Name: _____ ( ) Class: _____ Date: _____

Your teacher has asked you to read an essay about modern technology in a science magazine. Read the essay.

Text 2   Two-sided argumentative essay

Technology: the road to laziness?

Ida Koenig

❶ Technology has transformed the way we live. A few decades ago, smartphones and laptops did not even exist. Nowadays, it feels like an entirely different era. Twenty-first century gadgets and gizmos have certainly turned a page in human history. But while technology has improved our quality of life, has it also diminished our capabilities?

5   ❷ One of the greatest boons of modern technology is convenience. In the past, everything was time-consuming— work, errands, even having fun. Today, technological improvements give us access to everything from a position of comfort. A tap of a button captures information in a photo. Four clicks of a mouse buys us a pair of shoes. We still do the same things—but more easily.

10   ❸ The development of smart hubs and intelligent systems, such as Amazon Alexa and Google Home, has further changed lifestyles. At a simple voice command, they provide the latest current affairs. They can play music, make phone calls, set alarms, take pictures, give directions and look up information. Beyond making life easier while we do things, technology is doing them for us. Our only job is to delegate; actual execution is
15   increasingly beyond our scope.

❹ As technology does our tasks, is it also taking over our lives? Dr Abhishek Ramachandra sees consequences to the shift in our habits. 'Today, many students can't spell correctly without spellcheckers. Users of self-driving cars won't know how to drive. Might we forget how to walk, eat or breathe one day?'

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Name: _____ ( ) Class: _____ Date: _____

20 ❺ In his thirty years as a family physician, Dr Ramachandra has also noticed a change in patients' average health. He says patients are generally more out of shape today than they were decades ago.

❻ 'Unfortunately, we've become lazy as a collective. In
25 my humble opinion, technology is a chief cause.' –Abhishek Ramachandra

❼ This association between technology and laziness is questionable. Jane Mahiri, a community organizer, thinks technology has lent a huge hand towards event organization.
30 She claims it has mobilized her community towards all kinds of activities. 'Since we started publicizing events on social media, we've seen much bigger turnouts,' Mahiri declares enthusiastically.

❽ 'Technology has been instrumental in spreading information and getting things trending, from community
35 dances to basketball games.' –Jane Mahiri

❾ When it comes to physical activity, technology can have even more direct advantages. Popular augmented reality games, played on mobile phones across the globe, require players to travel around in real life in order to progress in-game. Wearable technologies like
40 fitness trackers were developed specifically with exercise in mind. They keep track of all kinds of data, including the number of steps taken per day as well as the user's heart rate and sleeping patterns. Such technologies greatly increase users' incentive to engage in physical activity, which might put the 'lazy' label to bed.

45 ❿ Ultimately, technology does not have the final say on our behaviour; we do. The choice to be 'lazy', with or without technology, lies squarely with us. Technology is just a tool—and a very useful one at that.

Oxford English (Second Edition) 3A
Simplified reading and comprehension

Name: _____ ( ) Class: _____ Date: _____

Comprehension 2 *Your teacher wants to know what you took away from the technology debate. Answer her questions using information from the two-sided argumentative essay. For multiple-choice questions, choose the best answer and blacken ONE circle only.*

1 According to paragraph 1, which of the following statements is TRUE?

- ○ A The author is not tech savvy.
- ○ B The author is a supporter of technology.
- ○ C The author thinks technology is influential.
- ○ D The author thinks technology is unnecessary.

2 Give TWO examples of 'twenty-first century gadgets and gizmos' (lines 2 & 3) mentioned in the essay.

i) _____

ii) _____

3 What does the word 'boons' (line 5) mean?

_____

4 According to paragraph 2, what is the main advantage of technology?

- ○ A technology makes shopping more fun
- ○ B technology allows us to take better photos
- ○ C technology makes it easier for us to do things
- ○ D technology connects people

5 According to the essay, what can current day smart hubs and intelligent systems do? Tick (✓) all that apply.

- ☐ post a letter
- ☐ prepare dinner
- ☐ search for telephone numbers
- ☐ show a map
- ☐ show news stories
- ☐ wake someone up in the morning

6 What does the 'shift in our habits' (line 17) refer to?

_____

7 Dr Ramachandra and Jane Mahiri have different views towards technology. Complete the table.

View	Technology is beneficial
Name	
Main argument	• technology helps spread _____
View	Technology is harmful
Name	
Main arguments	• technology makes us lose _____ like spelling and driving • technology makes us _____

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Simplified reading and comprehension

Name: _____ ( ) Class: _____ Date: _____

8 Find ONE word from each of paragraphs 7 and 8 that shows Jane Mahiri's attitude towards technology.

Paragraph 7: _____

Paragraph 8: _____

9 According to paragraph 9, are the following statements are **True (T)**, **False (F)** or **Not Given (NG)**?

Statements	T	F	NG
i) Some augmented reality games require players to travel around the world.	○	○	○
ii) Fitness trackers can be worn while sleeping.	○	○	○
iii) Technology can make people exercise more.	○	○	○
iv) Technology makes people lazy.	○	○	○

10 What is the tone of the essay?

A objective

B sarcastic

C entertaining

D forceful

A B C D
○ ○ ○ ○

11 Does the author agree that technology makes us lazy? Provide evidence from the essay to support your argument.

_____

_____

_____

12 Complete the following passage using the correct form of words from Text 2. Use ONE word to complete each blank.

What makes a successful technology start-up? While thinking up original ideas is a must, the (i) _____ (paragraph 3) of these ideas is also (ii) _____ (paragraph 8) in pushing the business onto the big stage. A successful visionary CEO not only (iii) _____ (paragraph 3) tasks to his or her staff, but also creates (iv) _____ (paragraph 9) such as reward systems to (v) _____ (paragraph 7) employees to maintain a high standard of work.