

03 Letter to My Son

Task 1: Read and Think

1) What are the pertinent dates in this fictional piece?

This letter imagines a "future world" primarily set in 2020.

2) What year was it written? In what year was it published? How old was her son when it was published and how old is he now?

This letter, written on August 21, 2000, Published in 2001, her son was 15 years old then, now he's 40.

3) What elements of the letter have become real since it was written? Think about generalisations as well as specifics in her letter.

Solar energy is becoming more widespread and cheaper.

Home shopping is possible

Sound/information appears in furniture and space

Task 2: Write a letter to my child

Plan:

Possible changes (2035)	Positive side	Negative side
Technology becomes "the environment" (not	Smoother experiences and more convenience; learning	Easier to get distracted; life is more recorded and recommended; more
Screens are everywhere (bus stops, shop	Faster access to information; more instant navigation,	Information overload; constant competition for attention; harder to keep
Talking to systems becomes normal	Lower barrier to use; faster problem-solving; more	Risk of misinformation or bias; people may let systems decide too much; less
Cities prioritise walking/ cycling and shared	Healthier and greener; more liveable public spaces	More rules and stronger management; conflicts between different mobility
Delivery becomes more automated (small robots/	More convenience; reduces some repetitive labour	Public space may feel more crowded; impact on job structures; higher
More sensors in public space (lights/signs adapt	Safer and more efficient; helps reduce congestion and	Stronger feeling of surveillance; higher privacy risks; discomfort from a "city
More contactless access and payment (phone/face	Faster processes; less queuing and physical contact	More centralised data; identity/privacy risks; failures can be harder to fix
Privacy becomes a daily skill (you must learn	Better awareness of personal data; less chance of being	Higher learning cost; easy to be tracked or scammed if ignored
Climate impacts daily life more (hot days, more	More green infrastructure and disaster planning; stronger	Travel and health disruptions; cost fluctuations; more anxiety
Saving water/energy becomes concrete rules	More reasonable resource use; sustainability becomes	More restrictions; less comfort; can be harder for low-income groups
Food structure changes (more plant-based/new	More choices; more sustainable; stronger health	Habits and tastes may be forced to change; different levels of acceptance;

Supply-chain issues make prices less stable	Encourages local supply and reducing waste	Unstable food prices/choices; more pressure on households
Online and offline life mixes more (hybrid	Wider opportunities; easier access to communities and	Less face-to-face life; stronger social pressure/addiction risk; always-online
The key skill shifts from “knowing” to “judging”	Better adaptation to change; clearer personal values	Judgement needs training; without it, people are easier to manipulate by