

Essential English

General instruction

- Work in this book will not be marked.



Stimulus 1

Context

This blogger writes about topics related to science and technology.



Science and technology: Where would we be without them?

3:30 pm, August 25, 2023 • 2 comments

Without water on tap. Without phones. Without the internet. Without efficient transport. #dull

Throughout past and present generations, science and technology have *worked together* as powerful drivers of change. They're the pursuers of progress, the collective compass pointing us towards an improved future.

They're also unstoppable. The past is testament to that. Not so long ago, the horse and cart was a means of transportation, antibiotics didn't exist, and silent films were the norm.

Fast forward to **1936**. Cars are manufactured *en masse* and planes travel at 333 km per hour at heights of over 4000 metres. Black-and-white televisions provide entertainment and by **1953**, heart-lung machines emerge for use during surgery.

Fast forward to **2022**. Planes travel at 925 km per hour up to a height of 11 000 metres. Robotic arms perform surgery, and black and white televisions are replaced with smart TVs with streaming services that are as rich and plentiful as a royal banquet.

Today, we watch digital stories on our phones/laptops/tablets whether we're at home or in transit (even on planes). We create our own videos and share them with the world with the touch of a button. #fun

Today, we look up into a once-quiet sky and see thrumming drones, the next tool changing our lives by:

- taking footage of waterfalls and migrating whales
- delivering pizzas to people in driveways
- delivering aid to those in need.

Fast forward to **2080**. More tools and more change!!! Supersonic cars? Microchipped fingers for identification? New energy sources? Sounds exciting, but as expectations spiral, perhaps the compass of change directing us with increasing speed from one advancement to another needs a check-up.

With each advancement, life changes and re-forms. It's a bit like watching photos develop; the images slowly sharpen before colours emerge and our new 'normal' comes into focus. Expectations then increase *again*, e.g. today, we make phone calls, seek answers to burning questions, check heart rates and play music. All. On. A. Watch. Tomorrow, we'll want to do even more. All. On. Whatever replaces the smartwatch.

More and more, I find myself pondering the 21st century issues created by science and technology and how to resolve the issues they cause. Then there's scary statistics, like having to produce 70% more food in 2006 than in 1950 so we could support the world's ever-increasing population. Stats like that make me think: maybe we should consider how we're using the tools of science and technology and whether it's for personal benefit or, as it should be, for the greater good.

Perhaps the real question is not where would we be without science and technology, but where do we want to be?



Alex25 • 4:45 pm, August 25, 2023

Science and technology are *the* portals to the 21st century and beyond.



Tee492 • 10:06 am, August 27, 2023

Science and technology are like an octopus — tentacles everywhere.

Stimulus 2

Context

This advertisement is on the website, Science and Technology Careers.

Are you programmed for Science and Technology?



Have an impact on the world.
Choose a career in science and technology.

Email us at: jo.harris@scienceandtechnologycareers.org
for career advice about this exciting field.

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References

Stimulus 1

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Stimulus 2

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