

The Role of Science and Technology in Our Life

Questions

- a) What do science and technology cover?
- b) How are science and technology related?
- c) Are science and technology part of every aspect of our lives?
- d) How have science and technology changed our lives?
- e) What are harmful effects of scientific and technological achievements?
- f) What do the uses that people choose to make of scientific knowledge determine?

1. Read Text 11A, answer the questions before it.

Text 11A

The Role of Science and Technology in Our Life

To understand and explore the importance of science and technology in our daily lives, let us first start by defining the terms *science* and *technology*. Science covers the broad field of knowledge that deals with observed facts and the relationships among those facts. Technology refers to the use of tools, gadgets and resources that help us control and adapt to our environment. The term also refers to the use of machines and utensils which make our daily lives simpler and more organised.

The scientific revolution that began in the 16th century was the first time that science and technology began to work together. Today, science and technology are closely related. Many modern technologies such as space flights or nuclear power depend on science and the application of scientific knowledge and principles. In turn, technology provides science with up-to-date instruments for its investigation and research. Science provides the basis of much of modern technology.

Science and technology are part of almost every aspect of our lives. Although we rarely think about it, they make extraordinary things possible. At the flick of a switch, we have light and electricity. When we are ill, science helps us get better. Science and technology create ways to improve our future.

Modern science and technology have changed our lives in many dramatic ways. Airplanes, automobiles, communications satellites, computers, plastics,

and television are only a few of the scientific and technological inventions that have transformed human life. Research by nuclear physicists has led to the development of nuclear energy as a source of power. Agricultural scientists have developed better varieties of plants and highly effective fertilizers. The development of antibiotics and other new drugs has helped to control many infectious diseases. And now we live in the information era when the computer network embraces the globe and connects not only the countries and space stations but a lot of people all over the world. All these things prove the power and the greatest progressive role of science and technology in our life.

Although scientific and technological achievements have benefited us in many ways, they have also created serious problems. The rapid growth of industrial technology, for instance, has resulted in such grave effects as environmental pollution and fuel shortages. Breakthroughs in nuclear research have led to the development of weapons of mass destruction. Some people fear that biological research will produce new disease-causing bacteria or viruses that resist drugs. People are also concerned that computerized information systems may destroy personal privacy.

But science itself is neither good nor bad. The uses that people choose to make of scientific knowledge determine whether that knowledge will help or harm society.

2. Add missed words and translate the sentences. Use words:

Extraordinary, achievements, technology, good, provides, role

1. Science covers the broad field of knowledge. 2. _____ refers to the use of machines and utensils. 3. Science _____ the basis of much of modern technology. 4. Science and technology make _____ things possible. 5. Science and technology play the greatest progressive _____ in our life. 6. Scientific and technological _____ have also created serious problems. 7. Science and technology are neither _____ nor bad.