



The World in 2021 and beyond

Lead-in

1. What do you hope for in 2021?
2. What changes do you anticipate taking place in the post-covid world?

Video

Watch a video about five stories set to shape the world in 2021 and beyond and answer the questions.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iTLssSIetq0>



Democracy under threat

1. In fragile democracies, how will autocratic leaders use the covid pandemic to their advantage?
2. Complete the excerpt from the video: 'Since the start of the pandemic democracy and human rights have deteriorated in _____ countries.'
3. What is Uganda an example of?
4. How has covid influenced the news media?
5. What will the widespread administration of vaccines hopefully allow people to do?

The electric revolution revs up

1. Complete the text: 2021 will be a _____ for electric cars as more and more manufacturers _____ their electric range.
2. What's the Cybertruck?
3. How many companies are currently manufacturing electric vehicles?
4. What was Tesla's biggest success?
5. Which country is planning to completely ban petrol-powered cars by 2025?

A chance to turn the corner on climate change

1. What's going to happen in Glasgow in November 2021.
2. What's the purpose of COP 26?
3. What was the surprise announcement made by China president- Xi Jinping?
4. What are the hopes connected with Joe Biden's presidency as far as climate goes?



Three Wise Kangaroos

China vs Hollywood

1. What's the most anticipated film in the west to be released in 2021? Which film is it in China?
2. What are the trends for box office revenue in China and in the US?
3. What factors are helping the Chinese cinema industry?
4. What example is given to show how the Chinese market is forcing western producers to self-censor their film content?

Defending the planet

1. What is Nasa going to do in July 2021.
2. What happened in the Russian city of Chelyabinsk in 2013?
3. What's the probability of an asteroid hitting the Earth?

Over to you

1. Has the covid pandemic had much influence on your country's democratic rule? Have your politicians used the pandemic to their advantage in any way?
2. How popular are electric cars in your country? Do you see electric cars as a solution to climate change? What are the advantages and disadvantages of electric cars?
3. What do you think of the radical solution of introducing a complete ban on petrol-powered cars? Would it be welcomed in your country?
4. Do you think decisions made at climate summit meetings lead to actual changes or are these meetings only show-off PR events?
5. What do you make of China's pledge to become carbon-neutral by 2026 bearing in mind that China is currently the biggest polluter on the planet?
6. Do you believe Jo Biden's presidency will mark a turning point in global politics on climate change?
7. How is the cinema industry doing in your country compared with video on demand streaming services? Is the outlook for the cinema industry a bright one?
8. What do you think of film producers self-censoring their film content so it is deemed suitable for the Chinese market?
9. What do you think of NASA's planetary defence programme?



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Vocabulary

Match the adjectives with the nouns to make useful collocations.

1.	A fragile	a.	leader
2.	An autocratic	b.	pledge
3.	A partial	c.	defence
4.	A futuristic-looking	d.	democracy
5.	An ambitious	e.	transition towards democracy
6.	Planetary	f.	Cybertruck

Match the verbs with the nouns to make useful collocations.

1.	To mark	a.	opposition and dissent
2.	To block	b.	tyranny
3.	To resist	c.	covid restrictions
4.	To roll out	d.	your hat off to sb
5.	To flout	e.	an electric range
6.	To take	f.	a turning point
7.	To tap	g.	the pace
8.	To pick up	h.	into a market

Now, watch the video again and listen out for these collocations to check your answers.

Over to you

1. Can you think of an autocratic ruler from your country's history? What do you know about him/her?
2. Has your country made any ambitious pledges to curb its emissions that you don't think are likely to be kept? Is your government keen to act on climate change in general?
3. What do you think of Elon Musk's futuristic-looking Cybertruck? Does it appeal to you?
4. How should people who flout covid restrictions be punished?
5. Is the electric car market picking up the pace in your country?