UNIT 6: SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

WRITING

Exercise 1: Read the sentences. Which are positive aspects of technological change and which are negative? Choose Positive or Negative.

1 Technological change, for example emailing and text messaging, has allowed people to communicate in a variety of new and creative ways.

- ○ Positive
- ○ Negative

2 People prefer to look at their phones, even at mealtimes, and not talk to each other properly any more.

- ○ Positive
- ○ Negative

3 The use of the internet and the worldwide release of films have led to too many foreign-language influences on native languages and certain languages are dying out.

- ○ Positive
- ○ Negative

4 The invention of video calling has enabled people to communicate with friends and family, regardless of geographical location and without having to wait a long time to receive a reply to written communication.

- ○ Positive
- ○ Negative

5 It has become easier for people of different nations to interact with each other using mobile phone translation apps.

- ○ Positive
- ○ Negative

6 Youngsters are no longer able to effectively communicate with their elders.

- ○ Positive
- ○ Negative

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Exercise 2: Read the information. Then read the sentences. Choose the supporting arguments that are relevant and clear.

Examiners look for a clear topic in each paragraph with relevant, logically extended and supported ideas.

1 Youngsters are no longer able to effectively communicate with their elders.

- In other words, I do not speak the same language as my grandfather or his friends.
- This means the generation gap is, in general, getting larger due to a lack of interaction between different age groups.

2 People prefer to look at their phones, even at mealtimes, and not talk to each other properly any more.

- As a result, I can ignore people when I am in a bad mood.
- As a result, communication and interpersonal skills are in decline.

3 It has become easier for people of different nations to interact with each other using mobile phone translation apps.

- Therefore, I needn't learn a new language.
- Therefore, it is no longer necessary to spend many hours learning a foreign language.

- **4** The language used online and in films has led to a number of foreign words and phrases influencing native languages.
- This has resulted in teenagers spelling words differently and using a different form of grammar.
- This has resulted in teenagers watching more films.

5 Technological change, for example emailing and text messaging, has allowed people to communicate in a variety of new and creative ways.

- As a result, people can say what they want when writing emails and text messages.
- This has made writing to friends more enjoyable.
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6 The invention of video calling has enabled people to speak to friends and family face-to-face, rather than having to write to them, regardless of geographical location and without having to wait a long time to receive a reply.

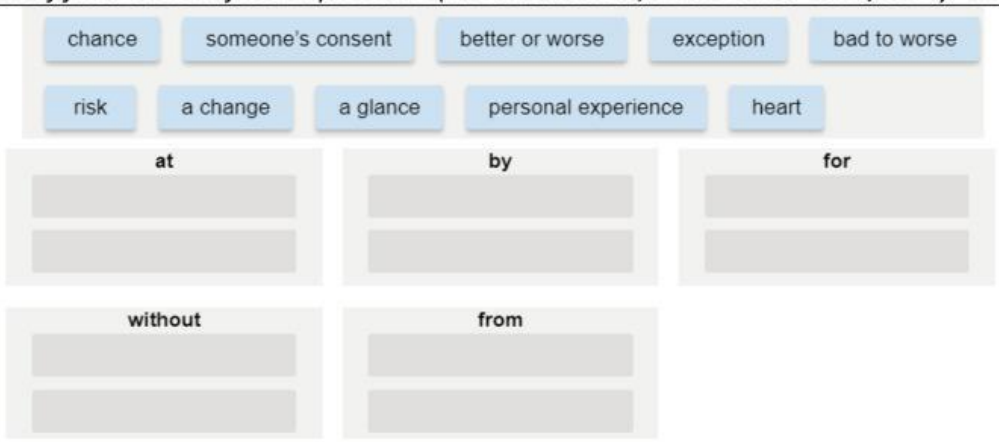
- This great thing lets us chat to whomever we want, whenever we want.
- This new development has enabled people to maintain relationships in a much more convenient manner.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Exercise 3: Complete the table with the words and phrases in the box to create common prepositional phrases.

To achieve a higher band score in IELTS, you are expected to be able to use common prepositions correctly. There are a number of contexts in which you might need to produce them:

- *expressions related to time and place (at home, by next year)*
- *with verbs (listen to, depend on, advise against, it belongs to me)*
- *as part of fixed or semi-fixed expressions (without a doubt, on the other hand, to my mind)*



Exercise 4: Choose the correct prepositions to complete the sentences.

1 *By / for / from* better or worse, the global use of email and social media has led to a change in the way people use language.

2 Technological development has put the unique individuality of languages *at / by / from* risk, because everybody can now talk to each other using the same few basic words and a smartphone.

3 Many people find it easy to express their feelings using emoticons.
At / For / From my own experience, I have found that the increasing use of emoticons has enabled people to show their emotions when they can't find the right words.

4 The use of translation apps to quickly find out what a word means has led to fewer and fewer people learning new words *at / by / without* heart.

5 Youngsters can now chat to people *for / from / without* their parents' consent, as they can make a video call to whomever they like on social media.

6 *By / From / Without* personal experience, I can say that the development of digital technology such as apps and educational software has had a positive effect on language learning.

7 It would be great if people took the time to write a letter or a postcard *at / by / for* a change; a lot of people like to receive these because they show thought and compassion.

Exercise 5: Choose the correct words to complete the sentences.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Candidates aiming for a high score for Grammatical Range and Accuracy should be able to use common verbs with the correct verb patterns; the structures that are used with certain verbs in sentences. Here are some common examples:

- Verb + *to* infinitive (*prefer – Many people prefer to use social media to communicate.*)
- Verb + gerund (*imagine – Young people today cannot imagine living in a world without social media.*)
- Verb + object + *to* infinitive (*enable –The internet has enabled us to stay in constant communication.*)
- Verb + object + bare infinitive (*let – The internet lets us find information at a speed that would not have been possible twenty years ago.*)

Remember that some verbs can use more than one pattern or be used in patterns not shown here. Remember that if you want to check the possible patterns that a verbs uses, you can find them in a good dictionary.

1 Technological change has simplified the way people of every nation communicate and *allows / lets / make*s us talk to more people than ever before.

2 It has been *forgotten / recommended / suggested* by some researchers that even with all of these new methods of communication being available, people are actually talking to each other less than they did before.

3 The development of instant spelling and grammar checkers has *allowed / let / made* people to write business emails and letters with greater confidence.

4 Many educators *encourage / let / suggest* their students to put their mobile devices down for a while and rediscover the benefits of face-to-face communication.

5 The revolution in the way we communicate with each other has probably left many older people feeling out of touch. However, they shouldn't be *let / made / suggested* to use these new methods of communication if they don't want to.

Exercise 6: Choose the correct words and phrases to complete the sentences.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

1 The pace of technological change over the last few years has taken many people by surprise, *as well as / in addition / not to mention* the fact that a lot of the older generation have actually been left behind.

2 One negative aspect of instant communication is that workers can be contacted at all times of the day, even outside of normal working hours. This is now a subject of debate in France and *as well as / likewise / not forgetting* in the UK.

3 Emoticons are a great way to communicate with friends and family and to express emotions quickly. They have become a big part of our everyday communication, *despite / even though / likewise* a lot of people still don't know how to use them properly.

4 Prior to the introduction of the internet as a global communication tool, communication between people was extremely slow and time-consuming, *despite / thus / whereas* today it's incredibly quick and efficient.

5 *Although / Because of / Despite* the fact that accidents involving mobile phones are on the rise, people are still using them whilst driving.

6 Videoconferencing connects people in real time through audio and video communication, *as a result / in addition / thus* allowing people to keep in touch with family and friends more easily, regardless of their location.

7 People of all nations can now chat to each other using translations apps. *As a resuly / Consequently / Thereby* of this, the number of people studying foreign languages at school and university has fallen.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Exercise 7: Do the phrases in the box introduce positive or negative ideas? Complete the table with the phrases.

There is a noticeable lack of …

There is great value in …

I would argue that these are welcome innovations …

One serious problem that can arise from …

Advances in technology have without doubt improved …

The main drawback to this is …

The benefits seem to far outweigh …

A growing concern in society is that …

positive	negative

Exercise 8: Read the information. Then match the sentence halves.

Your response to IELTS Writing Task 2 must be at least 250 words in length, and for the type of question shown in this unit, you must describe both positive and negative developments. Your paragraphs and sentences must show cohesion by being connected by appropriate phrases.

because they have led to easier communication between the people of different nations.

instant communication is that you are available to everyone at all times of the day.

people are becoming alienated from those immediately around them.

perceived disadvantages of technological communication.

support and training for developing the older generations' computer skills.

technology that enhances communication between people from around the world.

that it is possibly leading to a lack of control of grammatical structures and spelling.

the way that people communicate with each other.

1. There is great value in developing

LIVEWORKSHEETS

_____

2. The benefits seem to far outweigh the

_____

3. There is a noticeable lack of

_____

4. Advances in technology have without doubt improved

_____

5. One serious problem that can arise from

_____

6. I would argue that these are welcome innovations

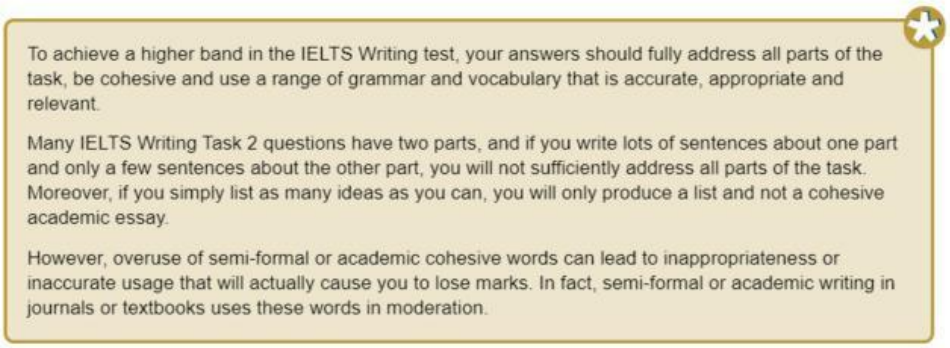
_____

7. The main drawback to this is

_____

8. A growing concern in society is that _____

Exercise 9: Read the information. Then choose the most appropriate and relevant sentences to complete the ideas.



1. There is a noticeable lack of support and training for developing the older generations' computer skills in society today.
   - I would argue that developing older people's computer literacy would help bridge the gap between the older and younger generations.
   - This would allow older people to feel more integrated into society.

2. The main drawback to this is that it is possibly leading to a lack of control of grammatical structures and spelling.
   - This has caused many academics, educators and politicians to express concern over this unwelcome development.
   - This in turn is causing problems for university professors and secondary school teachers with understanding students' work.

3. One serious problem that can arise from instant communication is that you are available to everyone at all times of the day.
   - Sometimes it can be extremely inconvenient to have to answer a call or reply to a message as you may be at the cinema, for example.
   - This can increase the productivity of workers and thus result in increased profits for the business.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

4. A growing concern in society is that people are becoming alienated from those immediately around them.

- I would argue that people are speaking to others less often than they did half a century ago because they are texting each other rather than chatting face-to-face.
- I would say that people are gossiping with more people globally via text than chatting with their neighbours.

5. The benefits seem to far outweigh the perceived disadvantages of technological communication.

- For example, I don't have to wait for ages for a reply to a letter that I wrote to a friend, which may take a few weeks or more.
- For example, it is no longer necessary to wait for so-called snail mail in order to receive a response to an important business or personal issue.

6. I would argue that these are welcome innovations because they have led to easier communication between the people of different nations.

- Some say that this has led to a greater understanding of each other's cultures, which may help to prevent possible future conflict.
- Some say that this has led to people easily making global friends, and no one wants to fight wars any more.

Exercise 10:

WRITING TASK 2

You should spend 40 minutes on this task

Fewer students are studying science at school and university, favouring more computer based subjects instead.

Is this a positive or negative development? What are the reasons for this?

Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your knowledge or experience.

Write at least 250 words.

LIVEWORKSHEETS