

## Candidate 1

The candidate evidence used in this workshop has achieved the following marks for this Course Assessment component.

### **Technology: our servant or master?**

The candidate has chosen to write a discursive essay on the topic of technology and its influence on our lives. The essay demonstrates adequate attention to purpose and audience. The topic is vast and the candidate deals with a range of relevant arguments for and against technology. The essay has an adequate line of thought and shows adequate understanding of the topic.

The essay starts with a short opening paragraph, where the candidate introduces some of the main points they will deal with in the essay.

Paragraph 2 opens with a short topic sentence which introduces the first main aspect of the candidate's essay – technology and its influence on communication. The paragraph lists some of the key ways new technology allows us to communicate and the improvements it has brought, eg the immediacy of communication. The candidate moves on to look at the negative consequences of communication and uses a successful linking phrase to introduce the opposing arguments: 'There are downsides to communication through technology'. The candidate then focuses on teenagers in particular and their vulnerability when online – a relevant and current issue. The candidate makes valid points in this section and demonstrates a line of thought.

In paragraph 3, the candidate develops the idea of the vulnerability of young people online by considering the difficulty parents have in relation to policing what their children are viewing online. The essay uses the example of inappropriate video games to illustrate the main point. However, the candidate's argument becomes less focused at the end of the paragraph with the statistics about video games and the assertion that, 'violent behaviour from gamers is caused by video games'. There is some less fluent expression in this paragraph with the phrase, 'because of parents not being able to make the internet more filtered'. However, the expression in general throughout the essay is adequate.

The fourth paragraph introduces a relevant new point – the influence technology has on family life. The paragraph considers the idea that interaction between family members has declined as a result of our use of technology. This paragraph includes some more complex expression in the sentence, 'Individually, family members are leading separate lives in rooms apart, each accessing a different form of technology'. The paragraph ends with the idea that Skype and FaceTime are better ways to communicate than telephone as they allow 'face-to-face communication'. This is a valid point but could have been developed further.

In paragraph 5, the candidate considers several ideas which fall under the broad topic of the internet's negative influence on young people's view of themselves. The essay deals with several relevant ideas, including the pressure to use social media, the influence of celebrities on body image, cyber-bullying and its possible

results, which demonstrates adequate research and the candidate's genuine interest in the topic. There is some confusion in this section over the deaths of two different girls – 'a 14 year old girl from Italy' and a British girl. The candidate seems to merge these two separate incidents together.

The sixth paragraph which begins, 'You can store an unimaginable amount of information online', moves on to the topic of online privacy. The candidate uses the contemporary high profile case of the actress Jennifer Lawrence to illustrate the dangers of storing information online. This paragraph illustrates a valid counter argument about the convenience of storing information online. The candidate then uses the linking word 'However' to introduce a further negative point about our online footprint and targeted advertising. This is quickly followed by two more relevant points about how online information might affect employment chances and online fraud. This section again shows evidence of adequate research, but several of the points would benefit from further development.

Paragraphs 7 and 8 deal with the effects of technology on young people's education. Paragraph 7 introduces a new concept about technology distracting pupils from learning in class. The eighth paragraph follows on with the valid suggestion that literacy levels may be declining as a result of technology. The candidate considers the quite complex counter argument that the way we read may just be changing, rather than our reading abilities declining. Again, the candidate's points are relevant and discussion is adequate but could be developed further.

The concluding paragraph is short but the candidate's stance is conveyed. The candidate states that 'technology benefits our way of living'. Although the candidate has demonstrated this point throughout the essay, this statement could have been more successfully balanced with some reference to the various negative aspects of technology considered in the main body of the essay. The essay ends with a rhetorical question, which again adequately conveys the candidate's stance on the topic.

This is an adequate essay at Higher level and so is placed in band 9-7. The essay topic is a wide-ranging one and the candidate shows adequate understanding of aspects of it, although individual points would benefit from further development in places. The essay is characterised as adequate in the following areas: the candidate's use of research, the essay's structure and the use of the linguistic features of the genre with examples of linking, topic sentences, use of balance, statistics and rhetorical questions. It is awarded **8 marks** out of 15.