

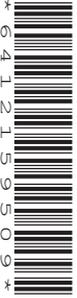
Tuesday 7 June 2016 – Morning

GCSE ENGLISH LANGUAGE (NI)

A633/02/RBI Information and Ideas (Higher Tier)

READING BOOKLET INSERT

Duration: 2 hours



INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

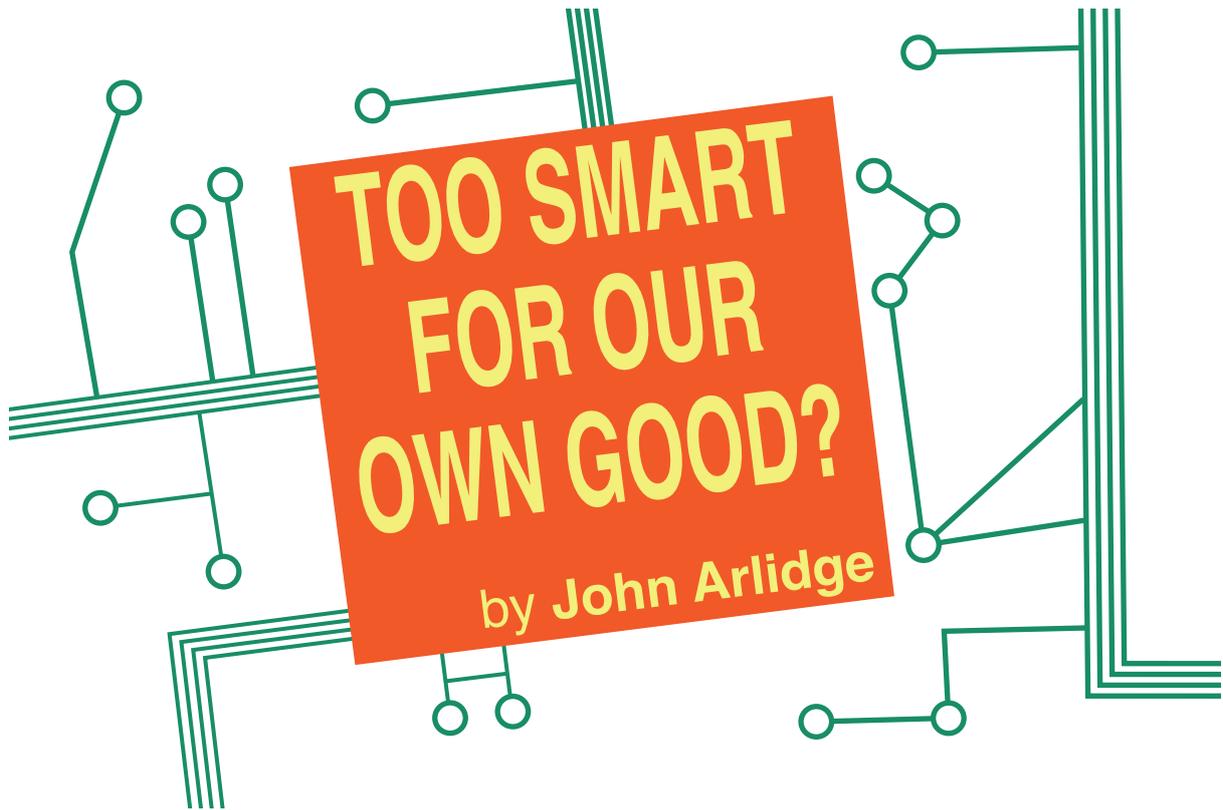
- The materials in this Reading Booklet Insert are for use with the questions in **Section A** of the Question Paper.

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A typical home will soon contain a network of gadgets designed to make life easier. All these developments have one thing in common: they are part of “the internet of things”. But the convenience will come at a cost.

A warm glow bathes your bed and you wake up feeling perfectly refreshed. Your bedside sleep monitor has roused you with your favourite “dawn light”, just as you emerge from a period of deep sleep into lighter sleep.

The aroma of fresh-brewed coffee and hot rolls fills the air. The bed has told the kitchen you are awake, and the coffee maker and oven have turned themselves on. While you eat breakfast, the bath fills itself to your favourite depth and temperature.

As you dress after your bath, you tap your smartwatch to order your car. Ten minutes later you walk out and it is waiting for you with no driver. It has driven itself to your door. You tap your smartwatch again and the door opens.

Heading for the office, you read your emails and then watch the morning news on one of the television screens that has scrolled down from the ceiling. You barely notice as the autonomous car slows down or speeds up, except when it brakes quickly – and then apologetically explains why. “A child walked into the road in front.” It gets you there by the quickest route having read the latest traffic reports.

The car pulls up outside your office. You walk out and it drives off to park itself. As you walk in, your digital diary gives you a ten minute warning of your first meeting. Your smartwatch knows where you are in the office. If you stay in a room too long, it knows a meeting has overrun, so it reschedules later meetings and lets your colleagues know the new times. Efficiency is therefore increased.



Back at home, you have forgotten to turn down the heating. Your house reads your diary and realises you will not be back until late, so it turns down the thermostat and helps protect the environment.

Your smart electricity meter has noticed there is a cheap new morning tariff, so it switches on your washing machine and saves you money. The machine has calculated you are low on washing powder, so it adds that to the online shopping list, alongside the eggs your fridge has sent for and the toothpaste ordered by your smart bathroom cabinet.

And there is, possibly, more.

A car that parks itself; a GPS tracker for pets; a bicycle with sat nav; and an online temperature patch to warn parents about their children's health. There are experiments with smart sports clothing that monitors your fitness as you work out. Like smart connected people, smart connected objects are cool.

But there are concerns about how safe this all is.

All the new connected devices give hackers the chance to break into our homes, opening doors and seizing control of security systems, monitoring cameras, smart TVs and even baby monitors. The chief executive of Mercedes Benz cars has described the "nightmare vision" of a car on the road being hijacked and controlled by hackers. "We are working with all our strength to make this impossible," he said.

You might want to ask how much your privacy is worth because, to make all this work, you will need to give them 24/7 access to your online diary. Anna Fielder, chairwoman of the campaign group Privacy International, says: "It could be the ultimate invasion of privacy". Who owns the data we would provide to the tech firms? This is still very unclear.

What is clear is that the big tech companies want to use the 24/7 digital record of our lives to sell on to advertisers and anyone else who wants to exploit it, just as they do at present with our search history.

If our home sensors know we are cooking breakfast, Google would love to send us pancake recipes. If this sounds fanciful, remember that Google has form when it comes to invading our homes: its Street View cars illegally grabbed details of home wi-fi networks.

Like it or not, the whole world is becoming the web. So log on if you want. But look before you click.

Steve Jobs Was a Low-Tech Parent

by Nick Bilton

When Steve Jobs was running Apple, he was known to call journalists to either pat them on the back for a recent article or, more often than not, explain how they got it wrong. I was on the receiving end of a few of those calls. But nothing shocked me more than something Mr Jobs said to me in late 2010 after he had finished chewing me out for something I had written about an iPad shortcoming.

“So, your kids must love the iPad?” I asked Mr Jobs, trying to change the subject. The company’s first tablet was just hitting the shelves. “They haven’t used it,” he told me. “We limit how much technology our kids use at home.”

I’m sure I responded with a gasp and dumbfounded silence. I had imagined the Jobs’s household was like a nerd’s paradise: that the walls were giant touch screens, the dining table was made from tiles of iPads and that iPods were handed out to guests like chocolates on a pillow.

Nope, Mr Jobs told me, not even close.

Since then, I’ve met a number of technology chief executives and investors who say similar things: they strictly limit their children’s screen time, often banning all gadgets on school nights, and allocating time limits on weekends.

I was perplexed by this parenting style. After all, most parents seem to take the opposite approach, letting their children bathe in the glow of tablets, smartphones and computers, day and night.

Yet these tech bosses seem to know something that the rest of us don’t.

Chris Anderson, the former editor of *Wired* and now chief executive of 3D Robotics, a drone maker, has instituted time limits and parental controls on every device in his home. “My kids accuse me and my wife of being fascists and overly concerned about tech, and they say that none of their friends has the same rules,” he said of his five children, aged 6 to 17. “That’s because we have seen the dangers

of technology first-hand. I’ve seen it in myself, I don’t want to see that happen to my kids.”

The dangers he is referring to include exposure to harmful content like pornography, bullying from other kids, and perhaps worse of all, becoming addicted to their devices, just like their parents.

Alex Constantinople, the chief executive of the OutCast Agency, a tech-focused communications and marketing firm, said her youngest son, who is 5, is never allowed to use gadgets during the week, and her older children, aged 10 to 13, are allowed only 30 minutes a day on school nights.

Evan Williams, a founder of Blogger, Twitter and Medium, and his wife, Sara Williams, said that in lieu of iPads, their two young boys have hundreds of books (yes, physical ones) that they can pick up and read anytime.

While some tech parents assign limits based on time, others are much stricter about what their children are allowed to do with screens.

Ali Partovi, a founder of iLike and adviser to Facebook, Dropbox and Zappos, said there should be a strong distinction between time spent “consuming”, like watching YouTube or playing video games, and time spent “creating” on screens.

“Just as I wouldn’t dream of limiting how much time a kid can spend with her paintbrushes, or playing her piano, or writing, I think it’s absurd to limit her time spent creating computer art, editing video, or computer programming,” he said.

Others said that outright bans could backfire and create a digital monster.

Dick Costolo, chief executive of Twitter, told me he and his wife approved of unlimited gadget use as long as their two teenage children were in the living room. They believe that too many time limits could have adverse effects on their children.

“When I was at the University of Michigan, there was this guy who lived in the dorm next to me and he had cases and cases of Coca-Cola in his room,” Mr Costolo said. “I later found out that it

was because his parents had never let him have Coca-Cola when he was growing up. If you don't let your kids have some exposure to this stuff, what problems will it cause later?"

I never asked Mr Jobs what his children did instead of using the gadgets he built, so I reached out to Walter Isaacson, the author of *Steve Jobs*, who spent a lot of time at their home.

"Every evening Steve made a point of having dinner at the big long table in their kitchen, discussing books and history and a variety of things," he said. "No one ever pulled out an iPad or computer. The kids did not seem addicted at all to devices."

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