

Exercise 1

The last two decades have seen enormous changes in the way people's lives are affected by IT. Twenty years ago, few people had access to a computer whilst today most people use them at work, home or school and use of e-mail and the Internet is an every day event.

These developments have brought many benefits to our lives. E-mail makes communication much easier and more immediate. This has numerous benefits for business, commerce, and education. The World Wide Web means that information on every conceivable subject is now available to us. Clearly, for many people this has made life much easier and more convenient.

However, not all the effects of the new technology have been beneficial. Many people feel that the widespread use of e-mail is destroying traditional forms of communication such as letter writing, telephone and face-to-face conversation. In addition, the huge size of the Web means it is almost impossible to control and regulate. This has led to many concerns regarding children accessing unsuitable websites. In conclusion, developments in IT have brought many benefits, yet I believe developments relating to new technology in the future are likely to produce many negative effects that will need to be addressed very carefully.

1. In the last twenty years, _____.

- A. there have been dramatic changes in the field of computer science.
- B. people's lives have been changed a lot because of the invention of the computer.
- C. the World Wide Web and e-mail communication have affected modern life.
- D. there have been developments in telecommunications.

2. According to the passage, e-mail _____.

- A. reduces face-to-face contact
- B. can be checked quickly and easily
- C. is used only in business
- D. takes a lot of time to transmit

3. The World Wide Web and e-mail communication _____.

- A. causes a busy and exciting life
- B. have also been used for education purpose
- C. is difficult to get access to
- D. is destroying traditional customs

4. Which sentence is NOT mentioned?

- A. The World Wide Web is difficult to navigate.
- B. The World Wide Web provides information.
- C. The World Wide Web is difficult to control.
- D. E-mail communication is quick and easy.

5. The writer thinks future IT developments will be _____.

- A. more positive
- B. more negative
- C. more rapid
- D. unexpected

Exercise 2

Personal computers, or PCs, are an important part of our everyday lives. Many people cannot imagine life without them. One of the most important people in making these machines work is Bill Gates.

Bill Gates was born in 1955 in Washington State. He grew up in a rich family. His parents sent him to a private school. There he met his business partner, Paul Allen. When they were in eighth grade, they were writing programs for business computers and making money.

In 1973, Gates was accepted at Harvard University. His parents were happy. They thought he would get over his obsession with computers and become a lawyer like his father. Two years later, Gates **dropped out of** Harvard to work on a computer program with his friend Allen. They worked eighteen hours a day in a dormitory room at Harvard. They were writing the program that would run one of the first personal computers. In 1975, they created a company called Microsoft to sell their product.

Allen became ill with cancer and left Microsoft in 1983. He recovered a few years later and started his own company. Meanwhile, Microsoft became a giant company. By 1990, at the age of thirty-four, Gates was the youngest billionaire in the history of the United States. He was the "King of Software". He achieved his success with a lot of hard work. For more than ten years, he worked sixteen-hour days, seven days a week. He had a dream and the will to succeed. By 1997, he was the richest man in the United States.

1. According to the writer, _____.

- A. people cannot live without personal computers
- B. computers play an important part of our lives
- C. Bill Gates invented personal computers
- D. Bill Gates is the most important people in computer science

2. The phrase "dropped out of" in line 7 and 8 mean _____.

- A. graduated from
- B. got over
- C. took part in
- D. stopped taking class at

3. According to the passage, _____.

- A. Bill Gate's parents wanted him to become a computer programmer.
- B. Bill Gates and Paul Allen created Microsoft because they want to sell their program for personal computers.
- C. Paul Allen left Microsoft because he wanted to start his own company.
- D. Bill Gates met his business partner at Harvard.

4. How old was Bill Gates when he became the richest man in the United States?

- A. 34
- B. 51
- C. 42
- D. 4

5. Which of the following is not mentioned in the text?

- A. In a few years, Microsoft became a very large company.
- B. Bill Gates and Paul Allen first wrote programs for business computers when they were about fifteen.
- C. Bill Gates earned his success by working very hard.
- D. Bill Gates is the richest man in the United States.