



## Emerging Technologies

If there's one thing that always stays the same, it's change. From the covered wagon to the luxury automobile, from the telegraph to teleconferencing, mankind has always struggled to make the impossible possible, the dream reality. Experts believe the reality of the new millennium will be shaped by what they call emerging technologies that will be shaping and forever changing our way of life. It's estimated that computer performance has improved a million times since its invention over 50 years ago, which has led to revolutionary innovations in all scientific and technological fields. In turn, these innovations are changing the face of numerous industries, with perhaps the greatest changes yet to come.

**1. Select one of the following and explain how this technological advance affects the lives of Americans and the tools we use day to day. Use your own paper and write at least two full paragraphs:**

Mobile phones	Internet
LCD projectors	Speech recognition software
Laptop computers	PDA (personal digital assistant i.e. Palm)
Nanotechnology	Text messaging/instant messaging
Mapping of human DNA	Cloning
Automated manufacturing	Robotics
3-D animation	Genetic engineering
Wireless communications	Embedded microchips

**2. Select one of the following questions to answer. Use your own paper and write at least two full paragraphs:**

Name three technological advances within your occupational trade area in the past 10 years, and how these changes improve either process or product.

How has the Internet changed the way employees conduct research, learn and share information with each other? Give at least three specific examples of how the Internet might be used in your chosen occupation.

Looking ahead, what new technology do you expect to see in 2025 that is not available today? This might be personal technology, medical advances, a smart house, etc. Present at least one idea for a new technology, how it might work and how it would benefit people.

**3. How will jobs change in the next 25 years? Will the job you are training for today even exist? Use your own paper and write at least one paragraph on this topic.**