

IT Essay.

We are now in an "information age" and our society is very dependent on information storage and communication. The new technologies that allow us to do a range of different things including store and communication information are PC's, modems and the Internet. Which allows us to get info more quickly for certain purposes like in work or school. The advantages of ICT are you can make your programs better and neater with programs such as word processing and publication wizards. The disadvantages of ICT are when doing work things can go wrong such as a virus or a crash, which can mess up your entire system and wipe all your work in seconds.

The advances in ICT have had a major effect on unemployment. People's lives have changed since it is much easier to find a job when you have good ICT skills, since everyone uses computers now. It is important that the security of data is important because anyone can get a hold of someone's personal details and send, order and charge things to their address, credit card... In 1984 the 'data protection act' was launched to protect peoples personal data, such as their address, account data and so on. Many people lose jobs in places like the Internet. People gain jobs with PC programming, databases and word processing. The information is used for police records, personal safety, record checks and so on. The different issues raised in IT are things like people who work, who have info stored + changed by the companies, or if someone goes to school or collage, the person has a permanent record which is kept on the person until they retire from their job.

In the 1940's the first working electronic PC's were made but they did not go on sale until the 1950's and at the same time they developed high level computing languages for computers. Then in the 1960's a large number of computing is done by batch processing and as time goes onto the 70's the intro to mini and micro computers and much

more varied applications. There is an increase in interactive computing with the introduction of visual display terminals along with the use of MICR by banks so that the checks can be cleared automatically. In the start of the 1980's a dramatic increase in sales of personal computers spreads the use of computers into every part of life, so people would use them in shops, offices, schools, factories and even at home.

The increase in control of systems by electronic circuitry, everyday equipment, lighting, home sounds (hi-fi's) and televisions, then communication became much faster, powerful and user friendly. It is not necessary to know anything about how a PC works to have to use it. General application packages like word processors, spreadsheets, and databases are sold much more. After this people started to use bar codes to improve the speed of payment for goods. Then came in credit cards and microcomputers for schools. So the 1980's were a very big time for improvements in communication and IT companies.

In the 1990's improvements in communication improved the increase of items like mobile telephones, fax machines, and telephone systems became digitalized, yet more versatile; also with the internet that linked millions of people and organizations world wide, linking together of info-systems to use an 'information super-highway.' Then came the development of multi-media systems combining sound, still pictures and video, which increased the use of CD's.

More and more improvements in everyday appliances made even more 'intelligent', machines such as cars and microwave ovens. The increase reliance on communication meant that people could use communication technology widely with devices such as fax machines, TV: teletext, satellite-TV and the most popular use facility was the internet, where people can view information on web pages and web sites, yet also putting up their own web sites using internet wizards like 'free serve' or 'AOL.'

The 'electronic office' allowed people to store information on things like word processors, publication wizards, databases and spreadsheets which allowed the to easy access instead of having to put it on paper and storing it in a filing cabinet. Jobs can be easily lost through IT when firms do not introduce computers, which leads to important documentations being left uncompleted which forces them to make some people redundant. People who work at home can still contact or send work to their companies through IT by using fax, Internet and most of all electronic mail, (E-Mail). This can save much money for the companies by cutting down on equipment, office space, heating, food + drink and other essentials.