

21st-century jobs

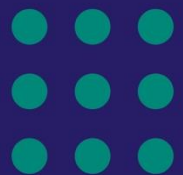
Worksheet 1

1. What types of jobs will we have in the rest of the 21st-century?

Work in your group collaboratively and make a list of at least four 21st-century jobs, and add a few words about what responsibilities the job has and what you think its environmental impact is, if any. These may be:

- jobs we have now that will not be replaced by technology
- new jobs that have just appeared in our societies
- new jobs that don't exist yet, but that you predict we will need.

Job title	Responsibilities	Environmental impact (if any)
<i>Example:</i> Cyber security specialist	<i>Example:</i> Working with organisations to protect their electronic data from hackers and viruses.	<i>Example:</i> Can work from home – less travel. Use a lot of data – that has an environmental impact.



2. What will be the structure and characteristics of work in the rest of the century?

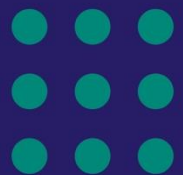
Work together with your group to use the table below to describe the nature of 21st-century work, and the benefits (environmental and other) of and challenges to your ideas. You will need to be creative and think critically.

These may be:

- a) issues that already exist in work
- b) ideas that you predict, or hope, will become common.

Structure and characteristics	Benefits and challenges
<i>Example:</i> Working from home	<i>Example:</i> Less travel – environmental benefits. Good connectivity is not universal – some communities can't work from home.

Worksheet 2



Below are some vocabulary items and ideas that may help your discussions. Analyse them with your group.

1. What types of jobs will we have in the rest of the century? (There are definitions next to some of the words). Put a check next to the jobs that exist now or you believe will exist soon

Artificial intelligence (AI) developers

Big data analysts – specialists who look at data from different sources to find trends and patterns

Caring and health sector jobs – we have an ageing population

Environmental jobs – scientists or coaches

Nanotechnologists – specialists in small tech devices

Robotic experts

SEO (search engine optimisation) or social media specialists

Transport planning or urban planning jobs – more and more people are now living in cities

Waste management engineers – experts in how we dispose of things we no longer need

1. The world of work in the rest of the century

Will a four-day working week become standard?

Can we hope for more sustainable jobs that build the local economy?

Will workplaces be more environmentally aware?

Will there be more equal opportunities for people to be recruited?

Will we see tax-paying jobs that contribute to the local economy and reduce poverty?

Will we see fewer people needing to travel abroad for jobs?

As skills now become out of date quickly, are long-term careers now finished?

The UN says 50 per cent of jobs will be automated in the next 15 years. What are the implications of this?

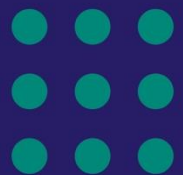
We will become more aware of our ‘transferable skills’ as the jobs market changes very quickly. What are some examples of this?

Will a guaranteed minimum income become common? Some countries are trying it already.

Will a four-day working week become standard?

21st-century jobs – worksheet 3

You have been asked to write at least four ideas of at least three sentences each about 21st-century jobs and the world of work in the 21st century. You should work on these in collaboration with your group and



be ready to self- and peer edit. In particular, you should look at the environmental impact of the ideas. Here are three examples.

Working from home is becoming more and more common around the world, and this should be reducing the impact on the climate of travelling to work. The problem is that many of the most polluted locations are in countries where the work-from-home culture is not common. Will we see a change in the near future?

There should be many more jobs in the health sector as we are living longer now. The demand for these jobs will continue to grow over the years as the population ages. Unfortunately, many of these jobs are usually poorly paid, and low-income economies often suffer most from the results of climate change.

We may never see the return of jobs in heavy industry in the most developed countries in the world, and this should have a positive impact on their environments. However, the jobs will continue to exist in developing countries. This brings money to the economies, but at a huge environmental cost. There ought to be stronger environmental protection laws in these locations.

There are a lot of different ways of writing your four sentences, and please use your critical-thinking and creativity skills to write them. Some modal verbs may be useful as well, and here is a reminder of some of them for you.

Should is often used to describe the ideal or best thing to do. *There should be many more green jobs.*

There ought to be is used to describe something we want to happen. You can add 'really' for emphasis. *Governments really ought to tax the big polluters.*

Must is used to describe something we see as necessary. *There must be global action on climate change now.*

Can is used to talk about general truths and tendencies. *As a nation we can provide better jobs for younger people.*

Should be plus '-ing' is used to describe something we expect to happen. *Global temperatures should be falling in the next 15 years.*

May can be used with a selection of adverbs such as 'never', 'just' or 'only'. *We may only see the results of our climate change initiatives in 20 years.*

