

## Audioscript

### 71.1

In 1714, the British government offered £20,000 – a lot of money in those days – to the person who could find a way of accurately calculating a ship's position at sea. It was one of the biggest problems facing sailors at that time. It was won in 1765 by John Harrison, who made a chronometer, a kind of clock, which was unaffected by rough seas.

Three hundred years later a new prize has been launched to encourage inventors and scientists to find solutions to one of six key scientific problems facing the world. The problem which receives the £10 million (€12.5 million) prize money will be chosen by public vote.

### 71.2

S = Sally, C = Carlos, E = Ellen, F = Felix

S So, what's the next problem? Can you tell us about the one you've been looking at, Carlos?

C Yes. The problem is dementia. Dementia is a slow decline in brain functions, which interferes with people's ability to live a normal life. The difficulty that we face is that not only is it an awful disease, but it is also costing society an increasing amount to look after these people. The situation at present is just about under control, but it is a fact that the problem is growing. The figures show that someone is diagnosed with the disease every four seconds and cases are expected to soar from 44 million now to 135 million by 2050. The challenge would be to develop affordable technological solutions that would enable dementia sufferers to live independently for longer.

F Thanks, Carlos. OK. So, ... what does everyone think about that one?

E Personally, I support this option because it's so important. In my opinion, it's a problem which is going to touch us all in some way or another. Even if we don't have dementia ourselves, we will know someone who has it.

C Yeah, I agree absolutely. Money which could be spent on research for other diseases will have to be spent on looking after patients with dementia. The way I see it, if we don't do anything about it, the problem is just going to grow and the health service won't be able to cope.

S Yes, I see what you mean. It's a problem that's only going to get worse. But don't you think that it really only affects older people? Shouldn't we choose a problem which affects a lot of younger people too?

F Well, I'd argue that it does affect young people. It's the young people who are going to have to care for their elderly relatives. Finding a means of enabling sufferers to live independently for longer would have a positive impact on them too.

S You could be right, but it does seem to focus mainly on older people. I'm in two minds about that one. Let's go on to the next choice ...

## Homework

Go to the BBC website below and read more about the Longitude Prize and why were antibiotics voted to be the focus?

<http://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-28027376>

