



## *Future survey form*



**This is a survey about future trends. There are no right or wrong answers. There can't be – the future hasn't happened yet.**

1. *What do you think will be the three most important changes in the world in the next five to ten years?*

a. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

b. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

c. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. *What are three things that will become less important over the next five to ten years?*

a. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

b. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

c. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



## Become a future predictor

Predicting the future has a long history. Even the most admired predictors of the future sometimes gave puzzling advice and predictions. One of the most famous in all of history was the Oracle of Delphi in Greece.

According to the ancient Greeks, Delphi lay at the exact centre of the world. On the seventh day of each month the high Priestess, Pythia, would seat herself in the temple and locked in an ecstatic trance, waited for people to ask her questions.

Some examples were:

- King Croesus of Lydia wanted to know whether to go to war or to keep peace. The Oracle said “GO TO WAR AND DESTROY A GREAT EMPIRE”. He went to war and his empire was destroyed.
- Lysander, the Spartan general, who had entered Athens in triumph was warned “I BID YOU GUARD AGAINST A ROARING HOPLITE AND A SNAKE, CUNNING SON OF THE EARTH, WHICH ATTACKS FROM BEHIND THE BACK”. He was killed by a soldier with the emblem of a snake on his shield.
- The Emperor Nero, fearing death, was told “EXPECT EVIL FROM 73”. Encouraged, he thought that he might live to be 73. He was actually overthrown and forced to kill himself at the age of 31. Seventy-three turned out to be the age of his successor, Galba.

### Questions for the oracle

*If you could ask an oracle for only two facts about the future (in five to ten years time) what would those be?*

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### What forces will impact on these facts

*e.g. rising real estate prices, size of computer memory, petrol prices, recession, health, technology?*

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## Trends

Discuss the following trends, with a particular view to identifying the impact it will have on careers in the future.

- Jeremy Rivkin, in the US, claims that 90 million out of 124 million jobs are vulnerable to being replaced by machines. Since the 1950's blue-collar jobs have dropped from 33% of all jobs to less than 12%.
- In 2003 the amount of business conducted on the internet was worth \$1.4 trillion dollars.
- In America people are spending more on home entertainment systems than on kitchens.
- Moore's Law states that every 24 months technology doubles in power and halves in cost.
- It is estimated that 3.3 million white collar and \$136 billion in wages will shift from the USA to India, China & Russia by 2015.
- The USA spends more on rubbish bags than 90 other countries spend on *everything*.

**What other trends can you think of that will impact on the future (these may include the areas of text messaging; television and DVD's in cars; down loadable music etc.)?**

*Name and describe three future careers that could develop following on from these trends*

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*Name three careers that may disappear as a result of these trends*

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_



# Risk assessment



*“The biggest risk in life is not living your dreams”*

A recent Australia 21 think tank identified what they thought the most likely risks facing Australia in the next 15 years ([www.australia21.org.au](http://www.australia21.org.au))

Risk	Gravity	Probability
Pandemic of infectious disease	Med-high	High
Sudden climate change	High	Low
Acute economic crisis in China with knock on effects	High	Low
Progressive turbulence triggered by US economic collapse and/or growing militarism	High	Medium
Middle eastern conflict	Med-high	High

*“The big challenges of our time include climate change, land and water usage, the realisation of our children’s potential and the way we relate to neighbouring countries”*

*What do you think are the five biggest threats to our future?*

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*What are the implications of these for work and careers?*

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