

4 Sustainability

Activities

Understanding the text: predicting content

1 a Think about these questions.

- 1 How might society change in the future?
- 2 How is the population of the world changing? Think not only about size, but where people choose to live.
- 3 How has science improved our lives?
- 4 How have families and education changed in your society?

b The title of the Unit 4 text is *Social change in the future*. Read the text and answer these questions.

- 1 How are your ideas from above similar to those in the text?
- 2 For question 4, how similar are the changes in the US to those that are happening in your own country?

2 Read the Unit 4 text again and answer these questions.

- 1 What problems are central city areas facing?
- 2 What is changing the education system in America?
- 3 What benefits might science bring to a vegetarian diet?
- 4 Which group of people in particular have had their lifespan increased by science?
- 5 What problems might technology have caused?
- 6 What problem is there with complex systems?
- 7 Do all people feel traditional families functioned better than modern families?
- 8 Does the public education system work well in the United States for everyone?

Critical thinking: reasons and conclusions

3 a Read paragraph 2 of the Unit 4 text again. What reason is given for each of these conclusions?

- 1 The decline of schools and public services
- 2 Changes to the education system

b Read paragraph 5 of the Unit 4 text. What conclusions are reached from these reasons?

Using the text: paraphrasing

4 Read these three summaries and choose the one that best paraphrases the Unit 4 text.

- a Just as technology has brought about improvements in the quality and length of life for many, it has also created the potential for new disasters, ranging from global warfare to localized technological disasters at toxic waste sites.
- b Technology has improved the quality and length of many lives; it has also created the possibility for new disasters, ranging from world war to local technological catastrophes at toxic waste sites.
- c Whilst many people live longer and at the same time have a higher standard of living due to technological developments, there is inevitably a downside, from the increased possibility of war throughout the world to more regional issues related to the disposal and dumping of hazardous waste.

- 5 a** What were the three main methods for paraphrasing a sentence you studied in Unit 4?
- b** Highlight some of these changes in the summaries in Exercise 4.
- c** Apply the three techniques to these sentences.
- 1 Among other factors, growth in population is one of the most significant driving forces behind environmental concerns, such as the availability and use of natural resources.
 - 2 Advances in science and medicine have made significant changes in peoples' lives in high-income countries.
 - 3 The more complex a system becomes, the more likely the chance of system failure.
- 6 a** Read the Unit 4 text again and find sentences that support each of these opinions.
- 1 Modern family life is very different in America than it was in the past.
 - 2 State education is not always positive.
- b** Paraphrase the sentences you have selected using techniques taught in Unit 4.

Language focus: prefixes **7** What is the difference in meaning between these pairs of words?

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|---------------|---------------|
| 1 urban | suburban |
| 2 chemist | biochemist |
| 3 material | non-material |
| 4 technology | biotechnology |
| 5 anticipated | unanticipated |