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00:00

B. could be seen as unethical

Oc. ought to be continued

## IELTS LISTENING – Nanotechnology: technology on a Small Scale S17T4



IELTS Listening Nanotechnology: technology on a small scale listening practice test has 10 questions belongs to the Leisure & Entertainment subject.

Today we're going to look at an important area of science, namely nanotechnology. So what is it? Nano means tiny, so it's science and engineering on the scale of atoms and molecules. The idea is that by controlling and rearranging atoms, you can literally create anything. However, as we'll see,

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the science of the small has some big implications affecting us in many ways.

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Questions 31 - 33

Choose the correct letter, A, B or C.

Nanotechnology: technology on a small scale

31. The speaker says that one problem with nanotechnology is that

A. it could threaten our way of life

B. it could be used to spy on people

C. it is misunderstood by the public

32. According to the speaker, some scientists believe that nano-particles

A. should be restricted to secure environments

B. should be used with more caution

C. should only be developed for essential products

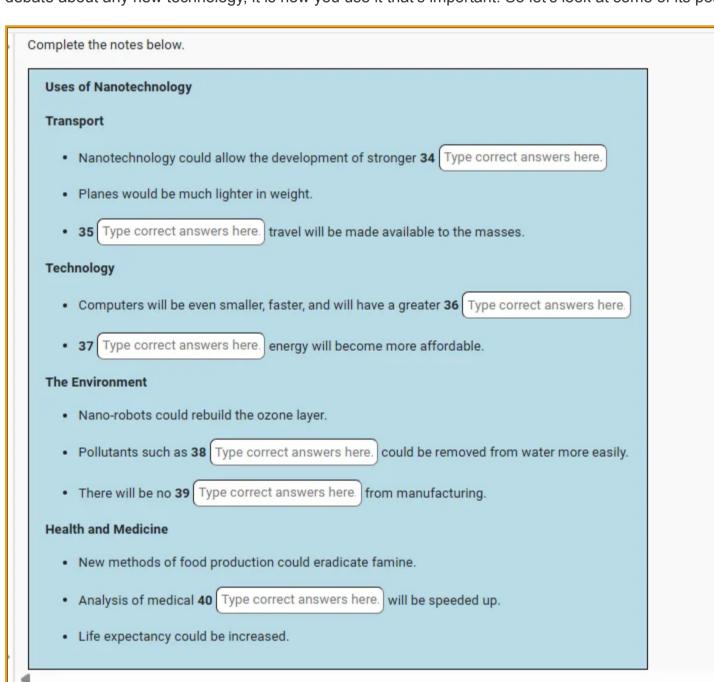
33. In the speaker's opinion, research into nanotechnology

A. has yet to win popular support

There's no doubt that nanotechnology promises so much for civilization. However, all new technologies have their teething problems. And with nanotechnology, Q31 society often gets the wrong idea about its capabilities. Numerous science-fiction books and movies have raised people's fears about nanotechnology – with scenarios such as inserting little nano-robots into your body that monitor everything you do without you realizing it, or self-replicating nano-robots that eventually take over the world.

So how do we safeguard such a potentially powerful technology? Q32 Some scientists recommend that nanoparticles be treated as new chemicals with separate safety tests and clear labelling. They believe that greater care should also be taken with nano-particles in laboratories and factories. Others have called for a withdrawal of new nano products such as cosmetics and a temporary halt to many kinds of nanotechnology research.

Q33 But as far as I'm concerned there's a need to plough ahead with the discoveries and applications of nanotechnology. I really believe that most scientists would welcome a way to guard against unethical uses of such technology. We can't go around thinking that all innovation is bad, all advancement is bad. As with the debate about any new technology, it is how you use it that's important. So let's look at some of its possible uses.



Thanks to nanotechnology, there could be a major breakthrough in the field of transportation with the production of more durable Q34 metals. These could be virtually unbreakable, lighter and much more pliable leading to planes that are 50 times lighter than at present. Those same improved capabilities will dramatically reduce the cost of travelling into Q35 space making it more accessible to ordinary people and opening up a totally new holiday destination.

In terms of technology, the computer industry will be able to shrink computer parts down to minute sizes. We need nanotechnology in order to create a new generation of computers that will work even faster and will have a million times more Q36 memory but will be about the size of a sugar cube. Nanotechnology could also revolutionize the way that we generate power. The cost of Q37 solar cells will be drastically reduced so harnessing this energy will be far more economical than at present.

But nanotechnology has much wider applications than this and could have an enormous impact on our environment. For instance, tiny airborne nano-robots could be programmed to actually rebuild the ozone layer, which could lessen the impact of global warming on our planet. That's a pretty amazing thought, isn't it? On a more local scale, this new technology could help with the clean-up of environmental disasters as nanotechnology will allow us to remove Q38 oil and other contaminants from the water far more effectively. And, if nanotechnology progresses as expected – as a sort of building block set of about 90 atoms – then you could build anything you wanted from the bottom up. In terms of production, this means that you only use what you need and so there wouldn't be any Q39 waste.

The notion that you could create anything at all has major implications for our health. It means that we'll eventually be able to replicate anything. This would have a phenomenal effect on our society. In time it could even lead to the eradication of famine through the introduction of machines that produce food to feed the hungry.

But it's in the area of medicine that nanotechnology may have its biggest impact. How we detect disease will

change as tiny biosensors are developed to analyse Q40 tests in minutes rather than days. There's even speculation nano-robots could be used to slow the ageing process, lengthening life expectancy.

As you can see, I'm very excited by the implications that could be available to us in the next few decades. Just

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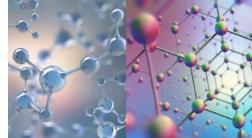
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how long it'll take, I honestly don't know.



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