

Revision Sheets

This is a sample edition of the
Technological Fix Revision Booklet.

The total content has been reduced in
this copy, and content watermarked.

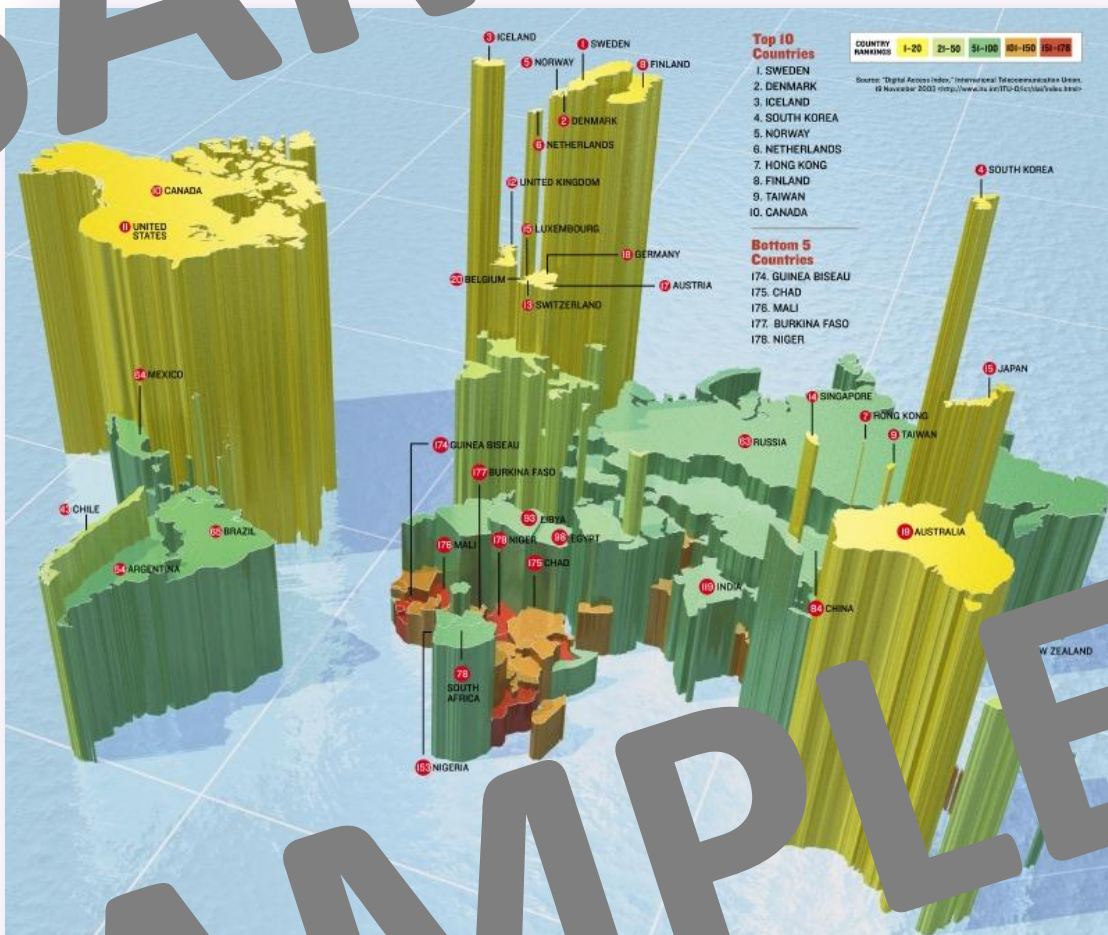
The **Revision Booklet** available to
download contains 13 pages of content
and more detailed exam technique.

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In today's world, **technology** is the **vital infrastructure** that enables us to function.

Technology is the **development** of **knowledge, techniques** and **systems** which can be used to help **solve problems** and **extend** human **capabilities**. In geographical terms, it can mean ways in which people **innovate**, change, or **modify** the **natural environment** to **supply** human **needs** and **wants**. It is described by the Oxford English Dictionary as 'The ability to **control nature**'.

The **amount** of **technology**, and its **influence** on everyday life, is different in **different places**. Some countries are viewed as **technology rich** and others **technology poor**.



The **Digital Access Index** measures access to ICT of people in **178 countries**. **High** access is seen in highly developed nations such as the **USA** and **UK**. **Upper** access countries consist of **emerging** markets in **China** and **Brazil**. **Medium** access is filtered across **South America** and Northern Africa, with **low access** countries being **central African** nations.

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Liberia

- Transatlantic cable of **17,000km** from **France** to **Spain** finally reached Liberia in **November 2011**.
- The **Africa Coast to Europe (ACE)** cable, just **two inches** thick, is run by a consortium led by **Telecom Italia**.
- It will eventually provide broadband connectivity to **more than 20 countries**.
- Getting broadband connectivity costs Liberians around **\$2 per hour**, more than many earn in a day.
- Much of the country's infrastructure (e.g. for landlines) were destroyed in the civil war.
- **Fibre-optic cable** is becoming more popular than satellites as they're quicker and cheaper.
- For Liberia, along with **Gambia, Sierra Leone** and **Guinea**, the ACE cable is the first connection to a fibre optic system.
- In **Liberia**, only **9.6%** of people are online, compared to **65%** of **Europeans**.
- World Bank reports indicate Africa is on the verge of an **Internet boom**.
- Internet use in Liberia expected to **increase by 100%** within the next **four years**.
- Africa has the **highest growth rate** in mobile phone use and the **second highest number of mobile phone subscribers**, after Asia.
- **Leapfrogging**: Much of the continent may bypass the PC revolution altogether.

[Source: BBC article](#)

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GM Crops

First introduced in the USA is **1994**, by **1999 60%** of **British supermarket food** contained some form of GM ingredients. In **2007** this had **fallen back** to just two products, with the **public opinion changing** dramatically.

The main **benefit** of genetically modified crops is the ability to **feed an ever growing world population**. The threat of population overshoot and food shortages has been a concern for many years. GM crops provide a **sustainable solution** to this. It also enables farmers to use **weed killers**, so GM crops can be **engineered to be disease resistant** and produce **higher yields**. Scientists using this technology could see the removal of allergens from peanuts, develop **nutrient free** crops for the competition of fruit and vegetables.

Organisations such as **Greenpeace** and the **Organic Consumer Association** have actively campaigned against the crops, because they believe that the **long term effects** of these crops have **not been fully tested**. The **health** and **environmental** effects are **not necessarily known** for the long term, which could be severe. Their worry is that if GM crops get into the wild and mix with non-GM crops, there is no knowing how this might affect plant and animal life.

	Economic	Social	Environmental
Benefits	<p>Monsanto (the company dominating the GM Crop market) was featured in a list of "10 companies that will save the US Economy". It employs 27,600 people and is growing at 2% per year.</p> <p>Increases production high yields</p>	<p>Helps to feed the ever growing population expected to reach 9 billion by 2050</p> <p>Reduces pesticides</p>	<p>Produces disease resistant crops</p> <p>Takes up less land</p>
Costs	<p>High R&D costs</p> <p>Patents restrict competition</p>	<p>Health risks aren't fully known</p>	<p>Can have a negative impact on biodiversity</p>

Essay Question – Part A (10 Marks)

- Approximately **one** side in the exam book
- Spend approximately **10** minutes writing
- Refer to the **figure** throughout
- Go **beyond** the figure giving **new** information
- Critique the **figure**, good for **evaluation** marks
- Don't waste time with an **introduction** and **conclusion**
- **Structure** your answer using the **figure**

SAMPLE