



# Technology & AI



EXPLORE THE TOPIC



WARM UP

## NEW TECHNOLOGY

OF THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY



**84%**  
of companies  
currently use  
blockchain.

There were  
approximately  
**10 million**  
5G wireless  
connections in 2019.



There are currently  
**1,400**  
self-driving cars in  
the United States.

By 2030,  
**10%** of the meat  
eaten in the world  
will be lab-grown.



Enterprises are expected to spend approximately  
**30%** of their IT budgets on edge cloud computing  
over the next 3 years.



**1** Look at the infographic and answer the following questions.

- 1 Is blockchain technology popular today?
- 2 How is technological development affecting the world of transport?
- 3 How will technology change our eating habits?

**2 VOCABULARY** Match the English words with their Italian equivalents.

- |                |  |
|----------------|--|
| 1 blockchain   | a prodotta in laboratorio                    |
| 2 self-driving | b imprese                                    |
| 3 lab-grown    | c tecnologie informatiche                    |
| 4 enterprises  | e senza conducente                           |
| 5 IT           | d modalità sicura per registrare transazioni |





STEM

## TECHNOLOGY in the 21<sup>st</sup> century

The last few decades have seen rapid changes in technology and an increasing number of digitised devices and services. This change will become faster still, pushed by what we can call 'frontier technologies', like artificial intelligence (AI), robotics, biotechnology and nanotechnology. These technologies have already brought great benefits, seen very recently, for example, in the accelerated development of Coronavirus vaccines in 2020. Rapid progress, however, can also bring problems if society is not able to adapt at the same speed. Some people fear that their jobs are at risk as so many activities are automated. Many think that social media are causing divisions, anxiety and doubt.

Most importantly there is a real risk that frontier technologies will **widen**<sup>1</sup> existing inequalities or create new ones. This fear is expressed in developed countries, but in developing nations the impact could be very serious if poor communities and countries are excluded or left behind. Developing countries must be helped to share in the benefits of technological progress. To achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, we must balance innovation with equity.

### Glossary

1 widen: ampliare

### 3 READING Read the text and answer the following questions.

- 1 What four types of technology will bring rapid change to our world?
- 2 What benefit of rapidly developing technology characterised 2020?
- 3 Why might employment possibilities be reduced?
- 4 What two factors need to be balanced in the developing world?

### 4 ANALYSIS & INTERPRETATION Answer the following questions.

- 1 What problem does the speed of technological advances pose?
- 2 What three negative effects are associated with social media?
- 3 What risk is mentioned in the text?
- 4 How does advanced technology affect your life?
- 5 Do you think that we should try to limit or stop technological progress? Why (not)?