

## What effect has technology had on our lives ?

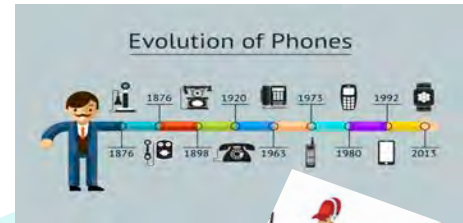
Read the short essay below and answer the questions.

The twenty-first century is already turning out to be the century of advanced technologies. The technological revolution that started after the Second World War is now developing more quickly and computing and other technological advances are beginning to reach into and influence and take over nearly every aspect of our lives. The two main effects advanced computing has had on our lives are in the areas of economics and communications.



Technology has led to big changes in economic and business systems and operations . Businesses now have to be using cloud services or machine learning or risk failure. Consequently, every big corporation bases its operations on computing, regardless of which sector they are in. For instance, Coca Cola, the BBC and Levi's market and sell different products and services, yet they all share one basic property – without advanced computing services their operations would collapse. New technologies are a generator of economic dynamism. China and India and many other developing countries have large IT sectors which drive their economies. Furthermore, the more advanced economies, including Germany, the United States, Japan and Korea are moving from an industria-based economy to a computing and IT-based one.

The other important effect of technological change is the revolutionizing of communication. For example, in the past, people wrote letters or talked on phones on fixed landlines, which slowed down the communication process. Now they send e--mail, text or chat using mobile devices. Instead of waiting weeks for a letter or spending time finding a landline , we can communicate instantly in real time or seconds after a message or email has been sent. New forms of communication are cheaper or free. As a result, now people who live thousands of kilometres away from each other can communicate as much as they want and whenever they want .



In conclusion, computing and new technologies have had a profound effect on our lives in many ways and it is in business and communication that they have had the greatest influence. In the future, if technology continues evolving at such speed, our business practices and methods of communication will undergo even greater changes. It is already starting to bring changes to other parts of our lives, such as transportation and health.

1 What two parts of our lives has computing changed ?

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2 Can you give an example of how computing is important in business ?

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3 What might happen to a company if it didn't keep up with technological advances ?

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4 Why is it easier to communicate with people in other parts of the world now than in the past ?

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5 Which two parts of our lives will be affected by new technologies in the future ? Can you think of your own example for each?

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## Effects of technology answers

1 What two parts of our lives has computing changed ?

Business/economy and communication

2 Can you give an example of how computing is important in business ?

Cloud services and machine learning

3 What might happen to a company if it didn't keep up with technological advances ?

Companies risk failure and they might collapse

4 Why is it easier to communicate with people in other parts of the world now than in the past ?

It's cheaper or free. People can communicate in real time. It's more convenient.

5 Which two parts of our lives will be affected by new technologies in the future ? Can you think of your own example for each?

1 Transport: Examples = electric car , autonomous cars , drones etc.

2 Health: Examples = wearable monitors ie. Apple watch , automated diagnosis etc.