

Myths of the Future Questionnaire

Fabio Boschetti & Jennifer Price, CSIRO, Australia

Order 1	Order 2
Demographics	Demographics
Future Questions	Litanies (randomised)
Litanies (randomised)	Future Societal Perceptions
Future Societal Perceptions	Scenarios
Scenarios	Need for and Scale of change
Need for and Scale of change	Future Questions
Environmental worldview scale + Worldviews about + Social Dominance Orientation & Right-Wing Authoritarianism (randomised)	Environmental worldview scale + Worldviews about + Social Dominance Orientation & Right-Wing Authoritarianism (randomised)
The Schwartz Value Survey	The Schwartz Value Survey
Uncertainty orientation	Uncertainty orientation
Consideration of future consequences scale	Consideration of future consequences scale

1. Litanies

Read each statement and decide whether you agree or disagree with each statement as follows

1 = extremely unlikely 2 = very unlikely 3 = unlikely 4 = possible 5 = likely 6 = very likely 7 = extremely likely

Environment

- 1 The earth will run out of minerals, energy, water and food ☐
- 2 Environmental problems will affect human survival and lifestyles ☐
- 3 Natural habitats, plant species, and animal species will decline or become extinct ☐
- 4 The human population will grow to a level that the earth cannot sustain ☐
- 5 Human lifestyles will result in more infectious diseases, and create some new ones ☐
- 6 Climate change will negatively affect the health and wellbeing of all living things ☐
- 7 Environmental destruction in the developing world will lead to violence ☐
- 8 There will be increased competition for limited natural resources ☐
- 9 Pollution, rubbish and chemical contamination will build to dangerous levels ☐
- 10 Rainforests will be cut down to make way for agriculture ☐
- 11 The human population will migrate to different areas of the world ☐
- 12 There will be benefits from climate change, such as longer growing seasons ☐
- 13 Future generations will enjoy a healthy environment ☐
- 14 Nature will be protected for its own value ☐
- 15 Wealth from economic growth will be used to take care of the environment ☐
- 16 Environmental problems will be fixed without changing society ☐
- 17 Reduced poverty will reduce the human impact on the environment ☐
- 18 Technology will save endangered species, and even bring extinct species back to life ☐
- 19 Earth's atmosphere and temperature will be controlled through new technologies ☐

Technology

- 1 Scientific innovations will improve medicine so that it is preventive and personalized ☐
- 2 Technology will change lifestyles, but ultimately human nature will stay the same ☐
- 3 Energy will be cleaner and cheaper because of new technologies ☐
- 4 There will be new improved ways to produce food and feed the world ☐
- 5 There will be innovative ways to reuse or reduce waste ☐
- 6 Robots and advanced technologies will improve jobs and lifestyles ☐
- 7 New digital technologies will enhance entertainment and the media ☐
- 8 Global communication and increased sharing of ideas will result in innovation ☐
- 9 Genetic technology will create more effective medicine and agriculture ☐
- 10 Genetic enhancement will be used to improve human performance ☐
- 11 Newspapers and journalism will decline because of digital technologies ☐
- 12 Resources will be extracted from the moon and other planets ☐
- 13 Nanotechnology will create risks for the environment and our bodies ☐
- 14 Social media will negatively change the way people think and behave ☐
- 15 Society will be so involved the internet and virtual world that we lose touch of reality ☐
- 16 Genetic engineering will create new risks for humans and the environment ☐
- 17 Drones, or unmanned aircraft, will transform warfare, surveillance, and transport ☐
- 18 Technology will bring much more harm than good ☐
- 19 There will not be enough energy to supply everyone on the planet ☐
- 20 Companies and governments will collect public data to control or influence people ☐

Economy

- 1 The needs of the poor will be met through economic growth and development ☐
- 2 Economic growth will continue in a way that is fair, and respectful of future generations ☐
- 3 Innovation in business will maintain continuous economic growth ☐
- 4 National happiness will become more important than economic growth ☐
- 5 The coming decades will see new exciting economic markets emerge ☐
- 6 Private ownership of public services and industries will increase efficiency ☐
- 7 Economic growth will be society's main concern ☐
- 8 The world's economy will shift from west to east, and north to south ☐
- 9 Multi-national corporations will become alarmingly powerful ☐
- 10 The difference between the rich and poor will continue to grow ☐
- 11 The rising cost of fossil fuel will negatively affect the economy ☐
- 12 Continued economic growth will be at the expense of the environment ☐
- 13 Continued economic growth will result in social inequality ☐
- 14 The current economic system is unstable, and will not grow beyond a certain point ☐
- 15 A poorly regulated financial sector will result in another global economic crisis ☐
- 16 National resources and industries will become mostly foreign-owned ☐
- 17 The economic development of all nations will not be possible at the same time ☐

Society/ culture

- 1 Rates of diabetes, obesity and cancer will rise because of diets and lifestyles ☐
- 2 Society will become more ignorant because of changes in technology and education ☐
- 3 Cultural diversity will decline because of globalisation ☐
- 4 More refugees because of changes in society, economy and the environment ☐
- 5 Crime and drug abuse will increase ☐
- 6 Law and order will decline ☐
- 7 Conflict will arise between people of different religious beliefs ☐
- 8 News and the media will be controlled by a few powerful people ☐
- 9 Traditional morals and family values will decline ☐
- 10 The world will be so overcrowded that people will populate new planets ☐
- 11 New religions and forms of spirituality will develop ☐
- 12 There will be changes to 'traditional' marriages and family structure ☐
- 13 Most of the population will live in huge cities ☐
- 14 Capitalism will be a failed experiment ☐

- 15 Socialism will be a failed experiment ☐
- 16 Women, ethnic minorities, and gay and lesbian people will have equal rights ☐
- 17 People will grow their own food locally again, like the old days ☐
- 18 The internet will make education available for all ☐
- 19 Society will continue improving, as it always has ☐
- 20 By learning how to live simply, humanity will become happier ☐
- 21 Society will meet the human needs which the government can't or won't
- 22 There will be more community-owned businesses ☐
- 23 There will be a fundamental change in human values ☐

Politics

- 1 Political instability in the middle east will continue spread ☐
- 2 Tension between the east and west will result in terrorism and violence ☐
- 3 Political instability will negatively affect the global economy ☐
- 4 The population of many nations will age and place strain on the economy ☐
- 5 The population of many nations will get younger and place strain on the economy ☐
- 6 There will be another world war ☐
- 7 Cyber attacks and spying will increase ☐
- 8 Middle classes will continue grow in developing countries ☐
- 9 Government surveillance of the population will increase ☐
- 10 China will surpass the US as a global power ☐
- 11 English will no longer be the global language ☐
- 12 There will be less regulation and smaller governments ☐
- 13 Democracy will not work, and a new better political system will take its place ☐
- 14 The world will become more peaceful ☐
- 15 The UN will become an effective global government ☐

2. Australia 2050 - Future Societal Perceptions

How safe do you think Australia will be in 2050?

Much less safe than now []
Less safe than now []
More or less as safe as now []
Safer than now []
Much safer than now []

How honest do you think Australia will be in 2050?

Much less honest than now []
Less honest than now []
More or less as honest as now []
More honest than now []
Much more honest than now []

How friendly do you think Australia will be in 2050?

Much less friendly than now []
Less friendly than now []
More or less as friendly as now []
More friendly than now []
Much more friendly than now []

How skilled do you think Australia will be in 2050?

Much less skilled than now []
Less skilled than now []
More or less as skilled as now []
More skilled than now []
Much more skilled than now []

How do you think the standards of living in Australia will be in 2050?

Much lower than now []
Lower than now []
More or less as now []
Higher than now []
Much higher than now []

In 2050, what condition will science and technology be in?

Much worse than now []
Worse than now []
The same as now []
Better than now []
Much better than now []

In 2050, what condition will society be in?

Much worse than now []
Worse than now []
The same as now []
Better than now []
Much better than now []

In 2050, what condition will the economy be in?

Much worse than now []
Worse than now []
The same as now []
Better than now []
Much better than now []

In 2050, what condition will the political system be in?

Much worse than now []
Worse than now []
The same as now []
Better than now []
Much better than now []

In 2050, what condition will the environment be in?

- Much worse than now []
- Worse than now []
- The same as now []
- Better than now []
- Much better than now []

3. Scenarios

Now we will present you with some possible scenarios, please respond to the questions using the scale

1 = Much worse than now	2 = Worse than now	3 = The same as now	4 = Better than now	5 = Much better than now
-------------------------	--------------------	---------------------	---------------------	--------------------------

If economic growth is reduced to focus on social welfare and equality, what will our standards of living be like?

- Much worse than now []
- Worse than now []
- The same as now []
- Better than now []
- Much better than now []

If economic growth is reduced to focus on the environment, what will our standards of living be like?

- Much worse than now []
- Worse than now []
- The same as now []
- Better than now []
- Much better than now []

Some people believe that the economy and the environment cannot flourish together and some tough choices are needed. If this was the case, what would you give priority to?

- Definitely the economy []
- A bit more to the economy []
- About the same []
- A bit more to the environment []
- Definitely the environment []

Some people believe that the economy and community values cannot flourish together, some tough choices are needed. If this was the case, what would you give priority to?

- Definitely the economy []
- A bit more to the economy []
- About the same []
- A bit more to the environment []
- Definitely the environment []

4. Need for change

Now we will ask you about whether you think change **should** occur. Please respond to the following questions using the scale:

1 = no change at all	2 = some minor changes	3 = some large changes, but the system should stay the same	4 = the whole system should be changed	5 = an entirely different system is needed
----------------------	------------------------	---	--	--

- 1 How much do you think politics should change in the future? []
- 2 How much do you think society should change in the future? []
- 3 How much do you think the economy should change in the future? []
- 4 How much do you the environment should change in the future? []
- 5 How much technology and science should change in the future? []

5. Scale of change

Now we will ask you about **where** you think change **should** occur. Please respond to the following questions using the scale:

1 = no change at all	2 = some small changes	3 = Moderate changes	4 = Large changes	5 = Change completely
----------------------	------------------------	----------------------	-------------------	-----------------------

- 1 Individuals []
- 2 Community groups []
- 3 Local communities []
- 4 Local businesses []
- 5 Non-government organisations []
- 6 Local governments []
- 7 State governments []
- 8 The Federal government []
- 9 International organisations []
- 10 Developed nations []
- 11 Developing nations []
- 12 Multinational corporations []

6. Environmental worldview scale

Read each statement and decide whether you agree or disagree with each statement as follows

1 = Strongly Disagree	2 = Moderately Disagree	3 = Neither Agree nor Disagree	4 = Moderately Agree	5 = Strongly Agree
-----------------------	-------------------------	--------------------------------	----------------------	--------------------

1. The natural environment will become unstable if humans exceed the limits identified by experts []
2. The natural environment is capable of recovering from any damage humans may cause []
3. The natural environment can be managed if there are clear rules about what is allowed []
4. Ultimately, there's nothing individuals can do to manage or change the natural environment []
5. If the balance of the natural environment is upset the whole system will collapse []
6. Conservation and protection is the most rational strategy for managing the natural environment []
7. When pushed beyond the limits identified by experts the natural environment will not recover []
8. We all have a moral obligation to protect the environment and consume fewer resources []
9. There's no point wasting time, energy and resources on trying to manage the natural environment []
10. Individuals should have freedom of choice regardless of the environmental impacts []
11. Human industry and technology has not caused significant damage to the natural environment []
12. Humans can't control what happens in the natural environment []

7. Worldview about society

Read each statement and decide whether you agree or disagree with each statement as follows

1 = Strongly Disagree	2 = Moderately Disagree	3 = Neither Agree nor Disagree	4 = Moderately Agree	5 = Strongly Agree
-----------------------	-------------------------	--------------------------------	----------------------	--------------------

1. Discrimination against minorities is still a very serious problem in our society []
2. Our society would be better off if the distribution of wealth was more equal []
3. We need to dramatically reduce inequalities between the rich and poor, whites and ethnic minorities, and men and women []
4. Society works best if power is shared equally []
5. It seems like ethnic minorities, women, homosexuals and other groups don't want equal rights, they want special rights just for them []
6. Society as a whole has become too soft and feminine []
7. We have gone too far pushing equal rights in this country []
8. Sometimes the government needs to make laws that keep people from hurting themselves []
9. Governments should put limits on the choices of individuals and business, so that they don't get in the way of what's good for society []

10. The government should do more to advance society's goals, even if that means limiting the freedom and choices of individuals ☐
11. It's not the government's role to protect people from themselves ☐
12. The government interferes far too much in our everyday lives ☐
13. The government should stop telling people how to live their lives ☐

8. Social Dominance Orientation

Read each statement and decide whether you agree or disagree with each statement as follows

1 = Strongly Disagree 2 = Moderately Disagree 3 = Neither Agree nor Disagree 4 = Moderately Agree 5 = Strongly Agree

1. In setting priorities, we must consider all groups ☐
2. Group equality should be our ideal ☐
3. Superior groups should dominate inferior groups ☐
4. We should not push for equality between groups ☐

9. Right-Wing authoritarianism

Read each statement and decide whether you agree or disagree with each statement as follows

1 = Strongly Disagree 2 = Moderately Disagree 3 = Neither Agree nor Disagree 4 = Moderately Agree 5 = Strongly Agree

1. Our customs and national heritage are the things that have made us great, and certain people should be made to show greater respect for them ☐
2. Our prisons are a shocking disgrace. Criminals are unfortunate people who deserve much better care, instead of so much punishment ☐
3. Obedience and respect for authority are the most important virtues children should learn ☐
4. Organisations like the army have a pretty unhealthy effect upon men because they require strict obedience of commands from supervisors ☐
5. The courts are right in being easy on drug offenders. Punishment would not do any good in cases like these ☐
6. Being kind to bludgers or criminals will only encourage them to take advantage of your weakness, so it is best to use a firm, tough hand when dealing with them ☐

10. The Schwartz Value Survey

Please rate the importance of each of the following values as a guiding principle in **your** life

7 = of supreme importance	6 = very important	3 = important	0 = not important	-1 = opposed to my values
----------------------------------	---------------------------	----------------------	--------------------------	----------------------------------

1. EQUALITY equal opportunity for all ☐
2. INNER HARMONY at peace with myself ☐
3. SOCIAL POWER control over others, dominance ☐
4. PLEASURE gratification of desires ☐
5. FREEDOM freedom of action and thought ☐
6. A SPIRITUAL LIFE emphasis on spiritual not material matters ☐
7. SENSE OF BELONGING feeling that others care about me ☐
8. SOCIAL ORDER stability of society ☐
9. AN EXCITING LIFE stimulating experiences ☐
10. MEANING IN LIFE a purpose in life ☐
11. POLITENESS courtesy, good manners ☐
12. WEALTH material possessions, money ☐
13. NATIONAL SECURITY protection of my nation from enemies ☐
14. SELF RESPECT belief in one's own worth ☐
15. RECIPROCATION OF FAVOURS avoidance of indebtedness ☐
16. CREATIVITY uniqueness, imagination ☐

17. A WORLD AT PEACE free of war and conflict ☐
18. RESPECT FOR TRADITION preservation of time honoured customs ☐
19. MATURE LOVE deep emotional & spiritual intimacy ☐
20. SELF DISCIPLINE self restraint, resistance to temptation ☐
21. PRIVACY the right to have a private sphere ☐
22. FAMILY SECURITY safety for loved ones ☐
23. SOCIAL RECOGNITION respect, approval by others ☐
24. UNITY WITH NATURE fitting into nature ☐
25. A VARIED LIFE filled with challenge, novelty and change ☐
26. WISDOM a mature understanding of life ☐
27. AUTHORITY the right to lead or command ☐
28. TRUE FRIENDSHIP close, supportive friends ☐
29. A WORLD OF BEAUTY beauty of nature and the arts ☐
30. SOCIAL JUSTICE correcting injustice, care for the weak ☐
31. INDEPENDENT self reliant, self sufficient ☐
32. MODERATE avoiding extremes of feeling & action ☐
33. LOYAL faithful to my friends, group ☐
34. AMBITIOUS hard working, aspiring ☐
35. BROADMINDED tolerant of different ideas and beliefs ☐
36. HUMBLE modest, self effacing ☐
37. DARING seeking adventure, risk ☐
38. PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT preserving nature ☐
39. INFLUENTIAL having an impact on people and events ☐
40. HONOURING OF PARENTS AND ELDERS showing respect ☐
41. CHOOSING OWN GOALS selecting own purposes ☐
42. HEALTHY not being sick physically or mentally ☐
43. CAPABLE competent, effective, efficient ☐
44. ACCEPTING MY PORTION IN LIFE submitting to life's circumstances ☐
45. HONEST genuine, sincere ☐
46. PRESERVING MY PUBLIC IMAGE protecting my "face" ☐
47. OBEDIENT dutiful, meeting obligations ☐
48. INTELLIGENT logical, thinking ☐
49. HELPFUL working for the welfare of others ☐
50. ENJOYING LIFE enjoying food, sex, leisure, etc. ☐
51. DEVOUT holding to religious faith & belief ☐
52. RESPONSIBLE dependable, reliable ☐
53. CURIOUS interested in everything, exploring ☐
54. FORGIVING willing to pardon others ☐
55. SUCCESSFUL achieving goals ☐
56. CLEAN neat, tidy ☐
57. SELF-INDULGENT doing pleasant things ☐
58. OBSERVING SOCIAL NORMS to maintain face ☐

11.Uncertainty orientation

Read each statement and decide whether you agree or disagree with each statement as follows

1 = Strongly Disagree 2 = Moderately Disagree 3 = Neither Agree nor Disagree 4 = Moderately Agree 5 = Strongly Agree

1. I believe it is important for us to challenge our beliefs ☐
2. If I do not understand something, I find out about it ☐
3. I like to experiment with new ideas, even if they turn out later to be a total waste of time ☐
4. I enjoy spending time discovering new things ☐
5. I like to find out why things happen ☐
6. I often put myself in situations in which I can learn something new ☐

7. I enjoy thinking about ideas that challenge my views of the world ☐

12.Consideration of future consequences scale

Read each statement and decide whether you agree or disagree with each statement as follows

1 = Strongly Disagree 2 = Moderately Disagree 3 = Neither Agree nor Disagree 4 = Moderately Agree 5 = Strongly Agree

1. I consider how things might be in the future, and try to influence those things with my day to day behaviour ☐
2. Often I engage in a particular behavior in order to achieve outcomes that may not result for many years ☐
3. I only act to satisfy immediate concerns, figuring the future will take care of itself ☐
4. My behavior is only influenced by the immediate (i.e., a matter of days or weeks) outcomes of my actions ☐
5. My convenience is a big factor in the decisions I make or the actions I take ☐
6. I am willing to sacrifice my immediate happiness or well-being in order to achieve future outcomes ☐
7. I think it is important to take warnings about negative outcomes seriously even if the negative outcome will not occur for many years ☐
8. I think it is more important to perform a behavior with important distant consequences than a behavior with less important immediate consequences ☐
9. I generally ignore warnings about possible future problems because I think the problems will be resolved before they reach crisis level ☐
10. I think that sacrificing now is usually unnecessary since future outcomes can be dealt with at a later time ☐
11. I only act to satisfy immediate concerns, figuring that I will take care of future problems that may occur at a later date ☐
12. Since my day to day work has specific outcomes, it is more important to me than behavior that has distant outcomes ☐
13. When I make a decision, I think about how it might affect me in the future ☐
14. My behavior is generally influenced by future consequences ☐

13.Demographics

What is your year of birth age ☐

What is your gender? Male ☐ Female ☐

What is the highest level of education you have achieved?

Primary School ☐ High school / tertiary school ☐ Trade / TAFE qualification ☐ Undergraduate degree ☐ Postgraduate qualification ☐

What is your postcode? ☐

Do you have children? Yes ☐ No ☐

Political Affiliation, on the following scale, please indicate how you identify your political views

Extremely Left-wing (0)	<----->	(10) Extremely Right-wing
[0]	[1] [2] [3] [4] [5] [6] [7] [8] [9] [10]	

Do you identify with a particular religion? No ☐ - Prefer not to answer ☐ – Yes (please specify) _____

What is your household's gross weekly income before tax?

- 1 Negative/Nil income ☐
- 2 \$1-\$199 ☐
- 3 \$200-\$599 ☐
- 4 \$600-\$999 ☐

- 5 \$1,000-\$1,499 ☐
- 6 \$1,500-\$1,999 ☐
- 7 \$2,000-\$2,499 ☐
- 8 \$2,500-\$2,999 ☐
- 9 \$3,000 or more ☐
- 10 Prefer not to answer ☐

14.Future Questions

What are the first five words that come to mind when you think about the future

When you think of the future, what time frame is it?

- 1. Later this year ☐
- 2. Next year ☐
- 3. 5 years from now ☐
- 4. 20 years from now ☐
- 5. 50 years from now ☐
- 6. More than 50 from now ☐
- 7. Other, please specify ☐