It is inevitable that traditional cultures will be lost as technology develops. Technology and traditional cultures are incompatible. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this view?

Some people believe that technological developments lead to the loss of traditional cultures. <u>I partly agree with this assertion</u>; while it may be true in the case of some societies, others seem to be unaffected by technology and the modern world.

On the one hand, the advances in technology that have driven industrialisation in developed countries have certainly contributed to the disappearance of traditional ways of life. For example, in pre-industrial Britain, generations of families grew up in the same small village communities. These communities had a strong sense of identity, due to their shared customs and beliefs. However, developments in transport, communications and manufacturing led to the dispersal of families and village communities as people moved to the cities in search of work. Nowadays most British villages are inhabited by commuters, many of whom do not know their closest neighbours.

On the other hand, in some parts of the world traditional cultures still thrive. There are tribes in the Amazon Rainforest, for example, that have been completely untouched by the technological developments of the developed world. These tribal communities continue to hunt and gather food from the forest, and traditional skills are passed on to children by parents and elders. Other traditional cultures, such as farming communities in parts of Africa, are embracing communications technologies. Mobile phones give farmers access to information, from weather predictions to market prices, which helps them to prosper and therefore supports their culture.

In conclusion, many traditional ways of life have been lost as a result of advances in technology, but other traditional communities have survived and even flourished.

Some people believe that developments in the field of artificial intelligence will have a positive impact on our lives in the near future. Others, by contrast, are worried that we are not prepared for a world in which computers are more intelligent than humans. Discuss both of these views and give your own opinion.

People seem to be either excited or worried about the future impact of artificial intelligence. Personally I can understand the two opposing points of view; I am both fascinated by developments in artificial intelligence and apprehensive about its possible negative effects.

On the one hand, the increasing intelligence of technology should bring some obvious benefits. Machines are clearly able to do many jobs better than humans can, especially in areas that require high levels of accuracy or calculations using large amounts of data. For example, robots are being developed that can carry out surgical procedures with greater precision than a human doctor, and we already have cars that use sensors and cameras to drive themselves. Such technologies can improve safety by reducing the likelihood of human errors. It is easy to imagine how these developments, and many others, will steadily improve our quality of life.

On the other hand, I share the concerns of people who believe that artificial intelligence may harm us if we are not careful. In the short term, it is likely that we will see a rise in unemployment as workers in various industries are replaced by machines or software programs. For example, self-driving vehicles are expected to cause redundancies in driving jobs, such as lorry drivers, taxi drivers and bus drivers. In the medium term, if intelligent technologies gradually take jobs away from humans, we may find that people become deskilled and lose their sense of purpose in life. A longer term fear is that computers become so intelligent that they begin to make decisions without human oversight and without regard for our well-being.

In conclusion, while intelligent machines will no doubt improve our lives in many ways, the potential risks of such technologies should not be ignored.

Nowadays the way many people interact with each other has changed because of technology. In what ways has technology affected the types of relationships that people make? Has this been a positive or negative development?

It is true that new technologies have had an influence on communication between people. Technology has affected relationships in various ways, and in my opinion there are both positive and negative effects.

Technology has had an impact on relationships in business, education and social life. Firstly, telephones and the Internet allow business people in different countries to interact without ever meeting each other. Secondly, services like Skype create new possibilities for relationships between students and teachers. For example, a student can now take video lessons with a teacher in a different city or country. Finally, many people use social networks, like Facebook, to make new friends and find people who share common interests, and they interact through their computers rather than face to face.

On the one hand, these developments can be extremely positive. Cooperation between people in different countries was much more difficult when communication was limited to written letters or telegrams. Nowadays, interactions by email, phone or video are almost as good as face-to-face meetings, and many of us benefit from these interactions, either in work or social contexts. On the other hand, the availability of new communication technologies can also have the result of isolating people and discouraging real interaction. For example, many young people choose to make friends online rather than mixing with their peers in the real world, and these 'virtual' relationships are a poor substitute for real friendships.

In conclusion, technology has certainly revolutionised communication between people, but not all of the outcomes of this revolution have been positive.

Genetic engineering is an important issue in society today. Some people think that it will improve people's lives in many ways. Others feel that it may be a threat to life on earth. Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.

It is true that genetic engineering is a key area of modern scientific research, with broad implications for all human societies. While I accept that this field of technology may have its dangers, I believe that the benefits of genetic engineering outweigh the drawbacks.

The negative implications of genetic engineering are often discussed in terms of two key areas, which are food production and the cloning of humans. Genetically modified crops are already being grown, and people are concerned that they may damage whole ecosystems as foods become resistant to diseases and natural predators. But perhaps even more worrying is the possibility that humans could be modified or cloned. Some people imagine a world in which cloned humans are used to fight wars or to provide body part replacements. Although perhaps not a threat to life on earth, the implications of such practices would be unprecedented.

A more optimistic prediction, and one that I favour, is that humans will find ways to mitigate the risks and use genetic technologies in a responsible way. From the food production perspective, genetic engineering could be the solution to famine in developing countries, if, for instance, crops can be grown more reliably in harsh conditions. From a medical perspective, scientists may use genetic engineering to produce vaccines, to cure diseases, or to correct a genetic defect before a child is born. If properly regulated, even cloning can be done in a way that improves lives. For example, the cloning of individual organs, such as a heart or kidney, could be permitted for transplant purposes.

In conclusion, I am convinced that genetic engineering will have a positive impact on our lives, and that people's fears will be unwarranted

#### **Has Technology Made Us More Efficient?**

It goes without saying that the development of technologies has had a huge influence on us. In view of this, I am convinced that technologies help us to solve different tasks in far more productive ways.

To begin with, technologies in principle were created to help people solve different tasks faster and better. People face numerous challenges in areas of education, work, health, finance and governance. Many of these tasks are hard and time consuming. And technologies can make such tasks more comfortable. For example, with the help of distance learning we can receive education any time and from anywhere. This allows us to spend time in more efficient ways to learn a few more skills, for instance. Furthermore, technologies improve the quality and speed of our workflow a lot. That is to say calculations that were done by computer are obviously more accurate than those done by humans, because risk of making errors / mistakes is non-existent. Moreover, those tasks that required 1 hour of our time in the past now can be done in just 5 minutes with the help of the computer.

Another argument in favor of my statement is that technologies help us to become more efficient in our communication with other people. We can keep in touch with people regardless of their location by using the internet. In other words, we can promote our social interaction indefinitely.

To conclude, I think that positive influence of technologies on our life is obvious. Technologies not only help us to be efficient at work and study, but also contribute to productive social interaction.

### Some people think that new technology is improving the lives of workers, other say it has more disadvantages. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

In the modern society, technology has become a vital part of every human's life. While some believe that technology advances the lives of individuals who use it, others counter this statement. In my point of view, technology plays an instrumental role in enhancing the productivity of the people and making the work space more comfortable.

There are many benefits to using technology and it has improved our life in various ways. Firstly, technology saves a lot of time for any individual who uses it in day to day life. For example, instead of cleaning dishes manually, people can use a dishwasher which automatically cleans and dries utensils. Consequently, people can use that time for more productive activities.

Secondly, many tasks can be completed effortlessly by using advanced devices. For example, machines can be used instead of manual labour for building residential and commercial complexes. Technology has also made people's lives safer. For example, by installing surveillance cameras, we can protect our homes and offices from intruders.

On the other hand, technology can cause some problems in the society. It has been observed that human beings have become lethargic due to the use of technological automation and lack of manual hard work. Furthermore, technology has made people dependent on it. For example, many people become stressed out when they do not have access to their cell phone or the internet.

To sum up, technology certainly has many positive impacts on people's lives, but it has some negative impacts too. It is the responsibility of people to use technology to their advantage.

Some people believe that technology has made man more social. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this opinion?

Experts throughout both the developing and developed world have debated whether the advent of **sophisticated modern technology** such as mobile phones, laptops and iPad have helped to **enhance and improve people's social lives** or whether the opposite has become the case. Personally, I strongly advocate the former view. This essay will discuss both sides using examples from the UK government and Oxford University to demonstrate points and prove arguments.

On the one hand there is ample, powerful, almost daily evidence that such technology can be detrimental especially to the younger generation who are more easily affected by it's *addictive nature* and which can result in people feeling more *isolated from the society*. The central reason behind this is twofold, firstly, the invention of online social media sites and apps, such as Twitter and Facebook have *reduced crucial face-to-face interactions dramatically*. Through use of these appealing and attractive mediums, people feel in touch and connected yet lack key social skills and the ability to communicate. Secondly, dependence on such devices is built up frighteningly easily which may have a damaging effect on mental health and encourage a sedentary lifestyle. For example, recent scientific research by the UK government demonstrated that 90% of people in their 30s spend over 20 hours per week on Messenger and similar applications to chat with their friends instead of meeting up and spending quality time together or doing sport. As a result, it is conclusively clear that these technology advancements have decreased and diminished our real life interactions.

On the other hand, although there are significant downsides to technological developments, its' multifold advantages cannot be denied. This is largely because the popularity of technology such as cellphones allows people to **connect freely and easily with no geographical barriers**. People are able to share any type of news, information, photos and opinions with their loved ones whenever and wherever they want therefore keeping a feeling of **proximity and closeness**. For example, an extensive study by Oxford University illustrated that people who work, or study abroad and use applications like Facetime and WhatsApp to chat with their families, are less **likely to experience loneliness** and **feel out of the loop** than those who do not. Consistent with this line of thinking is that businessmen are also undoubtedly able to benefit from these advances by holding virtual real -time meetings using Skype which may increase the chance of closing business deals without the need to fly.

From the arguments and examples given I firmly believe that overall communication and mans' sociability has been advanced enormously due to huge the huge technological progress of the past twenty years and despite some potentially serious health implications which governments should not fail to address, it is predicted that its **popularity will continue to flourish** in the future.

Developments in technology are causing environmental problems. Some think the solution is for people to adjust to a simpler life while others believe that technology itself can solve these problems. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

There is no denying the fact that technological development has had a negative impact on the planet. Everything from the air we breathe to the food we eat is contaminated these days due to the use and abuse of various inventions of technology. For example, motor vehicles pollute the air. Pesticides contaminate the food we eat. Some

people believe that the only way to reverse environmental damage caused by technology is to adopt a simple lifestyle. Others insist that technology can undo the damage caused by it. I agree with this view.

To start with, the argument that we all should now live a simpler life devoid of technology is impractical. We are so habituated to having technology in our life that it is now impossible to imagine a world without light bulbs, fans, refrigerators or computers. So, even if technology is causing considerable environmental damage it is impossible to convince people that they should stop using it.

A better solution is to invest in greener technologies that can mitigate much of the environmental damage already done. Scientists have already started working on them. For example, many trains now run on electricity. They cause much less pollution than diesel engines. Electric cars are another promising technology. It is safe to assume that in 10 or 15 years, they will completely replace cars running on fossil fuels. Likewise, greener energy sources like wind and solar may soon replace conventional energy sources like coal.

To conclude, while it is true that technology caused a great deal of damage to the environment, it is also quite capable of finding solutions to the problems it caused. As technology continues to develop, I am sure it will become cleaner and greener. Thus the argument that adopting a simple life is the only way to mitigate environmental damage does not hold much water.

#### Positive and negative effects of technology through mass media

Mass media plays a crucial role in our everyday life, and it is widely used to stay in touch with our near and dear ones and also to communicate messages with our peer groups. In my opinion, mass media does have some demerits, but those are negligible compared to the advantages it brings to our lives.

To begin with, through radio, television and internet programs people can gain knowledge and information on almost every topic. For example, they can find health information, learn about environmental issues and stay updated on science and technology through mass media programmes. The radio, for example, is a major source of information for people living in remote areas. It enables them to stay abreast of the latest developments in the world. If there were no radio, perhaps it would take them weeks or even months to receive national and international news. Television and the internet provide not only entertainment but also knowledge. For example, both children and adults can learn a lot about science, technology, history and wildlife through television channels such as Discovery and National Geographic. Obviously, mass media benefits our lives in numerous ways.

On the flip side, it does have some negative aspects. To start with, mass media can be quite addictive and it is not uncommon for people to spend inordinate amounts of time in front of their television or computer. Unfortunately, this practice hurts their health. It may also affect their social skills because couch potatoes are less likely to go out and interact with others. Another downside is that some content on the television and the internet is not appropriate for children. For example, if children get exposed to violent or obscene visual content, it can affect their behaviour.

In conclusion, the benefits offered by mass media certainly outweigh its downsides. Even so, it is important for users to limit the time spent on electronic devices to limit their exposure to harmful content and to ensure that they stay healthy and socially active.

### Many people are now opting to provide technology companies with their personal data in exchange for access to software. Do the advantages of this outweigh the disadvantages?

A majority of people choose to give software companies access to their personal information so that they can use a software application for free. People can use the software for myriads of fruitful purposes; however, in my opinion, because of the fact that corporations can misuse the private data for their own benefits, the advantages of this practice do not outweigh the disadvantages.

By giving access to information such as email address to a technology company, people can have full right to make use of the application for their indispensable needs. This can make their life more convenient and less laborious. For example, you must allow your camera and photos to be accessed to use Skype, a video calling software. By using this software people can have the benefit of staying connected to their loved ones irrespective of / regardless of their location and distance. However, sometimes people might experience the breach of their confidential information by some agencies. Providing companies access to our personal data can sometimes lead to the infringement of our privacy and security.

Some applications take advantage of the process of accessing information just to gather and exploit it for malicious purposes. For instance, in 2014, Unibic calling application was highly criticized for selling the confidential data of various people to an advertising company in return for a huge amount of money. Therefore, the threat of potential misuse of personal information eclipses the advantages of having free access to an application.

In conclusion, while it is true that people can use the software for numerous important purposes in exchange for their personal information, establishments can misuse the provided data. So, I believe that benefits do not outweigh the drawbacks.

# Some people believe that modern technology is increasing the gap between rich and poor people. While others disagree .Discuss both views and give your opinion.

Technology is advancing by leaps and bounds. Some people believe that the latest technological innovations are widening the gap between the rich and the poor, whereas others disagree with this view. In my opinion, technology does not increase the gap between the rich and the poor; rather it provides several advantages to the poor sections of the society.

It is true that only the rich have access to certain technological innovations. For example, Apple iPhones are expensive devices that only rich people can buy. Actually, these days flaunting an iPhone or some other expensive gadget is the easiest way to show that you are upper class. In this way, technological advancements certainly divide the rich and poor sections of the society.

On the flip side, there are less expensive and dirt cheap alternatives to almost all gadgets. For example, it is possible to buy a mobile phone that has more or less the same features as an iPhone for one-tenth of its price. When it comes to technology price is not always an indicator of quality or functionality. Actually, as technology advances products become cheaper and affordable to all and sundry. For example, almost everyone now owns a mobile phone and uses it for various personal and other purposes. Data plans have become quite cheap and even the poorest can now access the internet on their mobile and benefit from this treasure trove of information. Small farmers, manufacturers and content creators are selling their products and services on the internet and finding buyers all over the world. In fact, technology has created a level playing field and lowered the entry barrier.

To conclude, technological innovations have a positive impact on all sections of the society. While some inventions of technology are still not accessible to the poor, the argument that technology increases the gap between the rich and the poor does not hold much water. In my opinion, rather than widening the gap, cheap modern technology is benefitting the poor by providing them an opportunity to compete with the rich.

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# Eventually, technology will solve the most important environmental problems the world faces today. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Technology is growing by leaps and bounds; every day there is a new innovation that revolutionizes our way of living. There is a general notion that one day technology will help to solve all the problems related to the environment However, in my opinion technology can only guide us or predict the future and all the precautions have to be taken by humans in order to save the environment.

The major problem faced by mankind today is the scarcity of water resources especially the water that is fit for human consumption. Technology can only help purify the water with the help of water filter and other latest technologies. However, it is we who have to use the water judiciously and conserve it in order to make it available for our coming generations. In other words technology can only assist us and ultimately the onus is on us to act.

The other prominent environmental issue nowadays is pollution. Technology is the main factor behind the increase in the level of pollution. For example, the advancement in motor vehicle technology has made it possible for each one of us to afford a car or bike, which in turn has led to sharp increase in air pollution level due to vehicular exhaust. While technology is causing the pollution humans can reduce it by limiting the use of vehicles, planting more trees and making technology more nature friendly.

To conclude, no doubt technology can help us to tackle environmental issues; however, it cannot magically solve all the problems plaguing the planet. Only humans can solve environmental issues caused by human activity.

# Technological and scientific advantages are changing the food people eat. Some believe that these changes can be harmful to the health of the people. Others challenge this. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

Science and technology has penetrated almost all facets of human lives and food industry is not exempted from getting the benefits of this. While some people believe that the changes in the scientifically altered foods are beneficial to the mankind, others assert that they are affecting the health of the people adversely. I certainly agree with the latter viewpoint.

There are many advantages to altering the genetic property of foods. First, to meet the surging demands of the public several produces such as crops, cereals, fruits and vegetables, are genetically modified; consequently, those can be produced in abundance. Besides this, genetic engineering has enabled farmers to grow crops in less time.

Second, the busy lifestyle in the present era compels many people to consume ready to eat meals. Hence, foods are packaged and preserved using scientific methodologies to increase their shelf life so that they can be consumed even months later.

On the other hand, this process raises some concerns as well. To begin with, it has been observed that people experience difficulty in digesting the genetically altered foods. In other words, simple forms of foods are always good for health and easily digestible as compared to the altered foods. For instance, the scientifically modified crop corn creates a lot of digestive problems among people these days. Next, the packaged foods have excess amount of oil, sugar, salt, synthetic chemicals and preservatives which are disastrous to health and this might cause cholesterol, obesity, diabetes and other health hazards.

To recapitulate, there are certainly some valid reasons to scientifically alter the foods we consume; however, considering the potential health consequences that may arise due to this, I am against this practice.

# Nowadays the way many people interact with each other has changed because of technology. In what ways has technology affected the types of relationships people make? Has this become a positive or negative development?

In recent times, technology has changed the ways of communication among the people. This technical innovation led to the development of a new style of interaction between individuals and erased the boundaries across globe. In my opinion, this is beneficial for faster communication and to build a better society.

Most importantly the modern technology has opened many options for people to communicate in a better and a faster way. Because of this modernization, the traditional face to face interactions shifted to an advanced communication technology such as Facebook, WhatsApp and Skype. By using these applications, an individual can convey the message quickly and effectively in business as well as in personal life without any delay. Thus, these apps have made communication more efficient and pass the information across the globe within a fraction of seconds.

Another point to consider is that these hi-tech intercommunication techniques would be helpful for the social causes. An example to consider in this scenario is the fund-raising activity for the people affected by the Hudhud cyclone on Facebook. Due to this cyclone several people became homeless. Previously it was difficult to collect funds from people living in different areas, even though they were willing to donate. Due to the advancement of technology, now we can create a group cause along with internet banking option where people can donate online. Similarly, funds were raised for the above case and used to facilitate a rehabilitation center for the people affected by the Hudhud cyclone.

Finally, automation and technology has changed the patterns of interaction between the people in a positive way by building the newer applications to socialize. This modernization erased the boundaries by making the communication effective and provided different ways to connect people irrespective of distance

In conclusion, this new era of communication via tech apps is advantageous for both people and society. I think this suits the current world more appropriately, where everyone has to race against the time.

More and more businesses as well as individuals are choosing to communicate either professionally or socially using technology rather than being face to face. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of using technology for communicating.

It is an irrefutable fact that the mode of communication has changed enormously with the advent of the internet. People prefer to use different technologies while communicating instead of having a face to face conversation. This essay will explain the positive and negative aspects of online communication.

One of the most important advantages of using technology is that it helps to cross the geographical barrier. For instance, a person sitting in India can contact his European clients instantly using email or Skype. This can be beneficial for the expansion of his business as he can interact with people from all over the world. Moreover, this way of interaction helps to reduce a lot of overheads like travel expenses and the cost incurred for setting up a meeting destination.

On the flip side, excessive dependence on communication technologies has its own disadvantages. To begin with, people lose the personal connect / connection when they refrain from face to face communication. This can make them feel lonely and depressed as they are devoid of social life and it can have a detrimental effect on their mental health. Furthermore, chances of fraud increase when we converse via phone or email, as we cannot verify the physical identity of the person we are interacting / conversing with.

To conclude, though technology has made communication easier and more convenient, there are numerous disadvantages as well if it is used excessively. So the mode of communication should be chosen judiciously taking into account several factors such as distance and time.

Some people think that recent innovations in technology have made life more comfortable and helped us to be more efficient by saving us time, while others argue that technology has made us less efficient.

Technology has been around for quite some time, but the pace at which it developed in recent years has both startled and surprised people. Nowadays, new and improved gadgets hit the market almost every day. In a couple of weeks they become outdated and are replaced by even more sophisticated ones.

It is true that technological innovations have made our lives more comfortable. It is now hard to imagine a life without such appliances as refrigerators, vacuum cleaners and washing machines. The advent of computers changed the way we process and access information. Mobile phones help people to stay connected all the time. And with internet, we can access a limitless pool of information from the comforts of our home. Indeed, technology has not only made our lives more comfortable, but also become an integral part of it.

On the other hand, technology can cause a great deal of stress to people who are overly dependent on it. Now that internet and cell phones allow people to stay connected all the time, there is no escaping from one's work. People carry their phones around and can't help checking their emails even when they are on a vacation. Worse still, too much reliance on technology can make us less efficient. Now many people don't even bother to remember their own telephone number. They expect their computers and cellphones to remember everything for them. This makes their brain idle.

What's more, when technology gets more and more sophisticated day by day it is not easy to keep pace with it. Many modern cellphones, computers and cameras boast of complicated features that ordinary users cannot understand. People often have to spend a great deal of time learning how to use the most recent gadgets. By the time, they had figured out how to use a particular device, a more sophisticated one would have hit the market.

In conclusion, technological innovations make lives more comfortable. However, I don't think that they make us more efficient because most of us who handle these devices do not have the technical expertise to do it. Unless we learn to use these devices properly, they are unlikely to make us more efficient.

#### Life was better when technology was simpler. To what extent do you agree and disagree?

It is argued that our lives were more fulfilling when technology was less advanced. This essay disagrees with this statement and believes that computers and the internet have made life better. The essay will first discuss how smartphones save us time and then talk about how the internet has improved education, followed by a reasoned conclusion.

New phones, such as the iPhone, have made our daily lives much less laborious and give us more free time. Jobs that required lots of energy and time can now be done at the touch of a button. For example, if we wanted to communicate with one another in the past, we had to write a letter, take it to the post office and then wait for it to be delivered, whereas these days we can simply tap the email icon on our touch screen and send a message in seconds.

The internet has also enriched our lives by providing us with more information than we could ever need, thus making us more independent and effective learners. In the past students had to rely on a teacher or physical books for their education and these were often either unavailable or in a format that most people did not want, but now we can pick and choose what we want to learn. For example, there are now thousands of free online courses available on YouTube that anyone can watch and learn from anywhere in the world.

In conclusion, life has been improved by technological advancements, particularly labour saving devices like phones and learning opportunities provided by the internet.

Nowadays the way people interact with each other has changed because of technology. In what ways has technology affected the types of relationships people make? Has this become a positive or negative development?

Modern advancements have altered the way we communicate with one another. This essay will discuss how we can now form bonds with people all over the world, and then state that on the whole, this is a very welcome development.

For the first time in human history, people can communicate with someone they have never met before, in a country they have never been to, through the internet. These may not be the same kind of friendships we traditionally form face-to-face, but it is hard to dispute that they are not 'relationships'. Social media, such as Facebook and Instagram, provide a platform that allows us to chat and comment on someone else's life instantaneously. For example, there are now IELTS groups on Facebook where students can help and support each other by providing helpful resources and feedback on essays.

Overall, this new phenomenon has great benefits, principally encouraging tolerance of other cultures. Before computers we hardly ever came across someone from another culture, let alone people from a myriad of different places in one Facebook group. This has led to people understanding that we are all mostly the same and you should not judge someone because they were born in a different place. For example, thousands of Palestinians and Israelis have joined the same online groups that show support for peace and solidarity, something that would not have been possible 25 years ago.

In conclusion, the web has changed our interactions forever, making the world a global village where people can freely chat and form lasting connections and this essay only sees this as a good thing that will continue to bring citizens of the world together.

Giving lectures in auditoriums to large numbers of students is an old way of teaching. With the technology available today there is no justification for it, and everything should be done online. To what extent do you agree or disagree? Give your own opinion.

It is argued that teaching in lecture halls to large numbers of students is outdated and that instead, these should take place exclusively on the internet. This essay disagrees with the above statement. The essay will first discuss how interaction between students and teachers is essential to the learning process, followed by a discussion of how demotivating learning online can be.

Learning via computer may be convenient, but it stops students and teachers actually talking to each other about their subject. Pupils need to ask the teacher questions in order to fully understand the material and they also need to talk about the topic to help them remember and fully understand it. For example, the School of Law at Queen's University allows students to question the professor at the end of each lecture and then they have a seminar in which learners can debate each topic, resulting in some of the best exam results in the UK.

Presenting lectures solely online also presents the problem of students not being motivated to watch them. It would be very difficult to know who actually viewed the lecture and if students know this, it is likely to result in more

people not watching and not being fully prepared for the exam at the end of the course. For instance, Udemy, the online learning company, found that only 12% of people who purchased their online courses actually watched all the videos and completed the online tasks, principally due to lack of supervision. In conclusion, exclusively online lectures are a bad idea because they do not allow face-to-face communication and they can lead to a drop-off in student attendance.

The threat of nuclear weapons maintains world peace. Nuclear power provides cheap and clean energy. The benefits of nuclear technology far outweigh the disadvantages. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

It is often argued that nuclear arsenals keep the world safe and that nuclear energy is an inexpensive and environmentally friendly source of power. This essay totally disagrees that these benefits outweigh the drawbacks because the downsides are the eradication of mankind and the destruction of the planet.

Believing that major powers having nuclear warheads pointed at one another is a good thing because it ensures super powers will not go to war is foolish. This is because it only takes one mistake or a rogue commander to trigger a nuclear conflict and this is a conflict most of us would not survive. For example, during the Cuban Missile Crisis the United States and the USSR came extremely close to launching their missiles and this demonstrates that they are not actually the ultimate deterrent and nuclear war is possible.

The idea that nuclear fission is a clean source of energy has been dispelled by numerous high profile accidents at nuclear power plants. These disasters show just how harmful and long lasting a leak of nuclear material can be and the contamination is not worth it when other sources of energy are available. For example, the Fukushima disaster has polluted huge parts of the Pacific Ocean and it has been reported that fish as far away as California have dangerous levels of radiation. To make matters worse, solar and wind energy could replace nuclear energy tomorrow if there was the political will to do so.

In conclusion, this essay disagrees with the opinion that nuclear technology is beneficial rather than dangerous because the consequences of using nuclear energy in the wrong way are so catastrophic to both our species and the Earth itself.

# Some people think high-end technology can prevent and cut-down the rate of committing crimes. Do you agree or disagree?

Technological advancements have had influence on every aspect of life. Some people believe that the state-of-the-art technology has reduced the occurrence of crime. I completely agree with this view.

Emphatically, over the past two decades enough work is done in the field of science and technology to safeguard the citizens. To begin with, safety of women always remains top priority for law enforcement agencies and is addressed to a large extent by designing location sharing applications. Women can share SOS messages to police as well as near-ones in case of danger and can be rescued. Secondly, we have enormous cutting-edge technologies that act as a deterrent for people to commit crime as they are afraid of getting caught during police investigations. For instance, lie-detectors, narco analysis, phone recording, forensic science, surveillance camera and many more have solved

many baffling cases immediately sending rogue offenders behind the bars. Such speedy redressal of crime prevents devious people with mala fide intensions from committing offense.

Furthermore, information technology department has extended their vigilance over online hackers, and extremists active on social media. The cyber crime department across the globe share information within no time to prevent online hacking, and to trace the location of hackers. They also prevent anti-social elements from spreading malice / ill will. Last but not least, surveillance camera, burglar alarms, and many more dented the confidence of burglars to execute theft. Even stolen mobile phones could be tracked if it has tracking application installed in it.

In a nutshell, latest advancements in gizmos and science play a major role as crime rate is constantly on decline. The future will be more peaceful and safe for all.

# Many people are now opting to provide technology companies with their personal data in exchange for access to software. Do the advantages of this outweigh the disadvantages?

A majority of people choose to give software companies access to their personal information so that they can use a software application for free. People can use the software for myriads of fruitful purposes; however, in my opinion, because of the fact that corporations can misuse the private data for their own benefits, the advantages of this practice do not outweigh the disadvantages.

By giving access to information such as email address to a technology company, people can have full right to make use of the application for their indispensable needs. This can make their life more convenient and less laborious. For example, you must allow your camera and photos to be accessed to use Skype, a video calling software. By using this software people can have the benefit of staying connected to their loved ones irrespective of / regardless of their location and distance. However, sometimes people might experience the breach of their confidential information by some agencies. Providing companies access to our personal data can sometimes lead to the infringement of our privacy and security.

Some applications take advantage of the process of accessing information just to gather and exploit it for malicious purposes. For instance, in 2014, Unibic calling application was highly criticized for selling the confidential data of various people to an advertising company in return for a huge amount of money. Therefore, the threat of potential misuse of personal information eclipses the advantages of having free access to an application.

In conclusion, while it is true that people can use the software for numerous important purposes in exchange for their personal information, establishments can misuse the provided data. So, I believe that benefits do not outweigh the drawbacks.

Art and music are considered by some as the fundamental elements of all societies. Do you think art and music still have a place in today's modern world of technology? Should children spend more time in learning art and music at school?

Every society considers art and music as the core components of their culture. In my opinion, the importance of art and music has only increased in this age of technology and hence students should be urged to learn them.

We are living in increasingly stressful times. Of course, technology has made our lives easier. It has created new industries and jobs that did not exist previously. However, technology has also introduced stress into our lives. Most people now have demanding jobs that drain out their energy. Art and music enable them to relax their mind and stay tuned to the rhythm of life after a hectic day at work.

Another reason art still maintains its relevance is that it unites people. Technology is a double edged sword. It can both connect and divide people. Miscreants use technology to promote their divisive agenda. In this troubled times people need something to unite them and art does that job perfectly. It is a common interest that we all share. For example, Indian music and art have a history of thousands of years and they have played an amazing role in uniting the country and its people over the course of history. Indians everywhere are proud of their musical traditions and brilliant sculptures and carving adorning their temples, palaces and monuments. Without these elements of culture, it is not possible to unite a heterogeneous mix of over a billion people.

As for the reasons to encourage students to learn art and music, despite the fact that we are living in a technology driven world, art is still a coveted career option. Music is known to soothe human minds and is widely integrated with every modern infotainment devices. In addition, now music therapy is used to relieve people of their stress and anxiety without any side-effects. I firmly believe that art and music are crucial disciplines even today and hence parents must encourage their children to learn them in depth. Even a general learning of these subjects is known to increase students' proficiency in other academic subjects.

In conclusion, art and music have always been appreciated throughout the world and their popularity remains intact even today. Hence, it is recommended that children learn these subjects as they make them smarter and may also lead to a prosperous career.

# Earlier technological developments brought more benefits than recent technological developments. To what extent do you agree?

It is believed that the primitive advancements in technology are comparatively more beneficial than the ones in the modern era. However, I am not convinced of perception and strongly opine that latest inventions are more advantageous to general public.

The first merit of contemporary technological developments is their easy affordability. Due to mass production policies, the cost of various commodities dropped considerably. Owing to this, people can easily afford these at competitive prices. Mobile phone is a primary example as it is now accessible / affordable to almost every individual which was not possible earlier.

Secondly, convenience is another positive aspect of modern technology. With the help of research and development centres, the bulky parts of machines have been replaced with lighter yet stronger material. As a result, it is easier to carry them from one place to another. Modern computers, for example, are sleek and speedy in comparison to earlier room sized scientific computers.

Thirdly, the modern technology is more eco-friendly and durable than its older versions. Subtle modifications and up-gradations make the products more environment friendly by reducing their emissions. To exemplify, latest steel manufacturing units set up by Tata group produces approximately seventy percent less carbon dioxide than the earlier machines. In this way environment can be protected from the harmful emissions produced by the use of technology.

To conclude, new improvements in technology have proved to have greater positive impacts on the environment and the society than older ones.

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# When a country develops its technology, the traditional skills and ways of life die out. It is pointless to try and keep them alive. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this opinion?

Technology today has evolved so much that it has had a huge impact on traditional ways of living and working. Many old fashioned jobs and practices have already become extinct and some people argue that there is no point in trying to revive them. I totally agree with this view.

As stated above, technology has caused / has led to rapid changes which have resulted in machines replacing men at work. A job that required 100 men before the advent of industrialisation can now be performed by just one machine, its operator and a handful of people who maintain that machine.

In addition, companies have stated to make huge profits as machines do not get tired as humans do and there is only little expense involved in their maintenance. All this has resulted in loss of jobs; however, this decline in employment opportunity is only seen in the un-skilled sector. According to a survey conducted by various institutes for the years 1970-2000, technological advancement has affected 75% of un-skilled jobs and only 10% of skilled jobs. Furthermore, there is an increase in the number of skilled jobs and new sectors have come into existence during this

period creating 30 million jobs every year. Obviously, there is no point in making policies to preserve the jobs which are bound to vanish with the time.

I would like to conclude that although technological changes have resulted in the loss of some jobs it also generated new job opportunities thus no effort is required from the law makers to save what are to be gone. In the end, "where there is an end there is a new beginning".

### Leisure is a growing industry. Nowadays, more of modern technology is used in entertainment, which may lead people to be less creative. Do you agree or disagree? State your view with examples.

The entertainment industry is increasingly becoming popular around the world and usage of new technology in this field has changed it a lot. I do not agree with the argument that the use of technology will reduce the creativity of the people. I will prove my stand with valid arguments in this essay.

First and foremost, people are becoming more creative by applying technology in a leisure industry like cinema. They can put their ideas and imagination in movies through different software and devices. To illustrate, the famous Hollywood movie "Avtar" depicts the creative thinking of the writer which cannot be executed without the use of new technology. Hence, application of new types of software, web designing, and graphics helps us to become more creative and execute our creative ideas more efficiently.

In addition to this, theme parks, kids game zones, and art galleries are using different tech-related equipment and devices to enhance the creative ability of the youth. There are various art galleries which conduct digital painting events for visitors to showcase and discover their creative talent. Kids zones are converting games and sports into a digitalized form which otherwise required rare and expensive equipment. These games can be played on a computer desktop to learn and enhance creativity among children which was not possible before. According to research conducted by Harvard university due to the availability of technologically innovative games in various parks, children are now familiar with a lot more games than in the past. So, it helps to increase the learning and creative ability of children.

In conclusion, after analysing the situation it is not hard to see that application of technology in the leisure industry has enhanced the creativity and artistic ability among people around the world.

### Scientists and technology experts seem to be more valued by modern society than musicians and artists. To what extent do you agree?

Nowadays, talent is given high level of importance. Some people believe that musicians and other artists are given less importance than those engaged in research and development. I completely disagree with the argument that only scientists and engineers are well known and respected by the people worldwide.

Firstly, let us discuss why only highly educated professionals like scientists, doctors or engineers are considered as important people. These people hold professional degree which is highly acclaimed worldwide. In order to earn these academic degrees they have to undergo hardship and rigorous studies. For example to become a doctor or engineer, one needs to clear multiple entrance exams and then has to invest several years in studying and gaining the professional knowledge.

Overall due to their constant hard work and dedication they become skilled professionals, and hence receive /enjoy high social status. On the other hand, nowadays talent is not judged on the basis of only academic studies or education. In today's world individuals like musicians and painters are given equal opportunities and platforms to showcase their talents and qualities. There have been numerous television channels and shows like "India has got talent" which are engaged in promoting such talents to a wider audience. Nowadays children are not supposed to be engrossed in studies alone; they are also encouraged to take their natural skills or talent seriously. On the whole, we see many not-so-educated but talented individuals enjoying the same fame and social status as other educated professionals.

To conclude, even today some people think that in order to gain high status in the society one needs to be highly educated and knowledgeable. Although education is an important factor to be popular and successful in today's world, natural talent and qualities are also given equal importance.

# Many people are now opting to provide technology companies with their personal data in exchange for access to software. Do the advantages of this outweigh the disadvantages?

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# Some people think that new technologies benefit the life of workers whereas some deny the statement. Discuss both sides and give your opinion.

The unprecedented developments in the field of science and technology have changed lives dramatically. While some people are of the opinion that technological advancements have improved the life of workers, others think that they have led to unexpected problems. In this essay, I will discuss both sides of the argument and express my opinion.

Initially when people were introduced to technology, they were told/ informed that the development was made for everyone's betterment. However, the situation changed over the years and machines started replacing humans leading to unemployment.

Computers are a classic example of this situation because many people have lost their jobs with the invasion of computers. Furthermore, machines also reduced physical activity among their users which made them lethargic and prone to illnesses. People started looking for more convenient options and started depending on machines for easing their lives.

On the other hand, there have been some advancements too that proved to be a boon like the invention of emails. Emails changed the way business and commerce used to operate. With the day to day communication getting quicker and inexpensive, every industry adopted it. The only reason why globalisation was possible was due to email operations. For instance, as per a recent survey by "the Telegraph" newspaper, the introduction of emails in every sector helped foreign brands enter Indian market and expand.

To conclude, after discussing both sides of the argument in detail, it is not hard to say that advancement in technology has not proved to be advantageous for everyone. People have become more sluggish and lazier. In fact, some people have even lost their livelihood because of advances in technology.

# Nowadays the way many people interact with each other has changed because of technology. In what ways has technology affected personal relationships? Has this become a positive or negative development?

Advancements in technology have changed the way we interact with one another. People often debate whether this development has any negative impact on relationships. In my opinion, although technology has some negative aspects, its impact on our lives has been largely positive. The most important benefit of advanced communication tools is that they enable us to receive instant replies from the other person.

Earlier, people had to wait for a longer time to get reply from the other person. However, with the advances of technology, an individual can communicate from any corner of the world without any interference or dependency on others. For example, the postman used to take days to deliver messages from sender to receiver because that message had to physically travel from its source to the destination. However, same message could be delivered instantly to the other person through digital applications like WhatsApp and Skype.

On the other hand, there is an argument that new age technologies have made people less sociable. They do not interact with their family members or neighbours because they are busy communicating with their virtual friends on Facebook or Twitter. This is certainly an alarming development. Even so, these applications help people to remain in contact with each other even if they are located in faraway places. Using services like Facebook or Instagram, we can keep ourselves updated about the happenings in the lives This is because these platforms provide all the updates about the individual events in life like birthday, hobbies and many others, and these offer an opportunity to the people to interact with one another. By contrast, this was not possible in earlier years, because as a human one cannot remember every aspect of others' life. Hence, these technologies have brought people closer than before.

In conclusion, new communication tools have certainly made people less sociable; however, they also allow us to stay in constant touch with our near and dear ones wherever they may be. In my opinion, if these tools are used responsibly they are a boon to mankind.

# The crime rate nowadays is decreasing compared to the past due to advances in technology which can prevent and solve crime. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Owing to the technological innovations that aid in solving the crime quickly, in the recent days people are witnessing a drastic reduction in the incidence of crime compared to the past .In my opinion I agree with this view as technology helps in saving time by enabling the sharing of information about offenders and by helping to monitor crimes that are about to happen.

There is no scepticism about the fact the recent advancements in the field of computer technology aids in the sharing of information at a rapid pace. What I mean is that digitalisation of the criminal records and other important data about crimes across the globe has enabled state authorities to track the offenders and maintain the law and order. To illustrate this, Interpol is an international organisation that maintains digital data about international drug cartel and mafia leaders which enables every state to trace such criminals without difficulty and thereby take action with sufficient evidence. Furthermore, technology certainly helps to prevent crimes that are about to happen. To be more precise, if people are aware of being monitored, not only will they obey the rules but also refuse to get involved in such crimes. A good example of this is that the installation of speed cameras with continuous monitoring facilities has curtailed the traffic crimes dramatically across major cities in India.

Lastly, technology helps to control crime by raising awareness among the public. In other words ,police personnel use mass media and the internet not only as an effective medium to communicate but also to raise awareness about cybercriminals and their style of doing fraudulent activities. A clear example of this is the effective awareness campaign about online hackers which resulted in a drop in complaints related to stealing of personal banking information.

To sum up in my opinion I strongly contend that technical inventions definitely have a supplementary role in curbing crime by raising awareness and monitoring.

# Some people think high end technology can prevent and cut down the rate of committing crime. Do you agree or disagree?

Increasing crime rate is an alarming threat to any society in the world. Some people say that with the use of advanced technology, crime can be decreased. However, I disagree with this statement. In my opinion crime rate seems to increase with the help of technology in the form of cyber crimes

Firstly, it is undeniable that technology has helped countries remarkably in various sectors, but in terms of cutting crime it is still not effective. Even after installing cameras on streets and in public places, crime rate increased substantially in the last few years. Nowadays, more criminal activities are occurring with the help of technology. For example, in New Zealand in February 2019, an Australian youngster attacked a Muslim temple while live streaming it on Facebook. This incident shook the whole world as crime had taken a totally different meaning with the use of technology.

Secondly, apart from murders and robberies, crimes over the internet have also increased. Nowadays, hacking personal information has become easier than ever before with the help of technology. For instance in 2010, most of the cell phones in the US got a scam message that they had won 250 dollars from JB Hi-Fi and to access that they need to click on the link given. It was one of the biggest scam, as by clicking on the link most of the people gave access to their banking details to the hackers and lost big amounts of money.

To sum up, crime rate is still rising despite technological advancement. The government needs to take charge and make some strict rules rather than relying on technology to curb the crime.

Nowadays technology is increasing being used to monitor what people are saying and doing (for example, through cellphone tracking and security cameras). In many cases, the people being monitored are unaware that this is happening. Do you think the advantages of this development outweigh the disadvantages?

Thanks to advance in technology, authorities can now keep a constant watch on their citizens. While it is true that the people being watched are often unaware of this happening, in my opinion, the benefits of this practice outweigh the disadvantages.

The public places in majority of the metropolitan cities are kept under round the clock monitoring with the help of security cameras. The constant vigilance on the densely crowded areas, not only limits the chance of any untoward incidents from taking place but also provides security intelligence in case of any suspicious activity happening. The culprits can be brought to book, with the help of available video evidence. The tracking of non-physical activities like internet usage and cellular phone messages is also possible with the help of available technology. A constant watch on the cyber activity provides vital information about any security threats to a particular country and with the help of tracking these activities can be neutralized before taking place.

Although the constant information gathered helps in the public safety, at times it can cause severe problems to the individual citizens. Sensitive information like bank records or property details if fallen into the hands of criminals can lead to cyber crimes. With the current day technology, money from one person's account can be transferred to criminals' account with this information. The tracking of internet usage can also casue inconvinience to the people. Telemarketing agencies target the people based on the information gathered through the cyber activity of people and call them and make phone calls to them without consent. These calls might happen during important working hours leading to decreased productivity.

To conclude, constant surviellence provides a safety net to the citizens and country, although there is a danger of confidential information getting leaked to cyber criminals.

# Eventually, technology will solve the most important environmental problems the world faces today. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Technology is growing by leaps and bounds; every day there is a new innovation that revolutionizes our way of living. There is a general notion that one day technology will help to solve all the problems related to the environment However, in my opinion technology can only guide us or predict the future and all the precautions have to be taken by humans in order to save the environment.

The major problem faced by mankind today is the scarcity of water resources especially the water that is fit for human consumption. Technology can only help purify the water with the help of water filter and other latest technologies. However, it is we who have to use the water judiciously and conserve it in order to make it available for our coming generations. In other words technology can only assist us and ultimately the onus is on us to act.

The other prominent environmental issue nowadays is pollution. Technology is the main factor behind the increase in the level of pollution. For example, the advancement in motor vehicle technology has made it possible for each one of us to afford a car or bike, which in turn has led to sharp increase in air pollution level due to vehicular

exhaust. While technology is causing the pollution humans can reduce it by limiting the use of vehicles, planting more trees and making technology more nature friendly.

To conclude, no doubt technology can help us to tackle environmental issues; however, it cannot magically solve all the problems plaguing the planet. Only humans can solve environmental issues caused by human activity.

# Modern technology has made our lives more complicated. Some people believe that we should do without modern technology and live a simpler life. Do you agree or disagree?

The way we live today is significantly different from the way our forefathers lived fifty or sixty years ago. Thanks to modern technology, today we have got just about every amenity we need to live a comfortable life. Some people believe that modern technology has made our lives more complicated. They are of the opinion that we should learn to do away with it. Is that possible? Let's examine.

Modern technology might have made our lives more complicated, but one has got to admit that it has improved our lives in several other ways. For example, cars and buses have made commuting easier. Electricity has literally brightened our lives. Air conditioning has made summer months tolerable. Cell phones and internet make it possible to stay connected wherever we are. Home appliances are a boon for homemakers. Technology has also considerably improved our productivity.

On the flip side, technology has made our lives complicated too. There is no escaping from the always-on connectivity. Before the advent of cellphones and internet, taking a break was a whole lot easier. People just had to pack their bags and go to the place they like to unwind. Now that cellphone terminals are available in virtually every part of the world, people can never escape from their work or problems. Even when they are on a family vacation, few people can resist the temptation to check their work email. This need to stay constantly connected has only made our lives more stressful. Modern technology has also made us physically inactive and prone to develop several lifestyle diseases.

Does that mean that we should do without modern technology? Well, it is not as easy as it sounds. Technology is addictive. It is not easy to live without the technological innovations we are used to enjoying. Can anybody now think of a world where we don't have access to electricity or telephone? The truth is that we can't.

After analyzing the situation it is felt that though modern technology has made our lives more complicated, it is not something that we can do without. What we need to do is to use it responsibly.

# Nowadays, the way many people interact with each other has changed because of technology. In what ways has technology affected the types of relationships people make? Has this become a positive or negative development?

Recent technological innovations have affected the way people communicate with each other. These technological tools have been proved to be extremely useful for families living abroad as well as businesses. Even though these are a few drawbacks associated with the use of technology, this is largely a positive development.

It is much easier these days to get in touch with the family members who live abroad. This was not the case in the past. For instance, these days Skype and Facebook are used to make calls to family or friends overseas and this has made life convenient and hassle free. In the past, people used to write letters and had to wait for a long time for them to be delivered. So, the technological gadgets such as smart phones and the internet help save one's precious time. Also, these technological advances have helped businesses flourish by allowing / enabling employees to stay connected with one another. For example, emails can be sent to the colleagues and this helps boost productivity as time is not wasted on unnecessary tasks. All this has revolutionized the business sector.

On the flip side, there are a few negative aspects related to the use of technology. For instance, the practice of making relationships or friendships online is fraught with dangers because people often assume fake identities and hide facts about themselves. Teenagers are often affected by this negative trend. For instance statistics reveal that around 8% of people hide their actual identities on Facebook. Since there is no face to face interaction, it can lead to potentially dangerous outcomes.

To conclude, technology has definitely made it easier for people and businesses to communicate with one another. Whether it is good or bad depends upon how we use it. It is recommended that people exercise caution when they make relationships online.

# Should humans adapt to technology or should technology be adapted to us? Is technology making us intellectually weaker or more intelligent?

Whether the development of modern technology should be permitted to advance unhindered, or improved only with specific regard to human need, is a contentious issue. Since learning to use new technologies strengthens intellect, I believe that new devices should be developed without limits in order to challenge people.

The achievements of humanity over the last century have only been made possible by the development of modern technology. Driven by the need to discover, people have created countless innovations in fields such as electronics, medicine and engineering which have improved the lives of billions. Additionally, many key discoveries throughout history were made while investigating something else entirely, such as with penicillin or the microwave oven. Establishing controls over what may or may not be investigated could therefore severely limit new discoveries.

This style of innovation also provides intellectual benefits for both the inventor and the consumer, since both must work hard in order to either create or use the new device. A constant flow of new discoveries maintains mental stimulation amongst those who choose to make use of them. The computer, for example, has enabled humans to achieve remarkable things, but only after we adapted our behaviour and learned to use it fully. Also, those people who have maintained a good degree of computer literacy are now able to seek the best professional opportunities, which is further known to be intellectually beneficial.

In conclusion, I believe that technology should be allowed to develop freely and that humans should adapt their behaviour to emerging discoveries. This will keep us intellectually strong and ensure that the maximum good can come from scientific endeavour.