**THE BENEFITS AND DRAWBACKS OF MODERN CIVILISATION AND TECHNOLOGY**

**BENEFITS OF TECHNOLOGY**

* Greater comfort with less effort

-Appliances and labour saving devices make life easier

-Improved living conditions

-Automation of the office

-More leisure time

* Better medical care
* Hospitals equipped with the latest technology
* Less infant mortality
* More effective medicines
* High standard of education available to all people
* Illiteracy iseradicated
* Education plays a vital role in industrial development
* People are more aware
* Educated people have more control over their lives
* Advanced technology at the disposal of humanity
* Satellites provide immediate access to world news and events
* Telecommunications bring people closer together
* Manned space stations investigate our solar system
* Mutual respect and cooperation between nations
* In the distant future man will embark on expeditions to other galaxies

**DRAWBACKS**

* The machine dehumanizes society
* Life is mechanized
* Causes mass unemployment, puts small producers out of business
* Unfair distribution of wealth

Rich nations flourish but the poor become poorer

Poorer nations do not enjoy the benefits of advanced technology

* Food is of pure quality
* Too many preservatives and additives used in food production
* Fertilizers and pesticides pose a threat to public health
* Lack of human contact leads to social and psychological problems
* A great number of family breakups
* Loneliness drives people to suicide
* People find life meaningless, have no peace of mind, suffer from neuroses
* Extreme individualism
* A climate of international tension
* Suspicion and mistrust prevails in relationships between nations
* Terrorists take advantage of technological progress

**PROBLEMS OF RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PARENTS –CHILDREN**

**Parents**

* **many parents are not mature enough,**

**-** have children too early in life,

-are not well prepared for bringing up children

-have children before they are financially secure

* **lack of understanding between parents and children**

-too selfish to see the children’s point of view

-poor communication due to differences in age

-cannot adjust to new ways of thinking

-think they are always right

* **parents are sometimes too strict with their children**

-punishments without considering the effects on their children

-Do not give their children enough independence

* **parents are sometimes too violent with their children**

-forget that violence breeds violence

-underestimate the traumatic effects of violence at home

* **some parents do not care enough about their children**
* they are not always by their side
* they are indifferent
* this can cause psychological problems in children

**Children**

* **children think they are the centre of the universe**
* think they are always right
* always demand attention
* refuse to compromise
* **too young to understand reality**
* unable to appreciate their parents’ financial problems
* cannot see their parents’ point of view
* **seek too much independence**
* demand freedom without responsibility
* unable to see that absolute freedom leads to chaos
* **demand instant satisfaction of their desires**
* restless and impatient
* never happy with what they have
* conflict with parents about impractical demands

**Suggestions**

* parents should be more aware of their responsibilities
* set a good example to their children
* should become financially secure before having children
* should know how to strike a balance between discipline and permissiveness
* children should not be overprotected
* parents should always encourage their children’s efforts
* help children to overcome their problems
* reject the idea that they are always right
* co-operate with their children in day-to-day life
* must not be authoritarian at home
* violence in the home achieves nothing, can only lead to psychological problems
* children’s viewpoints should be taken into consideration
* there must be mutual understanding in the family
* close co-operation is of vital importance
* quarrelling in the family should be kept to a minimum
* parenthood is life’s greatest responsibility

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS- POLLUTION**

**Air pollution**

* car exhaust fumes poison the air
* emissions from factories are responsible for air pollution
* air pollution causes respiratory disorders and even lung cancer
* smog hangs over cities like a deadly cloud,
* destruction of the ozone layer leads to skin cancer
* the greenhouse effect, climatic changes, global warming ,ice melt, floods

**Water pollution**

* water supplies are contaminated by waste from industry
* factory waste products leak into rivers
* water pollution kills million of fish and all forms of sealife
* artificial fertilizers flow into river and poison the water

**Soil and land pollution**

**Littered is scattered**

* people carelessly litter city streets, parks, beaches etc.
* we live in a throwaway society
* the world has been made into a giant rubbish tip

**chemical waste is dumped carelessly on the land**

the soil has become infertile

many plants and animals are in danger of becoming extinct

**SUGGESTIONS**

**Air pollution**

-use lead free petrol in cars, more efficient engines in cars

-Encourage people to use means of public transport, bicycle and walk

-Strict control of emissions from factories

-Heavy fines for offenders

**Water pollution**

-prohibit disposal of waste at sea

-more development of water purification system

-fine people who contaminate water

- promote organic methods of farming

-farmers should use safe fertilizers and pesticides

-Take more care of marine life, endangered species

**Soil and land pollution**

**-**make people conscious of the disastrous effects of pollution

**-**recycling

- strict measures to prevent people littering their surroundings

-Mass media must make people aware of the problem before it is too late

-each one of us is responsible for his own actions

**MASS MEDIA**

Mass media keeps us in touch with what is happening in the world.

-have enormous influence, have the power to inform, educate and entertain.

-can be used to mislead, misinform and maniputate the public.

**TV**

-Brings the world into our homes

-Satellites make news available from all over the world.

-is powerful because of the visual image, the visual image is persuasive

- is a great educator

- brings the world closer together, can promote peace and understanding between countries.

-Introduces us to other customs and cultures

**Disadvantages**

- restricts family communication

-a passive form of entertainment

Intrudes on people’s privacy

-violence is treated as an acceptable option

-- can be used to mislead the public

-Information can be controlled by governments

-Governments promote their own political principles

-Can divert attention from a serious issue to an unimportant one.

**The Internet**

-access to a great source of information at the touch of a button

-promotes instant communication

- brings people from different nationalities closer

-addiction if not used wisely

-less time spent with family and friends, alienation

-children can be manipulated and tricked

-you can be a victim of hackers without a good antivirus system

**KEEPING FIT**

-promotes physical and mental health

-sedentary life and poor diet can cause heart problems

-quality of life is improved

-not as prone to illness

-fights obesity, helps you lose weight

-Supply of oxygen to the brain

-Healthy in body, healthy in mind

**Ways of keeping fit**

-Take things slowly at first if you are unfit

-Must find a way of keeping fit which does not require too much time to spend on it.

-Swimming is the best form of exercise because it uses all your muscles.

-Football is a very demanding sport, must be in good condition to enjoy it.

-Go for regular bike rides

-martial arts keeps you fit and teach you to defend yourself

-do weightlifting exercises: exercises to tone your muscles.

-It’s best to follow a set programme and stick

**LIFE IN THE COUNTRY**

**ADVANTAGES**

-a healthy environment

-the air is not polluted

-the pace of life is slow

-people enjoy a relaxed lifestyle, life is not stressful

-people are more open and friendly

-take time to talk and listen to you

**DISADVANTAGES**

* very few jobs –unemployment
* farm work is physically demanding
* You have to get up at the crack of dawn and work all day in the field
* Most young people leave for the city or emigrate
* Lack of facilities such as hospitals, good schooks
* Lack of entertainment facilities
* Unemployment-few job opportunities
* There is nothing to do in the evenings
* The pace of life is too slow
* Country people have nothing to do but gossip