



## 21 Lessons for the 21st Century

In *Sapiens* he explored our past. In *Homo Deus* he explored our future. Now Yuval Noah Harari looks at the biggest issues facing humanity in the 21st Century with his latest book - 21 Lessons for the 21st Century.

### Conditional sentences:

Complete these sentences with the correct conditional forms and appropriate content.

1. If the education system doesn't adapt to modern challenges,  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. If there weren't so much information available,  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Terrorist acts are committed by weak and desperate parties. If they had real power  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. If the European Union hadn't facilitated free movement of people,  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Children will be better equipped for adulthood and the future if  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Discussion:

- How is technology disrupting our financial, economic, and political systems?
- How can you future proof yourself as we move into the future?
- What was 'the end of history' and is this theory being disproved?
- Is it better to be poor or irrelevant?
- How should schools adapt?

### Reading & Grammar:

Insert a word that makes sense in the context.

"Modern societies are \_\_\_\_\_ on the belief that each human adult is a rational, independent agent. For \_\_\_\_\_, democracy is based on the notion that voters will know what is best. Our system of free-market capitalism is based on the \_\_\_\_\_ that customers are never wrong. And our liberal system of education instructs pupils to engage in independent thinking.

But in the 21st century, placing so much faith in our ability to act rationally is a \_\_\_\_\_ mistake. Why? Because modern humans, as individuals, know \_\_\_\_\_ little about how the world actually works.

People in the Stone Age knew how to hunt, turn animal \_\_\_\_\_ into clothes and get a fire going. Modern man is far less self-sufficient. In one experiment, participants were asked if they understood how zippers worked. Although most confidently replied that they did, when they were asked to elaborate \_\_\_\_\_ this knowledge, most had no idea how this everyday \_\_\_\_\_ actually works.

Scientists deem this 'the knowledge illusion'. That is, individuals believe they know a lot simply because they treat the \_\_\_\_\_ that other people possess - for instance, how a zipper \_\_\_\_\_ - as though they possessed it, too."

- What makes us more ignorant than we realise?
- Winston Churchill said, "The best argument against democracy is a 5 minute conversation with the average voter." Do you agree? Why?
- What is the best argument for democracy?
- When is the customer wrong?

### Video:

Watch the video below and answer the following questions:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XAPE4d0WvzE>

- What is the most important question?
- What used to be the most important assets in life?
- What was the effect of too much being concentrated in the hands of too few?
- What does he predict might happen to humans in the future if too few have all the assets?

The change in asset value correlates with the number of wars fought. Why do you think this is?

### Action Points:

If you have power seek people who will tell you the truth.

If you don't have power recognise that **truth often doesn't speak to power**. As leaders gain more influence the people around them often become more concerned with flattering them and not saying anything inappropriate, over divulging any hard hitting truths. Therefore, if you want the truth, you might find it by spending time on the edge of influence, rather than at its core.

