

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ ( ) Class: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Your classmate wants to show you an opinion essay about modern technology that she has just written. Read the opinion essay.

**Text 2**      **Opinion essay**

## Technology: for **better** or for **worse** ?

① No one can deny that technology is changing our lives, and the speed of change seems to be increasing. Our healthcare, social lives and education have been irreversibly changed by new devices. There is a question of whether technology does more good or more harm, and I believe it is the former.



② Firstly, technology has had a major impact on healthcare. Just one hundred years ago, countless people lost their lives to diseases that we no longer have to worry about. Scientists are now getting closer to finding medicines that can treat some of the most devastating diseases, such as cancer and AIDS.

Another example is the significant breakthroughs in the treatment of deafness. Using stem cells, gene therapy and nerve stimulation, scientists are hoping to make hearing loss a thing of the past. Babies who are born deaf today have an opportunity to hear their mums' voice. Watching their faces light up when they hear this sound for the first time is an indescribable experience. Disabled individuals have the chance to walk again with the help of robots. Healthcare practitioners can also print body parts with 3-D printers. Concepts that used to be the stuff of science fiction are becoming a reality, and we are benefitting.

③ Secondly, technology can bring people closer together. Can you imagine a time that the only way to communicate with people far away was to send a letter? It could take months to get a reply, but now we can communicate in an instant. People from different countries stay connected with email and social media, or even see one another's

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expressions through video messaging applications such as Skype. This  
30 ability to communicate instantly can even save us from danger. Thinking  
quickly, a Hong Kong female singer travelling in Dubai took a photo of  
some strangers who snuck into her car, and uploaded it onto her social  
networking site. She told the strangers that people from all over the world  
were looking at the photo. Knowing their plan had been foiled, the  
35 strangers got out of the car and did not harm her.

4 Technology is changing the way we learn. It allows students to get  
information on the Internet for free. This puts students across the world  
on a more level playing field. Even if they cannot afford high-quality books  
or private tutors, students can access a wealth of information by accessing  
40 the Internet at their local library. According to a survey, 90% of the  
teachers interviewed love to share multimedia resources online and  
encourage students to learn on their own. This helps ambitious students  
direct their own education, and ensures that they do not stop learning as  
soon as they leave the classroom.

45 5 Overall, technology is beneficial for society. Though we may not have  
the same level of privacy or personal space than we did in the past, the  
positive effects are far more important. Anyone who has communicated  
with a long-lost friend overseas, or seen a child's face light up while  
participating in a virtual tour of the pyramids  
50 in Egypt, or seen a physically impaired  
person walk for the first time,  
must come to the  
same conclusion.



## Challenging reading and comprehension

## Unit 4

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ (    ) Class: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Comprehension 2**     *Your classmate is asking you some questions about her opinion essay. Answer her questions using information from the opinion essay. For multiple-choice questions, choose the best answer and blacken ONE circle only.*

**1** According to paragraph 1, what are three areas of our lives that have been changed by technology?

- i) \_\_\_\_\_
- ii) \_\_\_\_\_
- iii) \_\_\_\_\_

**2** According to paragraph 1, the rate of technological change is \_\_\_\_\_.

- A steady
- B speeding up
- C slowing down
- D not noticeable

A   B   C   D

○ ○ ○ ○

**3** What are three ways that scientists are treating deafness?

- i) \_\_\_\_\_
- ii) \_\_\_\_\_
- iii) \_\_\_\_\_

**4** According to paragraph 2, what are some of the advantages of technology in health care? Tick (✓) three boxes.

<input type="checkbox"/>	improve people's eyesight	<input type="checkbox"/>	help people to regain their hearing
<input type="checkbox"/>	allow people to walk again	<input type="checkbox"/>	cure deadly diseases
<input type="checkbox"/>	create better tests to find diseases	<input type="checkbox"/>	prevent people from going deaf



**5** What does the writer mean when she says that when children hear their mum's voice for the first time, their 'faces light up'?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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**6** Find words in paragraph 2 that mean the same as the following:

i) advances \_\_\_\_\_

ii) chance \_\_\_\_\_

iii) people who practice medicine \_\_\_\_\_



**7** Why do you think the writer compares new technology to ideas in science fiction in paragraph 2?

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**8** According to the essay, in what ways can we communicate 'in an instant' today?

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**9** Who does 'their' refer to in line 34?

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**10** Why did the singer from Hong Kong upload the photograph of the strangers in her car?

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**11** Find a word in paragraph 3 that means 'ruined'.

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**12** What does it mean that students are on 'a more level playing field' (line 38)?

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**13** Use ONE word to complete each blank.

Today, students with a lot of \_\_\_\_\_ have more control over the  
\_\_\_\_\_ of their education.

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**14** According to the essay, what per cent of teachers like to share multimedia resources online?

\_\_\_\_\_

**15** In paragraph 5, the writer gives some examples of ways that technology helps us in different areas of our lives. What example does the writer give for technology improving education?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**16** Match the headings to paragraphs 2–4 of the text. Write the paragraph number (2–4) next to each heading. One heading is NOT used and should be left blank.

Heading

Paragraph number

An improved education

Improving memory and ability

Making us live longer and better

Decreasing the distances between people


**17** Where would you most likely find this text?

A in a textbook

B in a novel

C on a website about technology

D in an advertisement

A   B   C   D

○   ○   ○   ○



**18** Does the writer believe that technology does more harm or good? Use evidence from the text to justify your response.

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\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_