12 Information technology

Telecommunications, computers and technology

Telecommunications

1.1 Before you listen, answer these questions.

One of the first mobile phones

1 Do you have: a mobile phone; a laptop computer; a portable music device; an email address?

2 How long have you had it/them?

3 If you need to connect to the Internet, what do you use? How long does it take you?

4 How would you describe the technology you use?
A up-to-date B dated C state-of-the-art

5 How do you prefer to stay in touch with people?
A by post B by email C by phone

1.2 12a Listen to a conversation about two different mobile phones and say whether the questions below apply to

A the Smart Phone

B the Optima

C both the Smart Phone and the Optima.

Which phone

1 is small? (A) compact

2 is easy to use? .....

3 has normal phone buttons? .....

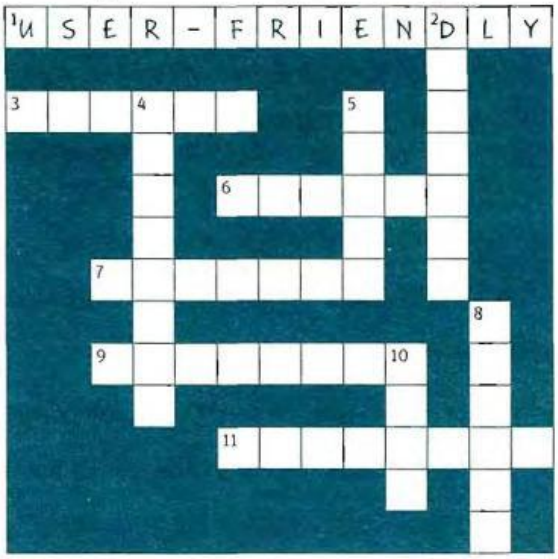
4 shows a calendar without being asked? .....

5 has the most up-to-date technology? .....

6 can obtain information from the Internet? .....

1.3 12a Now listen again and next to your answers in **1.2** write the words that paraphrase the underlined words.

1.4 Complete the crossword with words from the recording.



Across

1 easy to use

3 open a computer file

6 move up or down on a screen

7 work a machine

9 the keys on a computer, typewriter or piano

11 an action or purpose something is designed for

Down

2 show on a screen

4 have specific tools

5 save or keep safe

8 the part of a computer that stores information

10 information

LIVEWORKSHEETS

1.5 12b **Listen to five people speaking. Each one has forgotten the name for something. What is the word they need to use?**

Speaker A: I use my ..... every day.
Speaker B: I use my computer as a ..... .
Speaker C: I would like to get a ..... .
Speaker D: I can't imagine what it was like without ..... .
Speaker E: I would love to get my mother a ..... .
Which two of the words you have used needed the suffix *-or*?

Computers and technology

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

Has the present lived up to the expectations of the past? Throughout the ages people have tried to predict what life in the twenty-first century would be like. Many science-fiction writers did manage to predict the influence the computer would have on our world. Some even imagined that it would take over our lives, develop a personality, and turn on its creators. To some extent they were right, especially when it comes to children and **cyber** addiction. One constant prediction was that, thanks to computers and machines, the time devoted to labour would diminish. Even in 1971, in his book Future Shock, Alvin Toffler envisaged a society awash with 'free time'. The author noted that time at work had been cut in half since the turn of the previous century and wrongly **speculated** that it would be cut in half again by 2000.

However, our **gadget**-filled homes are a tribute to the various visions of the future: the microwave oven, internet fridges with ice-cube dispensers, freezers, video **monitors**, climate control, dishwashers, washing machines, personal computers, wireless connections and cupboards full of instant food. These may no longer be considered **cutting-edge** but they have matched, if not **surpassed**, visions of how we would live. The domestic robot never quite happened, but if you can phone ahead to set the heating and use a remote control to operate the garage door, they may as well be redundant.

The car, of course, has failed to live up to our expectations. It has been given turbo engines, DVD players and automatic windows, but its tyres stick stubbornly to the road. Why doesn't it take off? The past promised us a flying car in various guises. In 1947 a **prototype** circled San Diego for more than an hour but later crashed in the desert. Some 30 patents for flying cars were registered in the US patent office last century but none of these ideas has been transformed into a commercially available vehicle.

At least communication technology in this **digital** age hasn't let us down. Even in the most remote areas people have access to some form of communication **device**. The introduction of the telephone last century changed our world, but today's mobile phones and the **virtual** world of the Internet have revolutionised it.

1 A modern problem proves that computers are dominating our lives in some way. ....Yes....
2 Alan Toffler's predictions have been proven true. .....
3 Household gadgets today have been a disappointment. .....
4 We have enough gadgets now to make robots unnecessary in the home. .....
5 Today's cars have fulfilled all predictions. .....
6 The mobile phone and the Internet have changed our world for the better. .....

LIVEWORKSHEETS

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

1 guessed .....
2 a machine invented for a specific purpose (× 2) ....
3 the first working example of a machine .....
4 almost real .....
5 very modern .....
6 be greater than expected .....
7 relating to computers .....
8 a screen that images can be seen on .....
9 an adjective used to describe anything related to computers .....

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	automatic	cyber	labour	remote	*B*	chip	connection	control	pilot
	silicon	wireless				saving	space		

1 I can access the Internet from anywhere in my house because my laptop has a ..... .
2 The invention of the ..... made watching television an even more passive experience.
3 In my view the dishwasher is one of the greatest ..... devices.
4 People often talk about emails and text messages being lost in ..... as if it were a real place.
5 Even flying a plane has been automated now. The ..... is used for most of the flight.
6 The invention of the ..... meant that computers could be much smaller.

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

However, there are some disadvantages to the [7]*technology* era. For example, people today want to have the very [8]*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, [9]*computerise* has led to fewer jobs and less human contact as many everyday transactions are now done [10]*with* computer rather than manually.

1 ..... advanced .....
2 .....
3 .....
4 .....
5 .....
6 .....
7 .....
8 .....
9 .....
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.*~~

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Test practice

Speaking Test

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.

Part 1 (4–5 minutes)

1 Can you tell me about your hometown?

2 What kind of things do you do on a typical day?

3 What form of transport do you usually use?

4 What kind of things do you enjoy doing with your friends?

5 What did you do last weekend?

6 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 one minute to prepare and you can make notes if you wish.

Describe something you have bought recently.
You should say
- what you bought
- what it looks like
- why you bought it

and say whether you are pleased with your purchase.

Part 3 (4–5 minutes)

1 If you could buy any new gadget you wanted, what would you choose and why?

2 Do you think people today spend too much money buying new things? (Why?)

3 Do you always want to buy the latest technology or are you happy with an older model? (Why?)

4 Why do you think older people struggle so much with new technology?

5 Are there any ways we could help them to adapt?

6 What changes in technology do you think we will see in the next 50 years?

7 Do you think we should always try to improve on existing technology or are some things better as they are? (Why?)

LIVEWORKSHEETS