**Has the internet brought us closer together?**

1: Open the link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7_LPdttKXPc> and watch the presentation on How the Internet Works.

2: Use the information provided in the presentation to fill in the blanks in the following paragraph

The internet is a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (maze/wire/bubble cloud) buried in the ground. A \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (server/webpage/IP address) is a special computer connected directly to the internet. Every \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (server/webpage/IP address) has a unique (postal address/IP address/IS address). Your computer at home \_\_\_\_\_\_ (is/is not) a server. Computers that you and I use every day are called \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(clients/customers/consumers). Our computers and other devices are connected \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(directly/indirectly) to the internet through an \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Internet Server/Internet Service Provider/Internet Service Company). Whenever an email, picture or webpage travels across the internet it is broken into smaller pieces called \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (packets/containers/pieces). Every device connected to the internet has its own IP address. Anywhere two or more parts of the internet intersect, there will be a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(router/trojan/virus). Everytime you visit a website up to \_\_\_\_\_\_ (5/15/50) routers may help each \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (webpage/packet/piece) get one step nearer to its destination. Finally, when a server sends back information it creates packets with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(similar/dissimilar/identical) information.

3: Download the set of graphics which are taken from the source: <http://www.vox.com/a/internet-maps> . Once you have seen and analysed the graphics, answer the following questions:

1. **World Data Centers**: Which organization is Hong Kong a major Data Center Collection point for?
2. **Web Registry Companies**: Name the Internet Registry Companies in the following geographical areas:
3. North America
4. Central and South America
5. Africa
6. Europe and the Middle East
7. Asia and Australasia
8. **Most Popular Web browsers**: why do you think that Chrome has largely displaced Internet Explorer as the most popularly used web browser in the last three years?
9. **Fixed Broadband Internet Penetration**: Why do you think that certain countries like USA and Germany have between 20% and 100% broadband penetration whereas many LEDCs have close to 0%.
10. **National Internet Diversity at the International Frontier**: Some countries in the world are at severe risk of disconnection. Are there any similarities between these countries?
11. **Average Download Speed**: Should it matter if the download speed of internet conections in countries is so different? If so, why?
12. **Internet users**: Comment on the trend in the number of internet users in China from 2000 to 2012. Secondly, identify three other countries that have followed the same evolution in internet user numbers as China.

4: **Has the internet been a beneficial invention for humankind?**

1. Read the following articles which give opposing views on this subject.
2. Once you have done so, discuss the issues raised with your partner.
3. With the aid of your colleague, formulate a brief statement answering the original question.
4. Merge your pair with another pair and repeat task c

**Articles**

**Extract 1: from ‘Is the Internet good for democracy?’ by Rory Cellan Jones, 12 September 2000**

Ever since 1960, when a televised debate between John F Kennedy and Richard Nixon appeared to swing a presidential election, television has been both the forum for political debate and the key weapon for campaigners. It stands accused of dumbing down democracy by encouraging politicians to put a smart suit before a smart policy, to polish a glib sound-bite rather than craft an intelligent speech.

Now millions of voters are turning to the Internet.

The new medium gives them a virtually unlimited supply of political news and views, while allowing citizens to talk back to their leaders, rather than sit back on the sofa and be lectured.

Every major Internet player is devoting more coverage to the US elections than was ever possible for the old media.

(For full article see *http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/ 921476.stm*)

**Extract 2: from ‘Internet use brings families closer together’ by Michael Todd 20 October 2008**

... many families use the Internet as a place for shared experiences, calling the other members on a regular basis to view certain interesting things and choosing not to stay on their own with their computers. They don’t just withdraw from the family to their own computer for private screen time. They pretty regularly say “Hey – look at this!” to others in the household.

(For full article see *www.efluxmedia. com/news\_ Internet\_Use\_Brings\_Families\_Closer\_Together\_27009. html*)

**Extract 3: from ‘Isolation increases with use of Internet’ by Scott Sleek**

The technology that has allowed people to keep in closer touch with distant family members and friends, to find information quickly and to develop friendships with people from around the world, is also replacing vital day-to-day human interactions. A computer monitor can’t give you a hug or laugh at your jokes. And some psychologists worry that the Internet’s widening popularity will lead to further isolation among a population that, although gravitating toward virtual communities in cyber-space, seems to have lost a genuine sense of belonging and connection.

In fact, Kraut and his colleagues, in a study to be released this month in American Psychologist, report that greater use of the Internet leads to shrinking social support and happiness, and increases in depression and loneliness. The study is the first to look specifically at the impact that Internet use has on general emotional well-being.

And the findings were unexpected, Kraut says, given that most people use the Internet for chat lines and e-mail, not just to isolate themselves in mounds of electronic information.

(For full article see *http://www.apa.org/monitor/sep98/ isolat.html*)