

# UNIT 6 – Technology and Education

## Reading 1

### Skills:

- Details
- Identify referents
- Identify summaries
- Understand structures
- Vocabulary from context
- Understand the topic of a paragraph.

**Getting started:** How much technology did you use in your school?

### THE FUTURE OF TEACHING



The other day I went to my nephew's school. He was taking a class, so I took a look inside his classroom while the teacher finished the lesson. The teacher stood at the front with the children facing him, answering questions, and taking notes. Somehow, I thought, "the modern classroom isn't that different from an old **one**." It's strange when you consider the advancements that we've made in the last fifty

years: we've landed on the Moon, decoded the human genome and created super-computers you carry in your pocket. So, why is education sometimes stuck in the 20th century?

Although traditional education prevails in many schools, in others, things have changed. Advancements in teaching, communication and technology have totally changed the working environments of students around the world, and the future only holds more progress. For example, those notes may be taken on an iPad with a stylus, with the handwriting converted into typed text and the finished document saved to **the cloud**. The board is interactive, and can display websites, videos and more, which the teacher can control with a smart remote.

In fact, while the basic format of teaching may remain largely unchanged, technology has improved how kids learn, what they learn, and how they are taught. Textbooks are, of course, still a big part of the school experience. However, e-books and online research are increasingly being used in place of the traditional books. In some schools, **students are loaned iPads or other tablets, loaded with their entire reading list for the year**. **Rather than** damaging their spines by carrying huge backpacks, students only need one device. Even better, they can make helpful notes on the pages, or highlight useful sections, without being charged for ruining the book. Of course, these books can also include links to websites that aid learning.

Digital pages can contain useful information for additional study or homework or can even take students to online tests. The teacher can then check who took the test, how they scored, and get more information about each student, including how long they spent working on each question. The internet has become a valuable teaching resource and is often used in the classroom. Instead of recorded videos, teachers can quickly find useful resources and play them to the class. Not only is this more engaging than a video that's decades old, but it can also promote further discussion.

Technological advancements have changed the way teachers work, too. More and more, students are being encouraged to work in small groups to promote interaction, with technology as an enabler. Learning spaces are being redesigned to reflect this, and teachers' roles are slowly changing to a more passive role. As technology becomes more accessible, this will only increase. Tech like 3D printing will allow students and teachers to create teaching materials within minutes. 3D modelling lessons will be able to go from the design to the prototyping stage within a few hours, while lessons about biology will

see teachers printing out 3D models of ancient animal skulls to pass around the class. Cloud computing will eradicate excuses like "the dog ate my homework" and give classmates a chance to discuss their work at home, using teacher controller chatrooms that allow them to collaborate on projects. Gaming will increasingly be used to teach, and technological tools will help teachers analyze what works best in the classroom, and what is failing to grab attention.

Of course, as teaching changes,        will the curriculum. For example, as computing skills are becoming more important in this digital age, many students are learning how to program. For example, in the UK, young kids are being taught how to code, with simple games showing them the basics. Technology is here to stay, and it's a great tool that can be used to promote learning inside the classroom.

\*Adapted from *How it Works – World of Tomorrow. Fifth Edition. DK Publishing.*

#### **Glossary:**

- **The cloud:** The cloud refers to servers that are accessed over the Internet, and the software and databases that run on those servers. Cloud servers are located in data centers all over the world. By using cloud computing, users and companies don't have to manage physical servers themselves or run software applications on their own machines.

#### **Answer the following questions:**

1. According to paragraph 1, what's the author's attitude towards the modern classroom?
  - a. It's very futuristic.
  - b. The still teach about the man on the moon.
  - c. Teachers never sit down as they're always watching their students.
  - d. The conventional education system is evident in several institutions.
  
2. The word **one** in paragraph 1 refers to
  - a. classroom
  - b. teacher
  - c. school
  - d. lesson

3. What is paragraph 2 about?
  - a. How to use the cloud to help students improve.
  - b. Technology implemented in the classroom.
  - c. How to use an interactive board.
  - d. Teaching methodologies.
  
4. What option summarizes the main idea of the **highlighted** part in paragraph 3?
  - a. Students have to read many books each year.
  - b. Students borrow tablets with contents for their subjects.
  - c. Students must buy iPads if they want to study in certain schools.
  - d. Students have to buy a long list of materials including electronic devices.
  
5. The phrase **rather than** in paragraph 3 is closer in meaning to
  - a. quite
  - b. better
  - c. Instead of
  - d. Would prefer
  
6. What is NOT stated in paragraph 4?
  - a. Digital content can be used to evaluate students.
  - b. Digital content can be used to review different topics.
  - c. Technology can help promote more interaction in the classroom.
  - d. Technology is useless if a teacher wants to know about their students' progress.
  
7. What is stated in paragraph 5?
  - a. Technology replaced all roles a teacher has in the classroom.
  - b. Students are so talented at designing games and 3D models.
  - c. Students have a more passive role nowadays.
  - d. Technology is used to help students interact.
  
8. What word or phrase can be inserted in the gap in paragraph 6?
  - a. so
  - b. also
  - c. neither
  - d. as well

**Note:**

**So do I / neither do I**

*Of course, as teaching changes, so will the curriculum.*

**We use so + auxiliary + subject to say that something is true (the same) about two subjects.**

*Claire went to Harvard University and so did Marc.*

**We use neither + auxiliary + subject to say that some negative information is true (the same) about two subjects.**

*I don't like spicy food and neither does my wife.*

**What do you think?**

Is technology an important tool in today's education?