## *Science and technology*

### *Exam task*

**1** **You are going to read an article about new technology and students. For questions 1–6, choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which you think fits best according to the text.**

# Student life and technology

**By Debra Mallin, a business student at Greyfort University**

Last Saturday, as my grandfather drove me and my sister home from a dinner to celebrate his birthday, he got frustrated at not being able to remember the name of the singer of a song he'd just heard on the radio. Without a second thought, I grabbed my smartphone, searched for the song and found the name, Bob Dylan. For me and my friends, this is a completely natural course of action, but it totally astonished my grandfather, who didn't understand how I had checked the information so quickly. My sister and I laughed and explained, but afterwards, it made me think about how much I depend on technology.

The list of the ways I use technology is endless: writing, planning, socialising, communicating and shopping, to name a few. When I reflected on its impact on my education, I saw that, for my fellow students and I, technology has been significant in many ways. Returning to the story of my grandfather and the smartphone, he had asked me more about how I used it and about university life. He said he thought we had an easy life compared to previous generations. My sister caught my eye and we exchanged a smile. But whereas she was thinking our grandfather was just being a typical 65-year-old, I could see his point.

Not only are we lucky enough to have the same educational benefits as those of previous generations, we have so many more as well. We still have walk-in libraries available to us, and I can see why some students choose to find and use resources in these distraction-free locations. However, the only option for studying used to be sitting in these libraries with as many books from your reading list as you could find, yet now a single search for your chosen study topic online can immediately provide access to a huge range of resources. At universities, interaction between students and university staff is another area that has changed considerably with developments in technology. We can have face-to-face time with our tutors when we need it, and also communicate using our electronic gadgets from the comfort of our homes, or on the bus. The most popular means of doing this is via instant messaging or social media – email is often considered too slow, and it has become unacceptable for messages to be unanswered for any length of time. While this puts an extra strain on the university's academic support team, who usually have to answer the queries as they come in, we students are greatly benefitted.

It's important that we remember to appreciate how much the advances in technology have given us. Electronic devices such as tablets, smartphones, and laptops are now standard equipment in most classrooms and lecture halls, and why shouldn't they be? The replacement of textbooks with tablets allows students the luxury of having up-to-date, interactive and even personalised learning materials, with the added benefit of them not costing the earth.

When we compare the student life of the past and that of the present day, it is tempting to focus on the obvious differences when it comes to technology. In actual fact, students are doing what they've always done: embracing the resources available and adapting them in ways which allow them to work more efficiently and to live more enjoyably. The pace of change in technology continuously gathers speed, so we have to value each innovation as it happens.



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1. What does the writer illustrate by describing the incident in the car?
   - **A** the older generation's frustration at people's dependence on technology
   - **B** how unaware young people are of some effects of technology
   - **C** the difference in attitudes to technology between two generations
   - **D** how technology helps different generations communicate
2. What did the writer think of her grandfather's comment, mentioned in the second paragraph?
   - **A** It showed how out-of-date he was.
   - **B** It had an element of truth in it.
   - **C** It was an annoying thing to say.
   - **D** It made her feel sorry for him.
3. What does the writer say about getting study resources from libraries?
   - **A** She considers libraries more preferable places for study than home.
   - **B** She cannot understand why anyone chooses to go to a library now.
   - **C** She appreciates the fact that people can still study in libraries if they want to.
   - **D** She thinks libraries are limited by the quantity of resources they can store.
4. What disadvantage of new technology does the writer mention in the third paragraph?
   - **A** Those who can afford the best gadgets gain an unfair advantage.
   - **B** Sometimes slow internet connections make communication difficult.
   - **C** A heavier workload is created for teaching staff at the university.
   - **D** Students cannot escape from dealing with university issues.
5. What is the purpose of the question 'Why shouldn't they be?' in the fourth paragraph?
   - **A** to express an opinion
   - **B** to introduce some problems
   - **C** to make a criticism
   - **D** to indicate uncertainty
6. What is the writer's conclusion about students today in the final paragraph?
   - **A** They have such different lives to previous generations that it's unwise to compare them.
   - **B** They deal better with change than previous generations did.
   - **C** They take advantage of new resources more quickly than previous generations did.
   - **D** They are behaving in a similar way to previous generations of students.

**2** **Complete the sentences with a phrase. Use one word from each box for each phrase.**

| back | hard | high- | instant | interactive | search | social | virtual |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|

| drive | engine | games | media | messaging | reality | tech | up |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|

1. Google is the most used _____ in the world.
2. I don't text my friends any more because _____ is so much faster.
3. How much storage space is left on the _____ in your PC?
4. If you don't _____ your work, you are in danger of losing it.
5. The car's _____ steering system is unique.
6. Play the _____ on our website to learn more about science and technology.
7. _____ makes you feel as if you are in a real three-dimensional space.
8. By using _____ like Twitter, you can communicate with anyone on the internet.

### *Exam facts*

- In this part, you read a long text.
- You have to choose the correct answer (A, B, C or D) for six questions.

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## House and home

### Exam task

**1** **You are going to read a review of a TV programme about homes of the future. For questions 1–6, choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which you think fits best according to the text.**

# The homes of the future viewed from today

**Mark Finchley reviews TV series *Tomorrow's Homes***

Having just watched the whole of Channel 8's TV series *Tomorrow's Homes*, I've been wondering about how anyone can predict the future of domestic life. You'd imagine that if you knew what architects and technology companies were developing now to make life easier, more exciting and more beautiful, you'd have a pretty good idea of what to expect in tomorrow's homes. In reality, it's more complicated, and just as much about what we'll choose to hang on to from **today's** – the things that are 'future-proof'. In the 1950s, people thought that in the twenty-first century household tasks would be done by labour-saving devices or robots – with food pills for dinner. Yet people still wash up and cook, even though the technology exists that makes neither of these tasks necessary.

*Tomorrow's Homes*, however, dared to make predictions which it turned into reality using an average home belonging to a family called the Forseys. Four miles of cable were installed in the house so that all the electrics, from lights to the fridge, could be controlled via the internet, and various other devices and gadgets were introduced in addition to this. The family were then filmed as they got used to their new home life. Programme presenter Harry Thwaites is also a consultant who spends his work life imagining the future, so testing out his ideas for the programme was a fascinating experiment for him. His approach was to use technology that was not totally brand new, but had only recently become more affordable. CCTV cameras for security have been around for years, for example, but they are no longer only an option for the mega-rich.

The Forsey family consists of a husband and wife with four children and two grandchildren. They appear to be very natural and ordinary on the programme, and it was always interesting to see how they reacted to

the technology they were testing. One example that **sticks** in the mind is when Janine, the mother, enters her reconstructed, all-white home (after successfully unlocking her new front door by using her thumb print as a key), and she immediately bursts into tears – quite understandably it has to be said. A short while later, her husband Ben gets locked out because the skin on his thumb is too rough. As the series progresses, however, they slowly come to accept the technology, and even start to believe it could have some value in their lives.

I was keen to see during the show if anything emerged as potentially future-proof, and there were some great examples. To help Janine deal with various worries, she was provided with a mind-controlled relaxation tool. This was a kind of headband connected to a DVD, which, incredibly, she could control with her thoughts. When she relaxed mentally, she made an image of the sun go down, as it would at night, on the DVD. When she had tried the gadget and achieved the sun set, she was asked how effective the gadget had been. Janine commented, 'Nothing can compare to a nice cup of tea and a good soap opera!'



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1. The writer makes the point in the first paragraph that predicting how homes will be in the future
   - **A** requires detailed study of architectural trends.
   - **B** is impossible if you only look at new developments.
   - **C** has been very difficult until now.
   - **D** is made easier by programmes and articles about them in the media.
2. What does 'today's' refer to in the first paragraph?
   - **A** current ideas
   - **B** the present reality
   - **C** the homes we currently live in
   - **D** modern architecture
3. According to the second paragraph, the technology installed in the Forseys' house
   - **A** was chosen to match the specific needs of the family.
   - **B** was previously only used by a limited section of the population.
   - **C** was still too expensive for anybody except the wealthiest.
   - **D** was tried out by experts before the family used it.
4. What does 'sticks' mean in the third paragraph?
   - **A** blocks something
   - **B** remains there
   - **C** corrects an error
   - **D** highlights something
5. According to the third paragraph, how did the family members react to the new technology?
   - **A** Their attitude towards it became increasingly positive.
   - **B** Some of them adjusted more quickly to it than others.
   - **C** The parents struggled with it throughout the series.
   - **D** Some of their responses to it were surprising.
6. How did Janine feel about the mind-controlled relaxation tool?
   - **A** She was amazed at what it was capable of.
   - **B** She thought it would work if used with other things.
   - **C** She found it totally useless.
   - **D** She preferred more traditional methods of relaxation.

**2** **Complete the text with the correct alternatives.**

**What will our homes be like in 2030?**

There are some things that we cannot predict about the world in 2030, but others seem certain. For example, we are definitely **(1)** *going to have / having* many more homes in larger cities as the world's population **(2)** *will be continuing / continues* to grow. But what will these homes be like?

Firstly, 'The Internet of Things' **(3)** *will have been / will be* an established part of everyone's lives by then. All electronic devices in your home will be connected, and they **(4)** *are communicating / will be communicating* with each other constantly.

By 2030, you also **(5)** *will have equipped / will be equipped* your house with smart technology, so you'll have movement, temperature and humidity sensors throughout the house. These **(6)** *will be measuring / will have measured* the environment in your house constantly. In fact, they **(7)** *can even / will even be able* to tell you if you've left a door open, or a tap on!

## *Exam tips*

- Quickly read through the text before you answer the questions to get an idea of what it is about.
- Read through all the questions so that you know what you need to look for in the text.
- Don't assume an option is correct just because you see the same words in the text. You should make sure the general meaning of the option is expressed in the text.

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## Work

### Exam task

**1** **You are going to read an article about some amazing jobs. For questions 1–6, choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which you think fits best according to the text.**

# Dream Jobs

**By Giovanni Marks**

During our teens, all the pupils at my school had to have a meeting with a 'careers advisor' who only seemed to know about jobs at the local ship-building works. That was fine for some, but many of us would have liked to hear about a wider range of opportunities at that time. If only she had known about the jobs I've been researching for this article! It seems there are positions out there that are almost too good to be true.

Take, for example, the job with the title 'Ice cream flavour advisor' for ice cream manufacturer Frederick's. Imagine making and tasting ice cream for a living! From the Fredrick's website I learned that the people who do this job are all chefs and food scientists, and often go on what they call 'taste hunts' where they travel to other countries, trying new foods to get inspiration for new products. The website's home page also states that 'every ingredient deserves consideration', meaning anything from peanuts to potatoes could make it into the next flavour advisor's invention. I guess the one downside of this job could be tasting failed creations.

For those worried about the health implications of eating so much ice cream, then how about something more active? The perfect job for water sports lovers was advertised in 2015 by holiday company Travel Now. They needed a water slide tester! This involved getting into swimming gear and speeding down slides at various holiday centres around the world to check for any issues. The company was seeking applicants with strong written and verbal skills, experience in social media and a willingness to travel.

Another job that seems impossibly wonderful is one for those who dream of living on a remote island. As the caretaker of a private island in the Maldives, Simon Grainger gets to enjoy fabulous weather, fishing and boating as part of his job. However, he says that while it may sound more like an extended holiday than work, the responsibilities of the job can be very demanding. These include maintaining and repairing the island owners' property and cleaning up after storms. On top of that,

being by yourself on an island means that your social life suffers. Seeing friends involves an hour's boat ride, which is never easy and sometimes impossible. Grainger warns anyone considering a job like his to be realistic about it. He explains you've got be very practical with good physical fitness, and happy in your own company. If you are this type of person, you'll do the job well and never want to go back to life on the mainland.

A fortune cookie is a moon-shaped biscuit given away in Chinese restaurants that contains a little piece of paper with a message on it. Millions of these are read every day, but few realise that people actually get paid to write the words of wisdom you find when you crack your cookie open. Daisy Cheng, president of New Asian Food in Los Angeles, used to be **one such person**. It wasn't exactly her chosen career path, it was more of a role she fell into. When the company expanded and realised they needed to update their cookie messages, she was asked to do it because her English language skills were stronger than other employees'. She found it difficult to start with, but soon she was finding inspiration everywhere, from subway signs to newspapers.

As a writer myself, I would love to create messages for fortune cookies, but I would be delighted to do any one of these amazing jobs. Listen up careers advisors!



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1. How does the writer feel about the careers advisor he met when he was younger?
   - **A** He regrets that she was unable to help any of the teenagers.
   - **B** He found her guidance quite useful at the time.
   - **C** He thought it was unnecessary to see her.
   - **D** He wishes she had been aware of a greater variety of job options.
2. What is claimed on the website for Frederick's ice cream?
   - **A** There is no food type that they will refuse to experiment with.
   - **B** They are able to make most ingredients taste good in ice cream.
   - **C** They trial every new flavour creation internationally before it goes on sale.
   - **D** No other ice cream producer has greater expertise.
3. Applicants for the job of water slide tester were required by Travel Now to
   - **A** be good at communicating with people.
   - **B** have plenty of travel experience.
   - **C** have good IT qualifications.
   - **D** be very physically fit.
4. What does Grainger say about his role as caretaker on a private island?
   - **A** He is considering giving it up so he can move back to the mainland.
   - **B** The only thing that is hard about it is being alone on the island.
   - **C** It might not be the right job for everyone.
   - **D** The holiday lifestyle involved is not always enjoyable.
5. What does the fifth paragraph say about Daisy Cheng getting her job as fortune cookie writer?
   - **A** She did not deliberately choose to do the job.
   - **B** She got the job because none of her colleagues spoke any English.
   - **C** She applied for it when the company grew and needed more people to do the job.
   - **D** She tried to avoid doing the job at first.
6. What does 'one such person' refer to in the fifth paragraph?
   - **A** someone who is a company vice president
   - **B** someone from New York
   - **C** someone who didn't know fortune cookie message writers existed
   - **D** someone who writes the messages in fortune cookies

## 2 Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given in bold.

1. I will hopefully get a promotion this year. **HOPE**

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2. Josh lost his job because he was late so many times. **IF ONLY**

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3. Kathy is a nurse but she wants to be a doctor. **WISHES**

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4. Mark is talking about going to work abroad. I would be sad if he did. **HOPE**

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5. The new boss is Nick Jones. Everyone would prefer Leo Patten. **WISHES**

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6. Most employers don't give employees eight weeks' holiday a year. I wish they did! **IF ONLY**

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### Get it right!

**Look at the sentence below. Then try to correct the mistake.**

I wish you were there; it was fantastic!

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