate 5 disruptive 6 job displacement 7 enthusiastic 8 renewable energy tech

5 Reading - suggested answers

1 Both uncritical enthusiasm and reflexive skepticism.
2 An unpredictable path from initial prototype to widespread adoption.
3 Overly optimistic.
4 Genuinely transformative effects.
5 New categories of work emerging alongside disruptive innovation.
6 A guarantee for future transitions.

6 Rewriting - possible answers

1 This is a disruptive innovation. 2 They built a prototype.
3 She was skeptical. 4 Automation caused job displacement.

Over to you

Answers will vary. Check range, respectful register and clear organisation.