Ques type 1
Indicators of standard of living

The Digital Divide

When people talk about standard of living, they are often referring to a level of material comfort measured by the goods, services, and luxuries available to a person, group, or nation—factors beyond the GDP-based measurement of standard of living. Some of these indicators include the following:

- Average number of calories consumed per person per day
- Availability of clean drinking water
- Average life expectancy
- Literacy rate
- Availability of basic freedoms
- Number of people per doctor
- Infant mortality rate
- Crime rate
- Rate of home ownership
- Availability of educational opportunities

Another indicator of standard of living is the availability of information and communications technology. The digital divide is a term used to describe the gulf between those who do and those who don't have access to modern information and communications technology, such as cell phones, smart phones, personal computers, and the Internet.

- There are roughly 2.4 billion Internet users worldwide, but the worldwide distribution of Internet users varies greatly from region to region. The digital divide exists from country to country and even within countries—
- among age groups,
- economic classes,
- people who live in cities versus those in rural areas.

For example, in India, while 20 percent of urban Indians are connected to the Internet, only 3 percent of rural Indians are connected. In the United States, Hispanics and African Americans, adults living in poor households, and senior citizens are least likely to have Internet access.

High-low Internet penetration by country within region

Region	Country with highest internet penetration	% of population	Country with lowest internet penetration	% of population
Africa	Morocco	51%	Ethiopia	1%
America	Falkland Island	96%	Belize	23%
Asia	South Korea	82%	Myanmar	1%
Europe	Monaco	100%	Kosovo	20
Middle East	Qatar	86%	Iraq	7%
Oceania/Australia	Australia	89%	Papua New Guinea	2%

Ques type 2
Mobile Phone: The Tool to Bridge the Digital Divide explain

Mobile Phone: The Tool to Bridge the Digital Divide

Some industry observers identify the increasing use of cell phones as an important first step in bridging the digital divide in many countries. The rapid and widespread use of cell phones has resulted in an increased investment in the infrastructure required to support wireless communications. In addition, as cell phone use has spread, financial institutions and other organizations have built applications capable of accepting text-based input to process user transactions and store cash or credits on users' phones.

In almost all countries, many more people have access to cell phones than they do computers. Cell phones have several advantages over personal computers, including the following:

Ques type 3
advantages of mobile phone, tool to bridge the digital divide

- Cell phones come in a wide range of capabilities and costs, but are cheaper than personal computers. Some users simply purchase a SIM card (essentially a memory chip that holds the owner's account information, including his or her phone number and contacts information), and then swap SIM cards in and out of a shared cell phone to lower the costs even further.
- Cell phones are more portable and convenient than the smallest laptop computer.
- Cell phones come with an extended battery life (much longer than any personal computer battery), which makes the cell phone more reliable in regions where access to electricity is inadequate or nonexistent.
- There is almost no learning curve required to master the use of a cell phone.
- Basic cell phones require no costly or burdensome applications that must be loaded and updated.
- There are essentially no technical-support challenges to overcome when using a cell phone.