

# 12 Information technology

## Telecommunications, computers and technology

### Telecommunications

#### 1.1 Before you listen, answer these questions.

- If you need to contact someone, do you prefer to  
A send an email      B send a text message  
C make a phone call?
- How do you stay in touch with  
A your friends      B work colleagues  
C an elderly relative?
- How would you describe your mobile phone?  
A basic      B adequate      C state-of-the-art
- What do you generally use your mobile phone for?
- Do you prefer digital or printed books? What about newspapers and magazines?

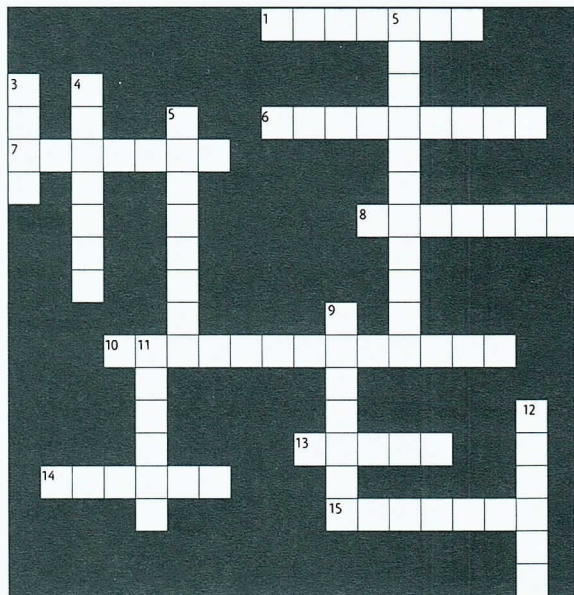
#### 1.2 12a Listen to a lady choosing a new mobile phone and match the comments below to

- the Nixon 10
- the Optima
- the LTC

#### Comments

- it is very small .....
- it can follow and record your exercise programme .....
- has a better display for watching videos etc .....
- on older phones, moving the text up and down was a problem .....
- the sound quality is good .....
- it can hold a lot of data .....
- its power supply can be a problem .....

#### 1.3 Complete the crossword with words from the recording.




#### Across

- I've just bought a new phone so now I need to ..... my favourite apps
- moving text and images up and down on a screen
- (see 9 down)
- a portable energy source
- easy to use
- (see 11 down)
- My phone is running really slow, I need to ..... the software
- I've got to delete some photos because I'm running out of .....

#### Down

- app is short for .....
- information stored electronically
- My phone died because I didn't have my ..... with me.
- working well (a machine)
- (and 7 across) an app that records your health and exercise progress
- (and 13 across) Facebook, Twitter etc are types of .....
- My phone switches on as soon as you touch the .....

**1.4**  **12b** Listen to six people speaking. Complete the sentences below with the technology or appliance they are talking about. Listen out for the verbs they use to help you.

- 1 She uses her ..... every day.
- 2 The boy needs a .....
- 3 She would like to buy a .....
- 4 He appreciates having a .....
- 5 She'd like to get her mother a .....
- 6 A computer is more than a typewriter, it is a .....

Which two words needed the suffix 'or'?

## Computers and technology

**2.1** Read the article then look at the statements below. Write Yes if the statement agrees with the claims in the article, and No if it contradicts them. Underline the part of the text that gave you your answer and correct any incorrect statements.

From toasters to air conditioners, consumer goods often now have a chip inserted into them to collect and communicate data, allowing a 'dumb' device to become a 'smart' one that we can easily operate from anywhere. The idea of different devices being connected via the internet in some way is not new. It was first discussed in the 1970s and was given its current name, the 'Internet of Things,' in the 1990s. However, the concept didn't really take off until 2010, when the Smart phone put computers into our pockets, and the broadband and wireless networks that had emerged in the early 2000s became the norm in many households. The idea is now so widely accepted that it's often referred to just by its initials, *IoT*.

In the home, *IoT* aims to make our lives easier – on our way home from work, we can get our smart phone to tell our smart heating system to switch on, ready for my arrival. It's not just a case of being able to switch our appliances on and off remotely, of course. The chips also track and monitor usage on a much wider scale, which means that, across entire cities, devices can share data to help make public transport systems more efficient or even detect flooding, creating 'smart cities'.

Nevertheless, while the potential benefits of *IoT* are considerable, there are genuine concerns about its use. The reality is that everything with an internet connection can be hacked, and there are several examples of just how insecure smart devices can be. In 2015, a London hacker obtained the Wi-Fi passwords of various homes through their smart kettles, and in 2016 in Finland, the heating thermostat in two apartment buildings was hacked, leaving the residents in freezing cold for nearly a week. In the same year, the worst ever cyberattack was carried out, disabling online platforms in Europe and the US by hacking into digital cameras and video recorders. Security flaws like these are not the only issue. Even more concerning is the question of privacy and the possible use of tracking devices to carry out surveillance without our knowledge. Perhaps one day we will decide that disadvantages like these far outweigh the convenience of being able to switch the kettle on from your bed.

- 1 Everyday kitchen appliances can now store information. ....Yes.....
- 2 The *Internet of Things* helped to make the Smart phone a reality. ....
- 3 In the early 2000s, most homes had broadband and wifi. ....
- 4 There are problems when *IoT* is used to control bus or train systems. ....
- 5 *IoT* may allow someone outside your house to obtain secret information. ....
- 6 People are most worried about *IoT* being used to shut down the internet. ....

## 2.2 Now match the words in bold in the text with these definitions.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1 an attempt to take over a computer through the internet .....                    | 6 protection, being safe .....                                  |
| 2 a person who accesses a computer without permission .....                        | 7 a tool or small machine invented for a specific purpose ..... |
| 3 to cause a machine or device to work .....                                       | 8 to watch and check something .....                            |
| 4 a system that allowed a lot of information to be communicated very quickly ..... | 9 to discover something using special equipment .....           |
| 5 an adjective used to show a machine can connect to the internet .....            | 10 from a distance .....  |

## 2.3 COMPOUND WORDS Match a word from box A with a word from box B and use the compound words to complete the sentences below.

- |   |            |         |          |        |   |          |         |            |              |
|---|------------|---------|----------|--------|---|----------|---------|------------|--------------|
| A | artificial | digital | internet | online | B | age      | control | connection | intelligence |
|   | remote     | virtual |          |        |   | platform | reality |            |              |

- Some people enjoy escaping to remote places where there is no .....
- Many of the claims made about ..... suggest that computers can think for themselves.
- At home, I often lose the ..... and have to turn on the TV manually.
- Many people now do their shopping through an ..... instead of going to physical shops.
- The images in ..... games can appear so real that it can be frightening.
- We live in a ....., and so we expect all business to be done quickly and efficiently.

## 2.4 Correct the mistakes in the text. Use ONE WORD only. Hyphenated words (e.g. *state-of-the-art*) count as one word.

Today's <sup>1</sup>~~advance~~ technology has brought many benefits. For example, nowadays we have many <sup>2</sup>*small tools* that can save time in the home and, if you have access <sup>3</sup>*with* a computer and a telephone <sup>4</sup>*connect* then you can work almost anywhere you choose. What is more, modern software <sup>5</sup>*programmes* are so user-friendly that you don't even need a great deal of computer knowledge to be able to <sup>6</sup>*play* them.

However, there are some disadvantages to the <sup>7</sup>*technology* era. For example, people today want to have the very <sup>8</sup>*last* technology but, as new technology dates very quickly, an increasing amount of computer hardware is being dumped. This adds to our already serious pollution problems. Furthermore, <sup>9</sup>*computerise* has led to fewer jobs and less human contact as many everyday transactions are now done <sup>10</sup>*with* computer rather than manually.

- |                   |          |
|-------------------|----------|
| 1 <u>advanced</u> | 6 .....  |
| 2 .....           | 7 .....  |
| 3 .....           | 8 .....  |
| 4 .....           | 9 .....  |
| 5 .....           | 10 ..... |

### Error warning!

Note the following spellings of the word *program*: computer **program** (UK and US spelling), television **programme** (UK spelling only). Note the different forms of *computer*: *computerise* (verb); *computerisation* (noun); *computerised* (adj): We use a *computerised* system. NOT ~~a computerise system~~. *Automated* can be used in a similar way, but includes machines as well as computers: Our *processing system* is fully *automated*. We talk about the *computer era*, the *digital era* or the *technological era*. NOT ~~the technology era~~.

# Test practice

## Speaking

### Part 1 (4–5 minutes)

- 1 Can you tell me about your hometown?
- 2 Do you work or study?
- 3 What do you enjoy about your work (or study)?
- 4 What form of transport do you usually use?
- 5 When you are not working, what kind of things do you normally do?
- 6 What kind of things do you enjoy doing with your friends?
- 7 What did you do last weekend?
- 8 What are your plans for after this test?

### Part 2 (3–4 minutes)

*In this part of the test you are going to talk about a topic for about 2 minutes. Here is a card with some questions on it. You have about 1 minute to prepare and you can make notes if you wish.*

Describe a piece of technology you use often  
You should say

- what the piece of technology is
- what it looks like
- what you use it for

and say whether you enjoy using it or not.

### Part 3 (4–5 minutes)

*We've been talking about technology, and I'd like to discuss with you one or two more general questions related to this. Let's consider, first of all, people's attitude to technology.*

- 1 Some people always want to have the latest technology; why do you think that is?
- 2 Do you think people today use technology too often, for example, to find information? (Why is this a problem?)
- 3 Why do you think older people struggle so much with new technology?
- 4 Are there any ways we could help older people to adapt?
- 5 What changes in technology would you like to see in the future?
- 6 Do you think we should always try to improve on existing technology, or are some things better as they are? (Why?)

### Test tip



Ask a friend to help you practise. Stick to the time limit and record your interview. Give as much information as you can for each answer.