**Read the text carefully:**

The impact of technology

on today's youth

Technology is shaping tomorrow’s society by conquering today’s teenagers.

Nowadays, teens seem incapable of having a quality face-to-face conversation that lasts more than 2 minutes. Experts attribute this to the lack of meaningful interaction and social habits, which are a direct consequence of modern technology. Basically, people have the need to be connected to each other 24 hours a day, 7 days a week but never in person.

This means that technology can be viewed as a social obstacle. I myself have been caught up in the technological web. When I feel the urge to see someone, I just video chat them on Skype. It is easier to see them that way than going to all the effort to be with them in person. In a sense, we are using it to take a few short cuts and simplify life for ourselves. Think about it: when you don’t understand the homework, do you actually phone someone and have a long conversation about that or do you just text them hoping for a quick and concise reply?

But every cloud has a silver lining and this is true of technology too. Technology can give you access to a whole new world of people and information. There are millions of credible sources and databases on the Internet just waiting for you. Without the Internet, I wouldn’t be able to find facts about things as varied as computers, cars and cameras quite as quickly and easily. Sites such as *YouTube* allow you to watch anything from a funny video to a videocast about quantum physics given by the very best professors at *Harvard*.

Just imagine life without technology like the Internet or computers. Would you still be able to survive? The Internet has become an intricate part of our modern lifestyles. It allows you to express yourself as an individual and connect with others on a global scale. If you are into photography, you can upload your photos on the webpage and share them with the world. If you have a story or a song to share, just create a link to it and in a few instants the world is tweeting you with feedback.

Thus, technology is a rather controversial subject. Some regard it as an obstacle. Others believe that it is a helper. Regardless of this, it is changing the way teens communicate with each other and the world. Today’s teens are trying out tomorrow’s technology. There really is just one question left to ask; how do you feel about technology? Obstacle? Asset(resource)? Hot topic? Or all of the above?

*Teen Ink* (adapted and abridged)

**A. Answer the question:**

Why is technology seen as “a social obstacle”?

It is seen as a social obstacle because people need to be connected to each other 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, but never in person having a face-to-face conversation.

**B. Complete the sentences according to the text:**

1. If you need to learn more about things…use the internet.

2. YouTube enables you… to watch anything.

3. You can easily share your hobbies, feelings and plans if… you tweet them/ post on social media.

**C. What do these words refer to back to in the text? (they are underlined)**

1. this – incapability of having long face-to-face conversations

2. them – the person you are video chatting with

3. it – story/ song

**D. Find words/expressions in the text that mean the following:**

1. meaningful spoken interaction- quality face-to-face conversation

2. become victim of – caught up (in the technological web)

3. to simplify the way we do things – to take a few shortcuts

4. reliable – credible

**E. Form nouns by adding a suffix to the words below:**

e.g. perform performance

1. popular popularity 2. innovate innovation

3. modify modification 4. improve improvement

**I. Complete the text with the words in the box:**

|  |
| --- |
| watch study school week laptops technology games television |

The average kid sponges (attaches to) in 2.5 hours of music each day, almost five hours of **television** and movies, three hours of Internet and video **games**, and just 38 minutes of old-fashioned reading, according to a new **study** by the Kaiser Family Foundation. That adds up to 75 hours of media every **week**.

“You don’t have to sit down in front of a TV anymore and **watch** television at the time a show is broadcasted,” said Vicky Rideout. “Kids can watch it on their **laptops** in their bedroom. They can watch it in their mobiles on the bus to **school**.” But what about homework? Kids at Taylor Day school say all the **technology** can be a distraction.