

Reading

1 Read the text. Choose the best answers.

A QUIET REVOLUTION

We are all well aware of the significance of technological advances over the last few decades, but the impact on everyday working life has yet to be fully appreciated. This is because change is gradual and it is only when we look back that comparisons force us to evaluate what can be considered progress and what is a sad loss.

On the plus side, technology allows us greater access to information at incalculable speeds. Through the Internet we can tap into vast amounts of data at the touch of a key. As well as saving time, this has given rise to new types of jobs and encouraged us all to develop totally new skills. With the technological world changing so rapidly there are exciting opportunities for everyone whose working life is just beginning.

A downside to this technological revolution is the fact that the workplace has changed beyond recognition for many people. Gone are the cosy offices with chats across desktops. Employees today remain mainly fixated on their screens and their relaxation is obtained through the occasional surreptitious access to social networking sites. Communication is conducted electronically depending less and less on face-to-face discussion or even phone contact. Office misbehaviour has changed radically too. Whereas in the past employees had to be careful not to talk about the boss behind his back or mislay important paperwork, today it is the careless e-mail to the wrong person or loss of a CD or even laptop on the train that can lead to disciplinary action.

The workplace itself has changed and people no longer need to leave their homes and commute to work. Work can be done at home or during the commute and a significant result of this is that we no longer have space and time to ourselves. Being contactable at all times can put enormous pressure on individuals and is one of the main causes of stress at work today.

It is inevitable that our working lives will continue to change. For some people this change is worrying and stressful. They believe that the faster life becomes, the more is demanded of us at work, and eventually we shall reach a point where we are unable to cope. Others see these advances as something akin to magic! Whatever developments are around the electronic corner, there will be those who talk about 'progress' and those who talk about 'loss', but what is sure is that it's something that none of us will be able to control.

- The impact of technological advances
 - has been underestimated.
 - forces us to consider what we have lost.
 - hasn't yet been fully understood.
- One advantage of these advances is that
 - computers are getting faster.
 - our skills are improving.
 - we are becoming better educated.
- Social networking at work is
 - frowned upon.
 - vital for relaxation.
 - better than chatting.
- Why do people often work at home these days?
 - There is less commuting.
 - Communication is easier.
 - It is more enjoyable.
- What is the writer's attitude?
 - The faster life is bad for our health.
 - Change is inevitable.
 - We should embrace change.

Mark /10

Vocabulary

2 Complete the sentences with appropriate words.

- Have you seen the film _____ of the final Harry Potter book?
- Pete's dad has had a change of _____ and says we can have the party at his place.
- The wedding dress just needs some minor _____ and then everything is ready for the big day!
- _____ retirement because of disability can be a terrible problem for older people.

- 5 We've had to make some slight _____ to the design, but I think you'll agree with them.
- 6 Can you give me a hand with the _____ from feet and inches to metric? I'm not very good at it!
- 7 I don't think Ben's happy studying science at university. He needs a change of _____.
- 8 They say that we will continue to _____ as a species as a result of changes in our lifestyles.
- 9 When a new manager is taken on there's usually a period of _____ while the employees get used to a new system.
- 10 Leo has always had a _____ relationship with his father. You never know whether they're talking to each other or not.

Mark /10

Grammar

3 Which words CANNOT be used to complete the sentences? Choose the correct answers.

- 1 It's _____ more difficult to learn a completely new language when you're older.
A a good deal B by a long way
C an awful lot
- 2 Cathy is _____ the entrant with the best chance to win in the whole competition.
A quite B far and away C easily
- 3 I ate _____ more than you did at the restaurant.
A by far B a good deal C rather
- 4 It's _____ less expensive to travel by car than by train these days.
A marginally B a bit C by miles
- 5 This is _____ the most nauseating film I've ever seen.
A very B by far C easily

Mark /5

4 Combine the sentences using reduced relative clauses.

- 1 We celebrated my sister's wedding at a hotel. They've demolished it now.

- 2 I invested in shares last year. A lot of them have since gone down in value.

- 3 A lot of books were published in the 1950s. Many of them have gone out of print.

- 4 I spoke to a person on the phone. He gave me directions to the office.

- 5 There's a car outside your house. It used to belong to my brother.

Mark /5


5 Complete the sentences with the correct conditional form of the verbs in brackets.

- 1 If I _____ (have) a younger brother or sister, I _____ (not get) so much pressure from my parents. It's not easy being an only child.
- 2 I _____ (pass) my exams easily, if I _____ (focus) on my revision timetable. I will next time.
- 3 Paul's parents have got to sell their house. They _____ (not be) in such financial difficulties if they _____ (save) more wisely.
- 4 If you _____ (take) the car into the garage when I suggested, it _____ (repair) by now.

5 It was a near miss! If Dan
_____ (drive) any faster, we
_____ (not sit) here now!

Mark /10

Listening

6  5.04 Listen to an interview with a popular music artist. Are the statements true or false?

- 1 Popularity has come quickly for Gary. T / F
- 2 One thing he has changed is his appearance. T / F
- 3 Gary doesn't really enjoy the loss of anonymity that has come with the success. T / F
- 4 He gets angry with journalists who misreport him. T / F
- 5 He used to work in a supermarket. T / F

Mark /10

Writing

7 Write a discursive essay with the title 'How different might our towns and cities look 50 years from now?' Use the writing guide to help you. Write 200–250 words.

Paragraph 1: Introduction. Talk about recent changes.

Paragraph 2: Write about changes you envisage.

Paragraph 3: Discuss the advantages of these changes.

Paragraph 4: Discuss the disadvantages of these changes.

Paragraph 5: Conclusion.

Mark /10

Total /60