

Reading

1 Read the text. Are the sentences true or false?

Who's watching you?

How much privacy do we still have in our day-to-day lives and for how much longer are we likely to be able to continue to enjoy it? It's a question that should be concerning us far more than it apparently is. The 'Big Brother' of 1984 alerted us to the way surveillance techniques were developing, but no one could have envisaged the speed at which our privacy laws are being eroded. What is extremely worrying is the fact that, according to surveys in both the USA and the UK, about 75% of us want more not less surveillance.

This is due, in no small part, to the fear of terrorism and the perceived necessity to track and observe suspicious individuals who may threaten us.

Understandably, this involves the development of ever more sophisticated tracking devices and the ability to record increasing amounts of data. Some of the more recent advances made in surveillance technology are impressive and quite frightening in their scope. No one denies the value of this work in fighting terrorism and crime prevention and investigation, but how easy might it be to abuse the powers that it gives those in authority?

In Maryland, just outside Washington DC, a team is busy inventing the next generation of citizen surveillance which involves matching facial images to gait, height and weight and other elements so that a person can be unsuspectingly identified and tracked through a crowd.

Another development is a computer that will be able to simultaneously translate a whole range of languages to enable non-speakers to understand conversation around them in a foreign place.

Then there is the unmanned aeroplane that will be able to stay aloft for up to five years, responding to camera focus instructions! Perhaps the most frightening development of all is the one that most closely approaches the Big Brother concept – the technology that will enable surveillance to enter the final safe refuge, our homes. The sense-through-the-wall technology currently exists to tell us whether someone is standing on the other side of a wall and even goes so far as to give breathing and heart rate.

Perhaps the science fiction monitoring of people through screens in their homes is not quite upon us yet, but the technology to do it is. And scientists themselves say that the technology will soon exist that could lead to the scanning of people's thoughts! How's that for invasion of privacy!

- 1 People saw their fears about surveillance reflected in the book *1984*. T / F
- 2 The majority of people want fewer privacy laws. T / F
- 3 The writer is concerned that the power surveillance gives may be misused. T / F
- 4 A whole age group has grown up with secret crowd screening. T / F
- 5 Our homes may one day be subject to surveillance. T / F

Mark /10

Vocabulary

2 Complete the figurative expressions with the correct words.

- 1 Is Martine OK now? She was in _____ of tears after the interview.
- 3 It's just _____ on me that you must be the new assistant.
- 3 We're having a few _____ with the building work, but everything will be finished by 24 March.
- 4 The news of the celebrity's secret wedding was _____ all over the newspapers.
- 5 It was such a surprise that it simply took my _____ away.
- 6 Money _____ and rich people definitely get the best treatment.
- 7 Jennifer had a terrible relationship with her first husband and it _____ her for life.

Mark /7

3 Complete the sentences with the correct form of the verbs in the box. There are two more words than you need.

break crop drop get go keep leak
let run take

- Someone in the department _____ information about the merger to the press.
- It mustn't _____ back to Petra that we've been talking about her.
- I don't know why we started talking about it. It just _____ up in conversation.
- Denny _____ slip that he was intending to hand in his notice shortly.
- We won't be able to _____ the lid on this news for much longer.
- Our boss has just _____ the news that they're going to close the Manchester branch of our company.
- Has Karen _____ any hints about when they're planning to get married?
- I promise – if you tell me it _____ no further!

Mark /8

Grammar

4 Complete the sentences with the correct passive form of the verbs in the box. There are two more words than you need.

access build check expand extend
interview invade send take tell
update

- The politician (a) _____ on a TV news programme when the studio (b) _____ by a group of protesters.
- Hundreds of new houses (a) _____ in this area recently, but the road system (b) _____ to cope with the increase in traffic.

3 Information about the road works

- (a) _____ to every household last week, but the dates (b) _____ and weren't correct.

- 4 Passport details** (a) _____ when guests check in at reception. However, the computer system (b) _____ at the moment which means that reservations (c) _____ electronically until the new system is in place.


Mark /9

5 Complete the sentences with the correct form of one of the verbs given.

- Tolkien _____ as the greatest fantasy writer of the twentieth century.
A believe B consider C regard
- _____ that cash will be used less and less frequently in the future.
A regard B see C accept
- White Bengal tigers _____ to be extinct in the wild.
A believe B see C feel
- Wearing very high-heeled shoes _____ very fashionable at the moment.
A regard B consider C see
- Phrasal verbs _____ as one of the most problematic areas for learners of English.
A see B accept C report
- _____ that a salary increase is not appropriate at this point.
A regard B feel C say

Mark /6

Listening

6  5.09 Listen to someone talking about privacy. Are the sentences true or false?

- 1 The speaker is talking about the habits of people on public transport. T / F
- 2 The speaker thinks that the authorities should do more to protect personal information. T / F
- 3 According to the speaker, phone users sometimes give away secret information. T / F
- 4 The speaker thinks many phone users like to boast. T / F
- 5 The speaker enjoys listening in to people sitting near her who are talking. T / F

Mark /10

Writing

7 Write an opinion essay with the title: 'A real friend's trust should never be betrayed.' Use the writing guide to help you. Write 200–250 words.

Paragraph 1: Introduction.

Paragraph 2: Points in support of the opposite opinion.

Paragraph 3: Points in support of your opinion.

Paragraph 4: Further points in support of your opinion.

Paragraph 5: Conclusion.

Mark /10

Total /60