

## Lesson 3: Information sheet 2

# Internet use extracts: group A



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### Extract 1: 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>)

### Extract 2: from 'Muslim convert jailed for suicide vest bomb plot' by Cahal Milmo, 17 July 2009

The jury convicted the heroin addict, who had been expelled from several schools, by a majority of making an explosive with intent to endanger life or cause serious injury to property in the UK in April 2008. He was also found guilty of a charge of preparing terrorist acts by purchasing material to make an explosive, making that explosive, buying material to detonate the explosive, carrying out "reconnaissance" before the act and "making an improvised suicide vest in which to then detonate an explosive substance".

Ibrahim was given an indeterminate sentence and told by the judge, Mr Justice Butterfield, he should serve a minimum of 10 years. His mother fled the court in tears as the sentence was passed.

"You were, in my judgment, a lonely and angry young person, with a craving for attention," said Mr Justice Butterfield.

"You are a dangerous young man, well capable of acting on the views you held," he added.

The jury heard that Ibrahim became increasingly radicalised after converting to Islam and consequently changing his name from Andrew Philip Michael to Ibrahim. He spent several months researching Islamic fundamentalism on the Internet, including the motivation behind suicide attacks.

He also used the Internet to find instructions on how to make explosives from household products.

(For full article see <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/muslim-convert-jailed-for-suicide-vest-bomb-plot-1750988.html>)

## Lesson 3: Information sheet 3

# Internet use extracts: group B



"I'm in a chat room with one of the guys in the castle ... he's really quite nice."

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### Extract 1: from 'The Internet brings us closer together' 1 November 2001

The Internet doesn't make us misanthropic hermits after all, according to a new study.

A report by the Pew Internet & American Life Project to be released today finds that the Internet is very effective at knitting communities together, countering research that has suggested the Net causes people to become isolated.

The Pew survey found that 84 per cent of Internet users - or 90 million Americans - have at some point used the Net to contact or get information from a group.

"The online world is a vibrant social universe where many Internet users enjoy serious and satisfying contact with online communities", writes John Horrigan, a Pew senior researcher and lead author of the report.

(For full article see [www.eweek.com/c/a/Web-Services-Web-20-and-SOA/Study-The-Internet-Brings-Us-Closer-Together/](http://www.eweek.com/c/a/Web-Services-Web-20-and-SOA/Study-The-Internet-Brings-Us-Closer-Together/))

### Extract 2: 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 soundbite 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 3: 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](http://www.efluxmedia.com/news_Internet_Use_Brings_Families_Closer_Together_27009.html))