Resources:

* <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/report-on-business/rob-commentary/cryptocurrencys-crash-is-a-matter-of-when-not-if/article37257013/>
* <http://www.bbc.com/news/business-42237432>

Questions (Bitcoin):

1. List two ways that “cryptocurrencies” (e.g. Bitcoin) are different from traditional currencies (money).

It is worth more and it is tangible.

1. List three types of organizations / people that “cryptocurrencies” favor.

Large corporations and Brand-name businesses. Criminals and individuals that move their assets from countries.

1. Is Bitcoin truly anonymous? How could someone find out your identity?

Each transaction is associated with the senders and receivers Bitcoin wallet address

1. What is a Bitcoin “miner”?

A Bitcoin miner is a person is a person that compiles recent transactions into blocks and tries to solve complicated puzzles. Bitcoin mining is the process of adding transaction records to Bitcoin's public ledger of past transactions or blockchain.

1. How is Bitcoin bad for the environment?

Bitcoins are "mined" by computers in vast data centers that guzzle huge amounts of energy.

1. What are some advantages of Bitcoin over traditional money or services such as PayPal?

Less volatile than cash as Bitcoin has a global acceptance and is less volatile than cash or currency. Due to this feature, it becomes easier to conduct transactions across boundaries and online.

Great tool for investment as it can be used all over the world without going through a conversion process. It is considered at a level with Gold and combines the best of cash gold while providing an open market and no restrictions imposed by banks or governments.

Great way of maintaining records for tax purposes as once transferred, a bitcoins’ ownership also gets transferred. This means that two people cannot be transacting on the same value and this will help keep records healthy and simpler, especially for tax purposes.

There are no boundaries to Bitcoin or cryptocurrency. No exchange values and no third party interventions. Bitcoin allows seamless transactions across nations with a ledger getting maintained at the backend.

1. What are some disadvantages of Bitcoin.

There is no buyer protection as when goods are bought using Bitcoins, and if the seller doesn’t send the goods, nothing can be done to reverse the transaction. This problem can be solved using a third party escrow service like ClearCoin, but then, escrow services would assume the role of banks, which would cause Bitcoins to be similar to a more traditional currency.

Wallets/Transactions Can Be Lost If a hard drive crashes, or a virus corrupts data. As when the wallet file is corrupted, Bitcoins have essentially been lost. There is nothing that can done to recover it. These coins will be forever gone in the system. The coins the investor owned will also be permanently gone.

There are a lot of risk on unknown technical flaws as the Bitcoin system could contain unexploited flaws. As this is a fairly new system, if Bitcoins were adopted widely, and a flaw was found, it could give tremendous wealth to the exploiter at the expense of destroying the Bitcoin economy.

There is no physical form of what is being given or done. Since Bitcoins do not have a physical form, it cannot be used in physical stores. It would always have to be converted to other currencies. Cards with Bitcoin wallet information stored in them have been proposed, but there is no particular system. Since there would be multiple competing systems, merchants would find it hard support all Bitcoin cards, and therefore users would be forced to convert Bitcoins anyway, unless a universal system is created.

There is no valuation guaranteed since there is no central authority governing Bitcoins, no one can guarantee its minimum valuation. If a large group of merchants decide to dump Bitcoins and leave the system, its valuation will decrease greatly which will immensely hurt users who have a large amount of wealth invested in Bitcoins. The nature of Bitcoin is either hot or miss sometimes.

Questions (Mobile Payment):

1. Explain how you could use social media to make payments for things you buy in the store.

There are many apps such as Apple Pay, Google Wallet, Venmo, LoopPay, Square Cash, etc… That can provide an easy transaction linked from your phone to those payments.

1. List some ways that social media payments are a positive thing.

Security: One of the amazing and powerful features of Mobile Payment is security. While doing transaction with mobile you don’t have to reveal your card information or any personal detail like it usually happens in case of credit cards. No one will get to know your personal data unless one is having your mobile device and PIN or your fingerprint.

Privacy: Mobile Payments provide you secure and confidential transactions. Mobile payments companies doesn’t store any information like whom you are sending money, how much transaction has been done and more.

Mobile payment is easy to use The mobile-payment options available today basically all work the same way. You enter your credit card or debit card info into an app ahead of time. Then, at a store, you launch the app and have the cashier scan it, or you tap your phone.

Some retailers have their own apps. Other systems let you pay at multiple retailers such as for Google Wallet and Apple Pay. The process is particularly seamless as at a store, the phone wakes up automatically, and you simply wave or tap it at the register, then approve a purchase with your thumbprint.

Speed: Mobile payments are very fast.

* Really convenient and efficient to have all cash on a device than wallet or have to go to bank

1. List some ways that social media payments are a negative thing.

Phone is prone to be theft since mobile payments gives you the ability to make the transaction in your convenience. Mobile devices are prone to theft which may subject to lose their card and personal account information.

Not every company is using it as many companies still have yet to adopt.

You need the latest technology unless you have a newer smartphone, you will not be able to use mobile payments. And there’s no way around it, you need at least an Apple or Android phone from the last year or so in order to move into the mobile payment world.

1. What countries are ahead of Canada / United States in the area of mobile payments?

UK, Sweden and Italy

1. In your opinion, should mobile payments be allowed in Canada?

I think they should allow it as it brings variety and efficiency in the forms of payments used today. Many people can simply now make use of the technology in a productive way instead of always fooling around on apps based on social media.