VOCABULARY: TECHNOLOGY

Read the following IELTS-style questions and answers below and pay attention to the phrases in **bold**. Use the 'Definitions' section at the bottom of the page to check the meaning of any phrases you don't understand.

Part 1-style questions

Examiner: Do you enjoy using technology?
Stephan: Well … I wouldn't call myself **a techie** or a **computer buff** but I enjoy using computers … I'd like to find out more about how they work … when my **computer crashes** I never know what to do.

Examiner: Do you use the Internet for your studies?
Sophie: Yes … I'd be lost without it … I do lots of **video conferencing** to practise speaking and **social media** like Facebook is a good way to meet up with other students … and I **download podcasts** that teach English vocabulary and grammar.

Examiner: Do you have your own computer?
Tania: Yes … I have a Macbook Pro … I use it all the time … for **word processing** … **browsing websites** and catching up with TV programmes I've missed.

Part 2-style task

Describe an item of technology you have that is very important. You should say:

- what the technology is
- when you got it
- how often you use it

and say how different your daily life would be without it.

Mattie: I don't have many **gadgets** … just a computer … a laptop and my mobile phone … but I'll talk about my computer as it's so useful … it's funny really … 2 years ago I was still learning to use computers … how to use email … **send attachments** how to **access websites** … then I decided to do a **digital editing** course for video and photography … and so I bought the laptop when I started the course … my husband had a **desktop PC** but it was very slow so I decided **to upgrade** to a powerful one because we do a lot of video editing on the course … it's a **high-spec** laptop … very fast … the latest **operating system** … it **boots up** really quickly and it's fun to use so it makes working a pleasure … I've become a competent computer user now … if I didn't have it I daresay I'd have to spend more time at college using their computers … but on the positive side I suppose I'd read a lot more if I didn't have it … I probably waste a lot of time **surfing the web** … but hopefully I won't have to be without it …

Part 3-style questions

Examiner: What do you think are the important things people need to learn when they start using computers?
Alejandro: Well … there are things like how to use the Internet … how **to enter a web address** …

how **to navigate websites** … that kind of thing but it's also important to know how **to back up**your files in case your computer crashes … and all about **Internet security**.

Examiner: What kind of technological developments have made the biggest impact on our lives?
Faydene: In my lifetime it has to be the Internet of course but I also think wifi has made a huge difference to how we interact with the Internet … **wireless networks** at home and public **wifi hotspots** mean we can **go online** easily … **access our mail** … log into our work intranet and basically be connected wherever we are.

Examiner: Do computers make it much easier to study?
Jane: Definitely yes … researching information is much easier with the Internet .. you can **bookmark webpages** for future reference and writing essays is much easier … being able **to cut and paste** sections of text means you can experiment with organisation … so yes … compared to years ago when you had a pile of books on your desk and a pen and paper … it's now much easier.

Definitions

- *to access websites/email*: to locate
- *to back up files: to make a copy of files in case of a computer problem*
- *to boot up*: to start a computer
- *to bookmark a webpage*: to mark a webpage for future reference
- *to browse websites*: to look at websites
- *a computer buff*: an expert computer user
- *to crash*: to suddenly stop working
- *to cut and paste*: to move text or images from one place in a document to another place
- *a desktop PC*: a computer that isn't portable and remains in situ on a desk
- *digital editing*: to edit digital materials like audio or video files
- *download (podcasts)*: to save a copy of a file from the internet to your own device
- *to enter a web address*: to type the address of a website into the address bar of your browser
- *a gadget*: a technological tool like a mobile phone or camera
- *to go online*: to start using the Internet
- *high-spec (laptop)*: powerful computer with top quality components
- *Internet security*: Internet safety
- *intranet*: a network of connected computers within an organisation that is not accessible by unauthorised visitors
- *to navigate a website*: to find your way around a website
- *operating system*: the software that tells the computer how to work
- *send an attachment*: send an email with an accompanying file
- *social media*: media used to interact with other people such as Facebook or Twitter
- *to surf the web*: to look at a series of websites one after the other
- *a techie*: somebody who has an interest in technology
- *to upgrade*: to obtain a more powerful or feature-rich computer or piece of software
- *video conferencing*: to see and hear people from different locations using the Internet
- *wireless hotspot*: a public place where you can access the Internet
- *wireless network*: a network where users can access the Internet without the use of fixed cables
- *word processing;* producing written texts on a computer