

Task 2 – Multi-text reading

In this section there are four short texts for you to read and some questions for you to answer.

Questions 16-20 (one mark per question)

Read questions 16-20 first and then read texts A, B, C and D below the questions.

As you read each text, decide which text each question refers to. **Choose one letter – A, B, C or D – and write it on the lines below.** You can use any letter more than once.

Which text

16. tells us which technological innovation is popular nowadays?

17. mentions mind-controlled technology?

18. mentions problems with integrating different technologies?

19. talks about motion-controlled technology?

20. looks at how houses could aid health?

Text A

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SmartAbode

Delivering Smart Technology to your home, TODAY!

Do you want your home to work more for you? Here at SmartAbode we can make that happen today! Our company implements cutting-edge technology to automate, secure and entertain. Whatever your requirements, we'll offer a solution.

- **Home automation** – Control your heating, cooling and entertainment systems via touch screen interfaces. Programme them in advance or set them to activate with movement sensors.
- **Home security** – No need to worry about going away. Our occupancy simulator can open and close curtains and blinds and turn lights on and off automatically to give your home that lived-in look.
- **Home entertainment** – If you want all your movies and music in every room, we can make it a reality. We can install exclusive and non-intrusive audio-visual equipment for every room with maximum access and minimum fuss.

Text B

Your views on smart homes > SMARTforum



Digiboy: I've already heard that everything in the home can be controllable by a mobile app. I don't know how well it works, or could work. The problem is incompatibility. We've all been in the situation where one gadget won't work with another or something needs an update. Imagine that happening when it is all the crucial gadgets in your house? Not being able to turn the heating on? No thanks!



Ellen276: Clever homes that can do everything for us sound like a dream, and I can't wait for it. In fact, I've already got an automated vacuum! My house vacuums itself! So much time is taken up with housework. If anything can reduce that time and make life easier, then I'm all for it. I just hope they start working more on more labour saving gadgets, rather than just entertainment gadgets.



Mr_J: I think it's the next logical step. Homes are getting smarter already. One day I'm sure we'll be able to control our houses just by thinking. Hopefully, I'll be able to just think of what I want for dinner and it appears!

Text C

Home is where the SMART is

We're at the start of a new era, the era of the intelligent home. Although it could be argued this began with the most basic automation brought by things such as washing machines, there is now a full-scale wave of technology that will make such gadgets seem stone-age in appearance.

A big switch

But, while there are many tech-savvy people comfortable with getting to grips with this kind of future, there are many who just don't want to contend with a home that offers fingerprint recognition instead of the good old switch. At the moment, only a handful of people can afford the newest technologies in which their home appliances can be managed through a mobile handset. What are these buyers looking

for in the latest technology, and what is on offer for the buyer now? As Joey Cracknell, a smart home designer, told us, "The gadget of the moment is glass that can turn opaque at the touch of the button, letting in light or creating privacy in an instant." But this isn't the only new trend we've seen in the super rich. "One man I recently did a job for had a swimming pool that converts into a rotating dance floor!"

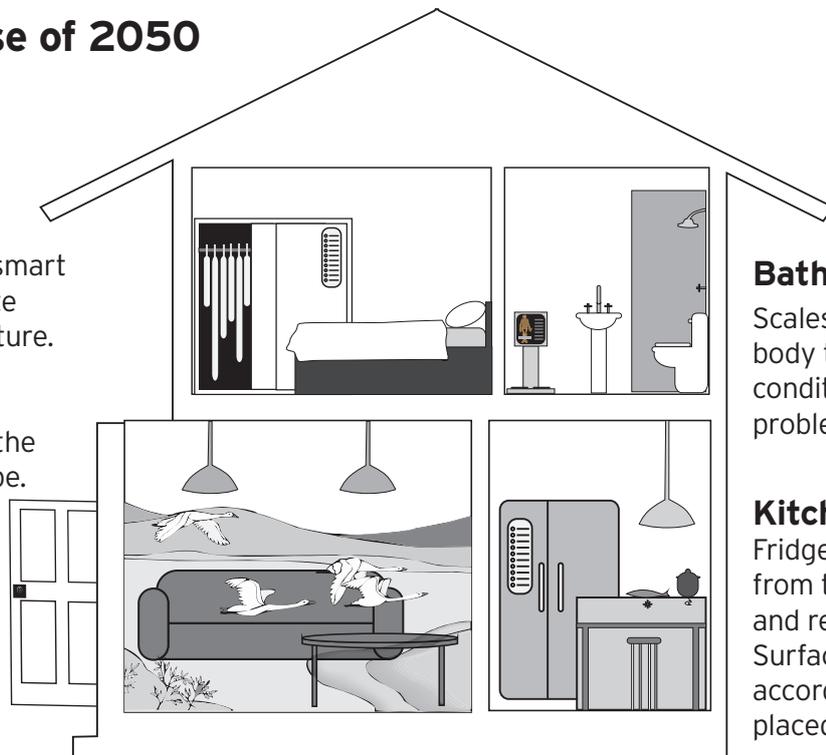
The majority of homeowners though are looking for security and practicality, rather than these extravagances. Underfloor heating, electronic gates, secure parking, and CCTV are the areas on the mind of most consumers, and these, thankfully, are already available technologies that are common in the 'smarter' homes of today. ■

Text D

The House of 2050

Bedroom

Bedding with smart fabrics regulate body temperature. New clothes automatically ordered from the smart wardrobe.



Bathroom

Scales can analyse your body to assess body condition and physical problems.

Kitchen

Fridges suggest recipes from their contents and re-order when low. Surfaces warm and cool according to what is placed on them.

Living Room

Sights, sounds and other senses in the form of 'virtual reality' replace television.

Security

Keys no longer needed as homes recognise their owners by fingerprints or voice recognition and allow them to enter the house.

Questions 21-25 (one mark per question)

Choose the **five statements** from A-H below that are **TRUE** according to the information given in the texts above. Write the letters of the **TRUE** statements on the lines below (in any order).

- 21.
- 22.
- 23.
- 24.
- 25.

- A Controlling home gadgets remotely appeals to consumers because it is so reliable.
- B Some people already use smart phones to control their home technology.
- C It is predicted that one day houses will be able to identify their owners.
- D Consumers are confident that controlling their homes remotely will be trouble-free.
- E Some shopping will be done more intelligently within our homes.
- F Technology can make houses appear as if people are at home.
- G Consumers feel that practical technology isn't developing as fast as entertainment technology.
- H Most people aren't focused on enhanced entertainment technology for their homes.

Questions 26-30 (one mark per question)

The summary notes below contain information from the texts on pages 4 and 5. Find a word or phrase from texts A-D to complete the missing information in gaps 26-30.

Write your answers on the lines below.

Summary notes

Technology in homes

Past

- Inventions like (26.) helped complete domestic tasks in the home.
- These were basic, now old-fashioned.

Now

- Home security has been upgraded by already (27.) technologies like closed circuit TV and automated gates.
- (28.) can be installed throughout homes and access all media.
- Some technology to reduce housework exists, eg (29.) cleaners.

Future

- All rooms will have technology, eg kitchens will have smart fridges.
- (30.) will be replaced by other forms of entertainment.