Vocabulary 3: **TECHNOLOGY**

**Technology-related items**

to hit the airwaves, to be on the same wavelength, to get your wires crossed, light years ahead, rocket science

**Television**

to broadcast/screen something, to receive extensive television coverage, to tune in, to turn on/off, to turn up, to zap, to flick through, to switch, audience, viewers, newsreader, forecaster

**Computers**

to switch on/off, to log on/off, to hold/store something on computer, to crash, to be down/up, to be addicted, computer addict, to go on/to surf the Internet, to browse the web, spam, to hack into, to google something

**Machine/appliance/device**

to break down, to be out of order, to fix, to be as good as new, to work properly, to plug in, to unplug

**Nouns**

breakthrough, innovation, development, invention, discovery, finding, research, a big step forward, leap, improvement, technophobe, technophile

**Adjectives + technology**

current, present-day, the latest, modern, advanced, low, complex, state-of-art, sophisticated technology

**Verbs**

to create, to devise, to design, to develop, to conceive, to invent, lo launch, to improve, to innovate, to rely/depend on technology, to allow/enable

**Collocations**

to do/carry out an experiment, to make a breakthrough, advances in science/technology, a tech-savvy person, to have a technical mind

Writing an opinion essay

* *Modern technology is not always what we desired it to be. (300 words)*

TIPS

Pay attention to the format of an opinion essay:

* In the introduction, you present the topic and your opinion on the matter.
* The main body

- several paragraphs to develop your opinion from different angles.

- no matter what your opinion is, the last paragraph of the main body, should deal with a different perspective than yours, and the reasons why you consider it unconvincing.

* The conclusion should reinforce your opinion, but using different words.
* Formal register.

Use connectors to link both sentences and paragraphs in a coherent way, such as: *in my opinion, from my point of view, firstly, secondly, in addition, moreover, after all, however, either way, not to mention, to conclude.*

Every paragraph should deal with one idea that is to be presented in a topic sentence at the beginning of the paragraph + explanations and examples!

The tense most often used is present simple, but if a particular thing is undergoing a transformation you should use the present continuous; if you want to give an example from your personal experience, you should use the past simple and mention the time when the action took place.

Identify the keywords and what you are expected to write:

- *modern technology* = vocabulary related to computers, high-tech breakthroughs in medicine, engineering...

- *not always what we desired* = the difference between intentions and outcome, controversial issues.

SUGGESTED ANSWER

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| *Introducing the topic of the essay*  *Developing each idea into a separate paragraph*  *The last paragraph of the main body should present an opposite viewpoint*  *Conclusion*  *Reinforcing your personal opinion* | Nowadays, there may not be a topic more debated than the impact of modern technology upon people’s lives and unfortunately, I have to admit that many of the shortcomings brought into discussion here have already proved to be true, apparently despite initial predictions.  Firsly, one can think of nuclear energy that was created for totally positive purposes, but which triggered destruction beyond humankind’s worst nightmares. Although some people argue that its use shortened the duration of World War II, it does not explain the numerous nuclear explosions and experiments that occurred after the war, at the cost of many lives.  Secondly, computers were invented and upgraded so that we can increase our work speed and the amount of information processed. Unfortunately, people have also found ways to use high-tech devices to invade privacy, steal property, and identities, or deceive others. Not to mention the negative effect that radiations emitted by computers have on people’s health.  Another aspect worth mentioning, to illustrate the discrepency between initial purpose and its becoming is the pharmaceutical industry. Not only have most of the recently invented drugs led to the apparition of new diseases, but they are also being used as a source of huge income by the industry, not necessarily for benefit of people’s health. Producing less would also mean less money brought into it.  Although the examples could continue with genetics, advertising, satellites and others, nobody can argue against the idea that only the wrong use of modern technology made its destructive potential possible. Even so, technology could not be operated but by human beings, and as long as people have not become pure, intensely positive creatures, neither will technology become as such.  In conclusion, I personally agreethere is a long way between the good intentions of technological breakthroughs and their evolving into totally undesired directions. I am convinced that this is a problem which cannot be solved by ceasing scientific research, but through strong, united and devoted efforts to predict and limit its negative outcomes. |

* *Is Home Fitness here to stay? Write your opinion. Use no more than 250 words.*

“During lockdown, gyms and fitness studios were left with no other choice than to increase their digital presence. Many started offering virtual classes, allowing members to access services from the comfort of their own homes. Lockdown also inspired people to improve their home gyms and invest in home fitness equipment. (...) With gyms online and fancy new equipment at home, will people maintain their lockdown workout routines even after the pandemic ends?”

