



Global production lines

Research and development often take place in richer countries, while manufacturing occurs in poorer countries with lower wages and working conditions. This reduces costs for consumers but raises ethical concerns about worker exploitation.

The digital divide

The digital divide refers to the gap between those who can take advantage of digital technology such as computers, smartphones and the Internet and those who cannot. This divide can occur on both local and global scales.

- **Local:** Differences within an area due to infrastructure, economic status or social attitudes.
- **Global:** Differences between developed and less-developed countries due to infrastructure and economic priorities.

Social media

Websites and applications allow users to create and share content for social networking. They are used for communication, interest groups and by organisations for promotion and marketing.

Cyberbullying

Negative, cruel or false statements posted online can cause emotional distress, leading to depression, anxiety and low self-esteem. To help prevent cyberbullying, never share personal information, use strong passwords, limit visibility through privacy settings and be mindful of what you post. Cyberbullying is any form of bullying that takes place online or through smartphones and tablets.

Fake news

False or misleading information presented as genuine news is often created to influence opinions, damage reputations or drive website clicks. When you find information online, it is advisable to check other sources to see whether they are reporting the same story.

Steps you can take to identify fake news:

- **Consider the source:** Is it reputable?
- **Read beyond:** Don't rely solely on headlines.
- **Check the author:** Are they credible and real?
- **Supporting sources:** Is there evidence to back the claims?
- **Check the date:** Is it relevant or outdated?
- **Is it a joke?** Some news is satire.
- **Check your biases:** Could your beliefs affect your judgment?
- **Ask experts:** Consult librarians or fact-checking sites.

Net neutrality

The principle of an 'open Internet' is that users control what they see and do online, without broadband providers restricting content or speed. In the UK, Ofcom monitors this. Some countries, such as China, regulate Internet content to block dissenting views. China does not allow users to access content that contradicts government policies or social attitudes.

Addiction

Excessive use of technology (for example mobile devices or online games) that leads to negative impacts. Addiction can cause lack of sleep, irritability and neglect of other life aspects. Keeping track of your screen time and setting limits is crucial to prevent addiction.

Mental health

Technology can impact mental health through:

- **Blurred work/rest boundaries:** Constant availability via technology can prevent relaxation.
- **Reliance and stress:** We become reliant on technology for our work and social lives. Losing signal or power can cause anxiety due to dependence.
- **Physical health impact:** Long hours at computers can cause eye strain, headaches or repetitive strain injury (RSI). This could lead to stress, sleep issues or isolation.

Emerging technologies

New technologies have the potential to create both positive and negative impacts on society. They can help reduce global warming and offer solutions to challenges faced by the poorest countries. Technologies that save time, effort or money are welcomed. However, AI and advanced weaponry can also be viewed as threats to humans.