

Introduction to the *sciencehorizons* discussion pack

What is *sciencehorizons*?

sciencehorizons is a national series of conversations about new technologies, the future and society. It has been set up by the UK government and will run during 2007.

Developments in mobile technology, the internet and healthcare have changed our lives over the last few decades. New applications of science and technology will continue to shape our futures.

The government has invited scientists, engineers and other experts to say which areas of science and technology they think will have the biggest impacts in the future. But experts don't have all the answers. They can't predict which particular developments will emerge and they can't say how developments will be used by individuals and society. *sciencehorizons* is your chance to tell us what you think, and what sort of future you want.

Please return your response forms or enter your results online at www.sciencehorizons.org.uk by 25th June 2007

What is this pack for?

The *sciencehorizons* pack will help you start a group conversation and give us your views. It contains stories about what life might be like in 2025. These are not predictions, they are just possible futures, based on currently emerging science and technology. You will also find a step-by-step guide to using the pack, and response forms to help you summarise your group's discussions and send us your feedback.

What will happen to the results?

The results of the *sciencehorizons* programme will be presented to the government in Autumn 2007. Your views will help the government understand how people feel about the way developments in science and technology could be used in the future. This will help them make decisions about how to research, regulate and communicate science and technology.

We will put everything you send us on the *sciencehorizons* website so everyone can see what everyone else has said (but we won't name you!).

What you need:



- this pack



- time - about an hour and a half



- a pen or pencil



- some people - up to 12 in a group



- somewhere to meet



- The CD-ROM contains interactive versions of the stories, which you can watch with your group on a computer if you like.

For more information and to request more packs, visit the website:



www.sciencehorizons.org.uk

Tel: 020 8683 6602

Email: contact@sciencehorizons.org.uk

Step-by-Step guide to using this pack

- 1 Read the Introduction sheet and keep it handy during the discussion.



- 2 Choose a theme for your discussion. There are four themes in this pack:



Mind and Body

Home and Community

Work and Leisure

People and Planet

There are two story sheets and one response form for each theme.

- 3 Decide who will write down the group's views on the response form and make sure they are entered online or posted to us.



- 4 Read one of the stories in your chosen theme. You can get people to read out the story sheets or pass them round, or you can use the CD-ROM to view all of the information together.



- 5 Discuss the questions about the story on the response form and write down the group's views.



- 6 Read another story, discuss the questions and record the views on the response form. Repeat until you have discussed all four stories in the theme.



- 7 Discuss whether there is anything you would like to say about the stories in the theme, or the pack more generally, and record your points on the response form.



- 8 Fill in the group details and give us your contact details if you would like to keep in touch.



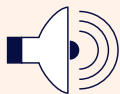
After your discussion



Send us the group's views by entering them online at www.sciencehorizons.org.uk or send your response forms to the freepost address: sciencehorizons, FREEPOST SEA 12430, Thornton Heath, CR7 7XT. You do not need to use a stamp.



Keep talking. Consider meeting again to discuss the other themes in the pack. Visit the website to keep up to date with the project.



Spread the word. Tell your friends, family and colleagues about the project - don't let them miss their chance to have their say!



Check the website later in 2007 to see how your views compare with everyone else's. If you give us your contact details we will let you know when the results are online.

Contact us for more information
or help using this pack:

Tel: 020 8683 6602

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