

Reading Passage

The development and widespread use of computer technology and the internet have transformed how we communicate, how business is conducted, how information is dispersed, and how society is organized. Prior to approximately 1980, in-depth information about any one subject matter was attained through laborious research involving countless visits to libraries and via repeated interviews with persons of known reputation and reputable expertise. Now, a great deal of information is available at the click of a mouse button, all attainable from within the confines of one's own home or from the use of a computer in an office. Previous labor-intensive support jobs, such as loading and unpacking of trucks, luggage handling at airports, and food manufacturing, once performed by a large middle-class workforce, are now performed routinely by robots which are monitored by computer-controlled systems.

Our lives have been simplified by the advent of computer and internet technologies, but likewise these benefits which have been ushered in by the technology revolution have had an adverse effect on the core of our interpersonal-relationships. Mere communication is no longer via postal mail or face-to-face contact, but rather via electronic email, personal internet message boards, and by virtue of hand-held personal electronic assistants. Although computer technology has brought us to within a mouse-click of any sought-after piece of information, this technology boom has sequestered us to the confines of our computer desks and homes and has removed us away from those traditional settings where personal and communication skills are developed.

Questions

1. The author's attitude towards the advent of computer technology can be best summarized as which of the following?
 - a. Optimistic and thankful
 - b. Appreciative but reserved
 - c. Candid and reverent
 - d. Understanding and obsessive
 - e. Exploratory but verisimilar

2. The author would agree with which of the following statements?
 - a. The advent of computer technology has decreased access to libraries
 - b. Because of advancements in robotics, labor-intensive jobs are more plentiful
 - c. Internet technologies have fostered in an era of added stock market gains
 - d. Although heralded as a great leap forward, the widespread use of computer technology is not without its setbacks
 - e. Of all the benefits ushered in by the use of the internet, electronic email is the most beneficial

3. The author's primary purpose in writing this passage is most likely which of the following?
 - a. To downplay the need for the internet
 - b. To compare and contrast robotics and the internet and how they are used in business, communication, and education
 - c. To explain how robotics and the internet have had both a positive and negative influence on how we live
 - d. To pave way for the next great technological revolution
 - e. To showcase the wonders of recent technological advancements