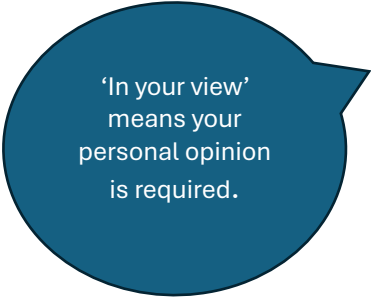


2023 Paper One

Text 3 – Comprehension Question B

It is Science Week and you have been asked to write an article for your school's website about the increasing role played by technology in schools. In your article you should: describe some of the positive ways technology is



'In your view' means your personal opinion is required.

utilised in schools today, discuss whether or not, in your view, technology can be a negative influence in schools, and speculate about the role you think technology will play in schools in the future. Your article may be serious or humorous or both.

Some points to note:

What is my task? – Online article

- Structure the piece as an article, including headline, byline etc.
- Include one or two things to show it is for an online article - 'submit comments below' etc.

What should the content be?

- There are always three things to discuss in Comp. B tasks.
- In this case, they are as follows:
 1. Describe some of the positive ways technology is utilised in schools today
 2. Discuss whether or not, in your view, technology can be a negative influence in schools

3. Speculate about the role you think technology will play in schools in the future.

Who is my audience?

- Try to make the article lively and interesting and suitable for a mixed audience of parents, teachers and students.
- You can be reasonably conversational.

What type of language should I use?

- Include some specifics/real world examples to add interest.
- Anecdotes should be school-based.
- Avoid deeply personal or highly-critical stories.
- Be informative, and also be aware that you are making a case, so will need to use the language of argument/persuasion.

Sample Answer

The Tech Takeover: How Technology is Shaping Our Schools

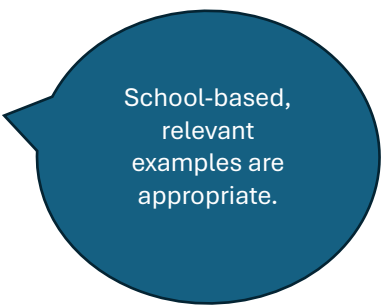
By Alex Murphy, Sixth Year

This is your school website, so make that clear.

Welcome to Science Week here in CBC! It's the perfect time to take a closer look at how technology is revolutionising our classrooms. Long gone are the days of chalkboards, televisions wheeled in to class on trolleys, and overhead projectors (ask your parents what those were). Now, tablets, interactive whiteboards, and even virtual reality headsets are the norm in many schools. But is this constant wave of innovation purely beneficial? Let's dive into how tech is shaping education, the upsides, the downsides, and what the future might hold.

Headline and byline (writer's name). As it's a school piece, I included the student's year.

Walk into any modern classroom, and you'll see technology in action. Interactive whiteboards have made lessons more engaging. Teachers can pull up videos, diagrams, or even live streams to explain tricky concepts. For example, in my biology class, we used a 3D app to explore the human heart. Being able to 'zoom in' and rotate the model made everything so much clearer than squinting at a textbook diagram.



School-based, relevant examples are appropriate.

And it's not just in science that technology is making a difference. English students are analysing Shakespeare with digital annotations, while geography classes are using Google Earth to take virtual tours of the Amazon rainforest. Online platforms like Google Classroom mean no more excuses about forgotten homework—it's all there at the click of a button (though my dog still managed to eat my charging cable once).

For students with additional education needs, technology has been life-changing. Tools like text-to-speech software or dictation apps make learning accessible in ways that weren't possible even ten years ago. In this way, technology is levelling the playing field and giving everyone a fair shot.



Balancing the argument.

But it's not all good news. Technology can also bring distractions. I've lost count of the number of times I've seen someone sneak a peek at TikTok or YouTube during a lesson when they were supposed to be focused on academics. It's like putting a cinema in the middle of a library—it's hard for even the most diligent student to stay focused.

Then there's the issue of social media. Many schools have strict rules about phones in class, but that doesn't stop the drama spilling over from Instagram or Snapchat. Cyberbullying has become a real problem in schools, with

students feeling the pressure to be ‘always on’. It’s easy to see how a tool designed to connect us can sometimes make things worse.

Teachers also face challenges. It’s not always easy for them to keep up with the pace of change, and tech support in schools is not readily available. One of our teachers recently complained that she’d spent more time trying to unfreeze the projector than actually teaching that day!

Looking ahead, it’s clear technology will keep evolving. Imagine AI-powered tutors that give one-on-one help to every student, or virtual reality history lessons where you walk through ancient Rome. These ideas aren’t science fiction anymore—they’re just around the corner.

School-based, relevant examples are appropriate.

But as exciting as this sounds, we’ll need to make sure technology doesn’t replace the human side of education. A robot can’t inspire you like a teacher can, or give you that look when you’re not paying attention!

So, is technology helping or hindering education? What’s the balance between innovation and distraction? Submit your thoughts in the comments below—teachers, parents, and students, we want to hear from you.

Indication that this is an online article: ‘Submit your thoughts in the comments below...’

Personal opinion is relevant for a feature article of this type.

As for me, I’m cautiously optimistic.

Technology has opened up amazing opportunities, but we need to use it wisely.

Otherwise, we’ll all end up staring at screens, forgetting how to

actually talk to each other. And nobody wants that, do they?

End on a call to action. What do you want people to do?