The sentences and phrases (a-e) are from the article. Match them with the appropriate places (1-5) in the article.

a First of all, don't throw away your cell phone just yet.
b The next wave will be marked by the rise of augmented reality.
c It was not so long ago that human communication was very different.
d What is perhaps frightening is the vision of the longer term future that some futurists have.
e Given that, it hardly seems possible that a device so ubiquitous could go the way of the dinosaur.

1_____ 2_____ 3_____ 4_____ 5_____

Bring on the Demise of the Smartphone!



1 _____ On March 7, 1876, Alexander Graham Bell was granted a patent for the telephone. Since then, successive innovations have culminated in the invention of the smartphone and the number of mobile devices has surpassed the population of the world. Mobile gadgets are growing at a pace five times faster than the human population.

2 _____ Yet, it is inevitable. After all, a glance back at the recent past will reveal a veritable graveyard of technology, from typewriters to the floppy disk to pagers and fax machines. There was a time when the Walkman was cutting-edge. Who in the 1980s suspected its demise? What are the factors that will lead to the downfall of the smartphone and what new device will take its place?

3 _____ You'll still be using your cell phone for now, but what will change is how you interact with it. Two important advances that are already beginning to have an impact are voice recognition and artificial intelligence. Handling your phone, i.e. typing out messages with our thumbs, swiping and tapping our devices, or cleaning greasy finger-printed screens – all this will seem as old-fashioned as the DVD. Because you will command your phone by voice, you will receive immediate feedback from an AI-powered virtual assistant, and you will never be disconnected, making any interaction instant and constant. If you think people multitask now, think again! The incidence of people walking down the street talking to themselves will skyrocket. The keyboard will die out and the screen will be used only for playing media, not for inputting commands.

4 _____ The screens of our phones will be replaced by a direct visual interface in which what we see in our real world is blended with the digital world in real time. In this scenario the cell phone screen will become obsolete. Phones will take the form of wearable technology, like watches, bracelets or glasses. Increasingly, we will have direct visual interaction with objects. In this internet of things, there will be a steady stream of information unobtrusively pulsing between human and object. The role of the smartphone will be reduced to providing processing power for our wearable technology; the device itself may look somewhat different. From here, the end of the line for the smartphone is clearly visible.

5 _____ The next stage in the evolution of technology involves the implantation thereof directly onto the brain. How can you misplace your device or have it stolen if it is actually inside of you? Though for some this is going altogether too far and may sound like the prelude to a dystopian world of half-human half-machine cyborgs, the logic of it is undeniable. We will have become completely autonomous, computer-augmented beings, with instant access to a virtual universe. No searching for wi-fi, no forgetting devices at home, no tangle of power cords, only perfect integration. What brave new worlds will await then?

Complete the words in the glossary with words or phrases from the article.

Glossary

a _____ verb [I]: vibrating or sounding rhythmically
b _____ adjective: describing a place that is bad or degraded
c _____ verb [T]: passing a finger or card over a surface
d _____ adjective: the most up-to-date and technologically advanced
e _____ adjective: describing something that cannot be questioned
f _____ noun [C]: a continuous flow
g _____ verb [I]: to increase at a rapid rate
h _____ noun [C] a confused mass of something twisted together
i _____ noun [U]: the speed at which something happens
j _____ noun [U]: a loss of power, prosperity or status

LIVEWORKSHEETS