Who is afraid of technology?

*It has become appallingly obvious that our technology has exceeded our humanity.* ~Albert Einstein

*One machine can do the work of fifty ordinary men. No machine can do the work of one extraordinary man.* ~Elbert Hubbard

*The saddest aspect of life right now is that science gathers knowledge faster than society gathers wisdom.* ~Isaac Asimov

Technology is the making, usage, and knowledge of tools, machines, techniques, crafts, systems or methods of organization in order to solve a problem or perform a specific function. It can also refer to the collection of such tools, machinery, and procedures. The term can either be applied generally or to specific areas: examples include construction technology, medical technology, and information technology.

Technologies significantly affect human as well as other animal species' ability to control and adapt to their natural environments. The human species' use of technology began with the conversion of natural resources into simple tools. The prehistorical discovery of the ability to control fire increased the available sources of food and the invention of the wheel helped humans in travelling in and controlling their environment. Recent technological developments, including the printing press, the telephone, and the Internet, have lessened physical barriers to communication and allowed humans to interact freely on a global scale. However, not all technology has been used for peaceful purposes; the development of weapons of ever-increasing destructive power has progressed throughout history, from clubs to nuclear weapons.

Philosophical debates have arisen over the present and future use of technology in society, with disagreements over whether technology improves the human condition or worsens it. Neo-Luddism, anarcho-primitivism, and similar movements criticise the pervasiveness of technology in the modern world, opining that it harms the environment and alienates people; proponents of ideologies such as transhumanism and techno-progressivism view continued technological progress as beneficial to society and the human condition.

POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE ASPECTS OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Today information technology is part of our life.

We find computers everywhere, at the work place as well as in our personal lives. We are living an industrial revolution, an economic change and a social transformation due to technology.

One of the most positive aspects of it is “knowledge”: Internet is an educational instrument which gives access to different kinds of useful information and improves our knowledge. Internet gives us the possibility to communicate with other people, make friends, learn different cultures and experiences.

There are also practical advantages: shopping, paying bills, booking flights, controlling accounts, etc.

Let’s not forget entertainment! Through computer we can choose and listen to different kinds of music, play videogames, watch films, fashion, etc.

Unfortunately, we cannot disregard negative aspects of information technology: first of all there are people who cannot afford a personal computer or Internet and e-mail; moreover, some people “abuse” technology and completely isolate themselves, thus confusing fantasy and reality (especially children with
Such computer addiction causes a lot of social and relationship problems: people cannot communicate “face to face” anymore. Another negative aspect is criminal acts through Internet: dangerous people use Internet to meet and capture their victims (especially children and young people) and ask for a date with bad consequences.

Finally, the health aspect should be regarded: there are possible risks of exposure to electromagnetic radiations from the computer’s monitor (reported symptoms include headaches, anxiety, depression, nausea and fatigue).

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<tr>
<th>A1. The term ‘technology’ refers to ...</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A) tools and machines that may be used to solve real-world problems</td>
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<td>B) a collection of techniques, machines and methods</td>
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<td>C) artefacts created by humans and the methods used to create those artefacts</td>
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<td>D) the application of knowledge for practical purposes</td>
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<th>A2. Technology, over the years, ...</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A) has improved men’s control over nature</td>
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<td>B) has improved communication</td>
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<td>C) has reduced men’s ability to communicate</td>
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<td>D) has increased men’s destructive power</td>
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<th>A3. Today ...</th>
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<tr>
<td>A) there are people discussing positive and negative aspects of technology</td>
<td></td>
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<td>B) everyone believes that technology has negative effects on society</td>
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<tr>
<td>C) everyone believes that technology has positive effects on society</td>
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<td>D) everyone believes that technological progress improves the human condition</td>
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<th>A4. Information technology is ...</th>
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<tr>
<td>A) a specific area concerned with technology</td>
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<td>B) all of computing</td>
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<td>C) out of our life</td>
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<td>D) of one the main reasons for economic and social changes</td>
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<tr>
<th>A5. Why does information technology produce knowledge?</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A) Because Internet is a great source of information</td>
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<td>B) Because Internet gives access to all kinds of information</td>
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<tr>
<td>C) Because, through Internet, we can communicate with other people</td>
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<tr>
<td>D) Because Internet is an informative instrument</td>
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</table>
A6. Unfortunately, information technology causes ...

- A) isolation
- B) loss of sense of reality
- C) addiction
- D) social problems

T F

A7. Being on the computer for too long can cause ...

- A) tension
- B) tranquility
- C) relief
- D) calmness

A8. What is the purpose of the text?

- A) To encourage people to buy computers
- B) To encourage people to reflect upon positive and negative aspects of technology
- C) To encourage people to disregard technology
- D) To inform people about techno-progressivism theories

A9. What is ‘It has become appallingly obvious that our technology has exceeded our humanity’?

- A) It’s an essay by Einstein
- B) It’s an article by Einstein
- C) It’s a quotation by Einstein
- D) It’s a work by Einstein

A10. What does ‘The saddest aspect of life right now is that science gathers knowledge faster than society gathers wisdom’ mean?

- A) People are wise
- B) We live in a society based on knowledge rather than wisdom
- C) Our life is very sad
- D) We live in a society based on wisdom rather than knowledge

A11. What is technology?

_______________________________________________________________________________________

A12. Have recent technological developments improved communication?

_______________________________________________________________________________________
A13. What are the positive aspects of ICT?

_______________________________________________________________________________________

A14. What are the negative aspects of ICT?

_______________________________________________________________________________________

A15. Do you believe that technology improves human communication? Why?

_______________________________________________________________________________________

MAGIC TECHNOLOGY

Technology: part of our life

Computers everywhere

Consequences
  - industrial revolution
  - economic change
  - social transformation

Positive aspects
  - knowledge
  - practical advantages
  - entertainment

Negative aspects
  - expenses
  - computer addiction
  - criminal acts through Internet
  - health problems