LISTENING

You are going to listen to a student called Sarah talking to her class about some research into shark skin she has done for a school project. For questions 1–10, complete the sentences with a word or short phrase.

1 Sarah compares the bumps on a shark's skin to ....., in terms of their appearance.

2 Sarah says that shark's skin feels similar to ..... .

3 One disadvantage of shark-like bumps on ..... was that it was difficult to wash them.

4 Scientists disapproved of the idea that ..... were being achieved by swimmers using shark-skin technology.

5 Sarah uses the words '.....' to describe the design of the realistic shark-skin material Chinese scientists have produced.

6 A new 'shark-skin' invention is being used in hospitals to stop patients getting ..... from bacteria.

7 The new shark-skin invention is put on the ..... inside hospitals.

8 The new shark-skin invention in hospitals is not designed to ..... the bacteria.

9 Sarah uses the word '.....' to describe the reaction of some medical staff to the new invention.

10 Sarah says that ..... will soon be given a shark-skin surface for use underwater.

	20

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LIVEWORKSHEETS

READING

Task 1

You are going to read an article about four people's views on technology. For questions 11–17, choose from the people A–D. The people may be chosen more than once.

Which person/people:

11 likes the fact that technology gives people choices? .....

12 suggests that experts' knowledge of some simple things is very limited? .....

13 mentions the amazing speed of technological change? .....

14 reminds us that technology is a wide term used in many areas of life? .....

15 gives an example of what can happen when technology fails? .....

16 talks about a negative effect of electronic devices on children who use them? .....

17 tells us what people had to do before a technological invention improved things? .....

18 says that one thing people fear with a new technology is not likely to happen? .....

19 says that some people who dislike technology benefit from it themselves? .....

20 talks about the benefits of technology from the point of view of students? .....

10

Task 2

Read the article again and answer the questions in your own words.

21 According to Rajish, why do older people criticise new technology? .....

.....

22 According to Rajish, what are two uses of scientific technology that benefit everyone in the world? .....

.....

23 According to Teresa, why is internet shopping a good thing? .....

.....

24 According to Courtney, why did people use to benefit from using maps? .....

.....

25 What does Mikey say about medical technology? .....

.....

10

Total: 50

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LIVEWORKSHEETS

Is new technology a good thing?

A Rajish

When we mention technology, we think immediately of computers, smartphones and iPads and we maybe think of kids who get addicted to them and who never go outside. But we shouldn't forget that technology is also things like cars, robots, printers: things that affect daily life in many ways. Scientists in laboratories use technology all the time, for the good of humanity, trying to find cures for diseases, trying to create crops which don't get diseases. They look at things under microscopes, through telescopes, and this way we can understand things better in our world. Some older people disapprove of new technology, and I can understand their position. It is hard if you are not familiar with using it. But when they criticise young people for using their smartphones all the time, and blame technology, they are ignoring all the things that, for example, help us survive disease ... help them survive disease as well.

B Teresa

Education has really benefited from technology. For one thing, word processing enables you to write much faster and more neatly, instead of using messy handwriting. And spell-checks correct your work for you, which is good because then it's of a higher standard. In the world of work, computers have made job searching much easier. You can actually apply for a job directly on a company's website. But with some companies, if you prefer, you also have the option of sending in a paper CV. Going on social media gives you more ways of connecting with people and finding your perfect friend. Before, your only option was to meet people from your area. What else? You don't need to leave your house to go shopping any more, and that's good because you free up time to do what you want. For me, that's what it's all about – providing you with options.

C Courtney

It's weird – scientists claim they're close to finding the secrets of the universe. Yet they still can't find simple solutions to small things like a cure for the common cold. So maybe we've still got a lot to discover with technology in the future. I certainly don't believe robots, even if they do become super-intelligent, are capable of taking over the world, as some people think. That's pure science fiction – after all, it's humans who program them. I also have a general distrust about how we collect information now: if you want to find something out you only need to ask Google and not move from your chair. This means you don't really need to know much anymore, since you can always look things up. It's the same with sat-nav technology in cars – if it doesn't work, people are completely lost. In the old days, people used maps, and had to know and also research a lot more. To me, that's the biggest single issue with technology – what backup plans do we have in place for when it all goes wrong?

D Mikey

Technology has advanced incredibly quickly and influenced everyone's lives. Of course, there are both negative and positive sides, but in my view the negatives outweigh the positives. But it all comes down to the way a person uses technology. Technology itself isn't making our lives any better, but anybody can take advantage of all the many opportunities that technology has provided and improve themselves. Some technologies, particularly those in medicine, are still improving our lives in a big way today. Having said that, I believe some technological improvements in other areas have gone as far as they usefully can, and further technological advance just for its own sake is only raising new problems rather than offering solutions. We've been able to communicate instantly with anyone in the world for many years and this area has not seen much in the way of technical improvements recently.

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