

1 Technology deals with human usage and knowledge of tools and crafts, and how it affects a species' ability to control and adapt to its natural environment. The word *technology* comes from the Greek *technologia* – “*téchnē*” craft and “*logia*” the study of something, or the branch of knowledge of a discipline. A precise definition is elusive and vague; *technology* can refer to material objects of use to humanity, such as machines, but can also comprise different themes, including systems, methods of organisation, and techniques. The term can either be applied generally or to specific areas: examples include “construction technology,” “medical technology”, or “state-of-the-art technology”.



2 The human species' use of technology began with the conversion of natural resources into simple tools. The prehistoric discovery of the ability to control fire increased the available sources of food, and the invention of the wheel helped humans travel in and control their environment. Recent technological developments, including the printing press, the telephone, and the Internet, have reduced physical barriers to communication and allowed humans to interact freely on a global scale. However, not all devices have been used for peaceful purposes; the development of weapons of ever-increasing destructive power has progressed throughout history, from clubs to nuclear weapons.



wheel

3 Technological inventions have affected society and its surroundings in a number of ways. In many societies, they have helped develop more advanced economies (including today's global economy) and have allowed the rise of a prosperous class. Many technological processes produce unwanted by-products, such as pollution and the exhaustion or diminution of natural resources, to the disadvantage of the Earth and the environment. Advances in technology often raise new and controversial moral questions because the use of these appliances affects and changes the values of society. For instance, people value more material success than the spiritual one.



club

4 Debates have arisen over whether technology improves the human condition or worsens it. Some movements criticise the role of technology in the modern world, arguing that it harms the environment and isolates people; others view continued technological progress as beneficial to society and the human condition.

I COMPREHENSION (15 POINTS) {BASE ALL YOUR ANSWERS ON THE TEXT}

A What is the writer's attitude? Tick the correct answer and JUSTIFY it. (2 pt)

- 1 The writer is in favour of technology. 3 The writer is neutral.
2 The writer is against technology.

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B Are these sentences TRUE or FALSE? JUSTIFY. (3 pts)

- 1 We can give an exact definition of the term "technology".
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- 2 Technological inventions have been used only for non-violent objectives.
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- 3 These inventions have an influence on social beliefs.
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C Answer these questions. (3 pts)

- 1 Which invention has allowed human beings to move more easily?
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- 2 What are the two side effects of technological inventions? (2 pts)
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D Fill in each blank with a word or an expression from the text. (2 pts)

- 1 Thanks to the printing press, the telephone and the Internet, people
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- 2 Technological inventions have not only had an effect on society in different ways, but
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E Find in the text words or expressions which mean the same as the following. (3 pts)

- 1 include (para 1) 2 wealthy (para 3)
- 3 useful (para 4)

F What do the underlined words in the text refer to? (2 pts)

- 1 The term 2 others

