1. Read the text and match the abstracts with the gaps.

Science and technology are subjects that fascinate many people, especially students eager to learn about the latest advancements. Today, we are often **at the cutting edge** of scientific discovery, witnessing innovations that were once considered impossible.

Gap 1 _____

One of the most exciting aspects of modern technology is that it is often **the brainchild of** talented individuals who dared to dream. These innovators **push the right buttons** to create products and services that can change our daily lives.

Gap 2 _____

However, the road to advancement can sometimes be difficult. Occasionally, projects can be **thrown a spanner in the works** due to unforeseen challenges. In these cases, teams must work together to **oil the wheels** of progress, ensuring that everything runs smoothly.

Gap 3 _____

Despite these hurdles, we continue to move forward. Some technologies may initially seem like they are **light years away from** our reach, but with persistent effort and creativity, we can bring them closer.

Gap 4 _____

As students of science and technology, you have the opportunity **to set the wheels in motion** for your future careers. Embrace the challenges, learn from every experience, and who knows?

Gap 5 _____

Abstracts

A It is crucial not **to reinvent the wheel** when we have excellent foundations to build on. Each innovation is just **a cog in the machine** of progress; together, they contribute to enhancing our lives.

B While some discoveries seem extraordinary, it's important to remember that it's often **not rocket science**. Many innovations stem from simple ideas that have been tweaked and improved upon.

C For example, new reports about breakthrough technologies are **hot off the press** every week, capturing our attention and sparking our imagination.

D You might be the next person to push boundaries and make incredible contributions to the world around us.

E If a device is **on the blink** or failing to function properly, finding a solution becomes necessary.

2. Read the statements and define whether they are true or false.

1. **True or False:** Science and technology are often seen as subjects that are difficult to understand for most students.
2. **True or False:** The text suggests that many innovations in technology originate from simple ideas that have been improved over time.
3. **True or False:** The phrase "throwing a spanner in the works" refers to the ease of implementing new projects.
4. **True or False:** The text implies that students in science and technology have the potential to make significant contributions to future advancements.
5. **True or False:** According to the text, all technological advancements are complex and require advanced mathematical understanding.

3. Choose the only right option for each question.

1. What is one of the key aspects of modern technology mentioned in the text?
   - o A) It is often based on complex theories.
   - o B) It is primarily developed by large corporations.
   - o C) It often originates from simple ideas that are improved upon.
   - o D) It is solely the result of government funding.
2. According to the text, what can sometimes hinder progress in technological advancements?
   - o A) Lack of interest from students.
   - o B) Unforeseen challenges that disrupt projects.
   - o C) Insufficient funding for research.
   - o D) Overcomplicated theories in science.
3. The phrase "throw a spanner in the works" is used in the text to describe:
   - o A) A tool used in scientific experiments.
   - o B) A situation that complicates progress.
   - o C) A method of innovation.
   - o D) A successful project outcome.
4. What does the author suggest about the relationship between innovations and existing ideas?

- o A) Innovations should always be completely original.
- o B) Innovations can build on excellent existing foundations.
- o C) Innovations are often unnecessary.
- o D) Innovations are a waste of time.
5. What opportunity do students of science and technology have, according to the text?
    - o A) To avoid challenges and focus on simple tasks.
    - o B) To set the wheels in motion for their future careers.
    - o C) To rely solely on past discoveries.
    - o D) To wait for others to innovate.

4. Answer the following questions:

1. What role do individual innovators play in technological advancements, according to the text? Provide specific examples from the passage.
2. How does the text describe the relationship between simple ideas and significant innovations? What does this imply about the nature of creativity in technology?
3. Identify and explain the metaphor used in the phrase "throwing a spanner in the works." How does it relate to the challenges faced in scientific projects?
4. What does the text suggest about the importance of teamwork when encountering unforeseen challenges in technological development? Support your answer with evidence from the text.
5. Discuss the significance of the phrase "not to reinvent the wheel" in the context of the text. How does it reflect the approach to building upon existing knowledge in science and technology?

Vocabulary

1. Match the expression with its definition.

Can You Match These Words to Their Definitions?

1	a cog in the machine	a	an idea or invention created by a specific person or group.
2	the brainchild of	b	to be involved in the most advanced or innovative developments in a particular field.
3	to throw a spanner in the works	c	to do or say things that cause someone to react positively or favorably.
4	to oil the wheels	d	to be extremely far from achieving or understanding something.
5	it's not rocket science	e	a small part of a larger system or organization that plays a minor role.
6	to be on the blink	f	to cause a problem that disrupts a plan or process.
7	to push the right buttons	g	to create something again that already exists, usually without adding anything new.
8	to reinvent the wheel	h	to make it easier for something to happen, often by providing support or assistance.
9	to set the wheels in motion	i	something that has just been published or released very recently.
10	to be light years away from	j	to not work properly or to have a malfunction.
11	to be at the cutting edge	k	something that is simple and easy to understand, not complicated.
12	hot off the press	l	to start a process or action that will lead to a result.

2. Fill in the gaps with the appropriate active expression:

The new technology company aims to be (1) _____ of artificial intelligence, constantly innovating to stay ahead. Yesterday, I received a newsletter with the latest industry news, which was (2) _____ and packed with valuable insights. The new public park is the (3) _____ of a local architect who wanted to create a space that fosters community engagement. In negotiations, he knows how to (4) _____ to ensure a favorable outcome for his team. While some advancements in technology are impressive, we are still (5) _____ from achieving true artificial general intelligence. Unfortunately, my old laptop seems to be (6) _____, making it difficult for me to complete my work. The unexpected budget cut really threw (7) _____, complicating our project timeline significantly. To keep our team motivated during tough times, we held a fun event to (8) _____ of collaboration and creativity. Understanding the project requirements is crucial; after all, it's not (9) _____, and we have the

expertise to succeed. We shouldn't feel the need to (10)_____ when efficient solutions already exist within reach. Every employee plays a vital role and is just a (11) _____ in the machine, contributing to the organization's overall success. After months of planning and discussions, it was finally time to set (12)_____ for the new community center's construction.

3. Replace the underlined words with the appropriate vocabulary items.

1) The company is <u>at the forefront of</u> technological advancements.

2) The news story was <u>just released</u> and everyone is talking about it.

3) The <u>innovative</u> idea came from the new engineer.

4) He knew exactly what to say to <u>get the boss's approval</u>.

5) Their outdated methods are <u>far behind</u> the current standards.

6) The printer is <u>malfunctioning</u> again.

7) The sudden budget cuts <u>disrupted</u> the entire project.

8) A good manager knows how to <u>make</u> processes <u>run more smoothly</u>.

9) Understanding how to use this software <u>is not difficult</u>.

10) We <u>don't need to create a new system</u> when a perfectly good one already exists.

11) In the large corporation, he feels like <u>just another employee.</u>

12) The initial meeting <u>helped start</u> the project.

4. Answer the questions:

1) How do you think being at the cutting edge of technology affects our daily lives?

2) Can you share an example of a recent invention that was **hot off the press**?

3) What innovations do you believe are **the brainchild of** young entrepreneurs today?

4) In your opinion, what factors push the right buttons for successful technological advancements?

5) Do you feel that some industries are light years away from adopting new technologies?

6) Have you ever experienced a device that seemed **to be on the blink**? How did you handle it?

7) What challenges can throw a spanner in the works when developing new technology?

8) How important is it **to oil the wheels** of collaboration between scientists and engineers?

9) Why do you think people often say it's not rocket science when discussing complex topics?

10) In what ways do you think we might reinvent the wheel in terms of everyday technology?

5. Translate the sentences from Russian into English using the target vocabulary.

1. Мы работаем в правильном направлении, и результаты скоро будут видны.
2. Не стоит изобретать велосипед, если уже есть готовые решения.
3. Если мы не ускорим работу, мы будем сильно отставать от конкурентов.
4. Этот вопрос не требует сложных решений; это не высшая математика.
5. Иногда он сам чинит препятствия на своем пути к успеху.
6. Этот проект является истинным интеллектуальным детищем талантливых ученых.
7. Каждый из нас — винтик в большом механизме нашей компании.
8. Я прочитал интересную статью в свежей прессе о новых стартапах.
9. Нам нужно найти способы, чтобы ускорить процесс принятия решений.
10. Мой старый принтер оказался неисправным, и теперь я не могу печатать документы.
11. Эта компания представила передовую технологию для обработки данных.
12. Сегодня мы наконец-то начнем процесс подготовки к запуску проекта.