

## CITIZENS 2050

Can you imagine what our lives will be like in the year 2050? Perhaps you will be flying off for a holiday on the moon, or maybe you will be taking your dog for a walk in virtual reality. We recently carried out a **survey** of 1,000 people from different countries to find out what they think life will be like in the future. The **results clearly** demonstrate both our hopes and fears.

The survey **suggests** that friendship — one of the most important human relationships — will have changed **dramatically**. People will make friends through the Internet. What is more, a large number of people will even come across their future husbands or wives in this way! Computers will have become absolutely essential by 2050. Even now, some people describe them as their best friend! Others, however, say that we will become much more **isolated** from each other because we will have little real **human contact**.

Education will have changed a lot too. As more and more children will be using computers in schools, certain **abilities**, such as mental arithmetic, won't be necessary since there will be computer programs for most **calculations**. Even writing by hand will have become a thing of the past.

According to the survey, home life will be better. Most people believe that

by 2050 robots will be doing the housework and we will be eating ready-made food. A lot of people think that we might only cook for fun in the future.

**Space exploration** will become **increasingly** popular. Fifty per cent of the people we talked to believe that man will regularly visit Mars. They also believe that travel on our own planet will probably change. Almost everyone thinks that there will be no cars in the city centres. Some even think that **environmentally-friendly** electric or solar-powered cars will have **replaced** the cars we use **nowadays**.

Pollution is something that seems to worry many people. Some **fear** that it will continue to get worse, and that our planet will become impossible to live on. Others even foresee that one day we'll have to pay for clean air just like we do now for clean water.

On the other hand, people seem to be quite **optimistic** about the benefits of genetic engineering, as they think scientists will use it to cure diseases like cancer and AIDS. If scientists manage to find a cure for these, we'll have a much healthier **society**.

Some people worry about the future, while others are full of hope and enthusiasm. No matter how dark or bright it may seem, it is up to us to look after our planet and try to make it a better place to live.