

## WRITING TASK 2

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task

Write about the following topic:

***Many people believe that the internet has made life much easier for most people. However, others fear that it might also represent a threat.***

***Discuss both views and state your opinion.***

Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own knowledge or experience.

Write at least 250 words.

Before you read my answer, answer the following questions:

- What is the question about?
  - It's about whether...
- Brainstorm ideas
  - Has the internet brought benefits?
    - What benefits
    - What are the easy ones to talk about?
  - Is the internet a threat?
    - Why
- Write a plan
  - It should have a clear position
  - The two main body paragraphs should have clear central topics, with supporting ideas
- Write your answer
- Then compare it to mine

## Model Answer

*Work out why it will get a high score and then read the comments about the different criteria below.*

**Opinions are divided** on whether the internet has made life easier, or whether it may threaten some aspects of our lives. I believe that, although it has improved the lives of countless people, it is also a threat, particularly to our privacy.

The internet has *improved people's lives* in many ways, but especially by giving access to knowledge and by providing a means of communication. **With regard to the former**, people who have an internet connection can now educate themselves on virtually any subject that *takes their interest*. **For example**, anyone who *is interested* in learning English can **do so** for free by using the many teaching sites as well as by being able to watch *instructional videos* on Youtube. **The other major contribution that the internet has made** is to *revolutionise* our ability communicate. **More specifically**, it has enabled people to *keep in touch* with friends and to *make contact with* similar minded people throughout the world.

**However**, these benefits do have *a potential cost with regard to privacy*, as everything that internet users do is recorded by companies like Google and Facebook and their users are powerless to prevent it. **It follows that** *anonymity on the internet is an illusion* and *internet users should bear in mind* that all of their emails and searches are saved, and that Google knows more about their activities than their families do. **The same applies to social networks like Facebook, whose users** seem happy to *reveal the identities* of their friends and families, as well as their daily activities, to a company that is known to sell its users' information.

**In conclusion**, even though the internet brings the *tremendous benefits to many people by providing knowledge and improving communication*, it does also *threaten our privacy because we cannot control who* has access to our private information.

305 words

### Task Response

Opinions are divided on whether the internet has made life easier, or whether it may threaten some aspects of our lives. I believe that, although it has improved the lives of countless people, it is also a threat, particularly to our privacy.

The internet has improved people's lives in many ways, but especially by giving access to knowledge and by providing a means of communication. With regard to the former, people who have an internet connection can now educate themselves on virtually any subject that takes their interest. For example, anyone who is interested in learning English can do so for free by using the many teaching sites as well as by being able to watch instructional videos on Youtube. The other major contribution that the internet has made is to revolutionise our ability to communicate. More specifically, it has enabled people to keep in touch with friends and to make contact with similar minded people throughout the world.

However, these benefits do have a potential cost with regard to privacy, as everything that internet users do is recorded by companies like Google and Facebook and their users are powerless to prevent it. It follows that anonymity on the internet is an illusion and internet users should bear in mind that all of their emails and searches are saved, and that Google knows more about their activities than their families do. The same applies to social networks like Facebook, whose users seem happy to reveal the identities of their friends and families, as well as their daily activities, to a company that is known to sell its users' information.

In conclusion, even though the internet brings the tremendous benefits to many people by providing knowledge and improving communication, it does also threaten our privacy because we cannot control who has access to our private information.

305 words

### Commented [Tony1]:

All parts of the question are addressed.

This is a *discuss both views* question, and I wrote one paragraph each *side*. In this case the two propositions are both obviously true, so there is no need to justify the position in the conclusion.

There is a clear position throughout – the introduction, main bodies and conclusion all agree.

The position is directly relevant to the question

The supporting ideas are fully extended. Note that it is not necessary to write 350+ words to get a high score. Most of my answers are 275-310 words

There is no irrelevant information.

Note that the Introduction and conclusion are short but relevant and topic specific. It does not say *I will discuss both sides and give my opinion later*.

**Commented [Tony2]:** The conclusion just repeats the position of the other paragraphs.

There are no nasty surprises in the conclusion.

## Cohesion and Coherence

Opinions are divided on whether the internet has made life easier, or whether it may threaten some aspects of our lives. I believe that, although it has improved the lives of countless people, it is also a threat, particularly to our privacy.

**Commented [Tony3]:** The organisation is **logical with clear progression throughout**. It would not be possible to change the order of the sentences.

The paragraphing is logical and appropriate.

Each sentence follows logically from the previous one.

The internet has *improved people's lives* in many ways, but especially by giving access to knowledge and by providing a means of communication. **With regard to the former**, people who have an internet connection can now educate themselves on virtually any subject that *takes their interest*. **For example**, anyone who *is interested* in learning English **can do so** for free by using the many teaching sites as well as by being able to watch *instructional videos* on Youtube. **The other major contribution that the internet has made** is to *revolutionise* our ability to communicate. **More specifically**, *it has enabled people to keep in touch* with friends and to *make contact with similar minded people* throughout the world.

**Commented [TG4]:** Clear topic sentence giving the reader a preview of what the paragraph is about.

**Commented [TG5]:** Clear referencing, and providing a logical link between the two sentences

**Commented [TG6]:** Logical sequencing

**Commented [TG7]:** Referencing

**Commented [TG8]:** Referencing - it refers back to the topic sentence

**Commented [TG9]:** Provides a logical link

**However**, these benefits do have *a potential cost with regard to privacy*, **as** everything that internet users do is recorded by companies like Google and Facebook and their users are powerless to prevent it. **It follows that** *anonymity on the internet is an illusion* and *internet users should bear in mind* that all of their emails and searches are saved, and that Google knows more about their activities than their families do. **The same** **applies to social networks like Facebook**, whose users seem happy to *reveal the identities* of their friends and families, as well as their daily activities, to a company that is known to sell its users' information.

**In conclusion, even though** the internet brings the *tremendous benefits to many people by providing knowledge and improving communication*, it does also *threaten our privacy because* we cannot control who has access to our private information.

**Commented [TG10]:** Clear topic sentence which indicates the supporting ideas

**Commented [TG11]:** Next sentence follows logically

**Commented [TG12]:** Referencing

**Commented [TG13]:** Indicate that another supporting idea is being presented

**Commented [TG14]:** The cohesion is consistent with the rest of the answer, and therefore contributes to the coherence of the whole answer

## Lexical Resource

Opinions are divided on whether the internet has made life easier, or whether it may *threaten some aspects of our lives*. I believe that, although it has improved the lives of countless people, it is also a threat, particularly to our privacy.

The internet has *improved people's lives* in many ways, but *especially* by giving *access to knowledge* and by providing a *means of communication*. With regard to the former, people who have an internet connection can now *educate themselves* on virtually any subject that *takes their interest*. For example, anyone who *is interested* in learning English can do so *for free* by using the many *teaching sites* as well as by being able to watch *instructional videos* on Youtube. The other major contribution that the internet has made is *to revolutionise* our ability to communicate. More specifically, *it has enabled people to keep in touch* with friends and *to make contact with similar minded people* throughout the world.

However, these benefits do have a *potential cost with regard to privacy*, as everything that internet users do is recorded by companies like Google and Facebook and their users are *powerless* to prevent it. It follows that *anonymity* on the internet is *an illusion* and *internet users* should *bear in mind* that all of their emails and searches are saved, and that Google knows more about their activities than their families do. The same applies to *social networks* like Facebook, whose users seem happy to *reveal the identities* of their friends and families, as well as their daily activities, to *a company that is known to sell its users' information*.

In conclusion, even though the internet brings the *tremendous benefits to many people by providing knowledge and improving communication*, it does also *threaten our privacy* because we cannot control who has access to our private information.

305 words

Commented [Tony15]:

Good lexis is shown in *italics*

Commented [TG16]: Corrent usage - don't start a sentence with this word

Commented [TG17]: Collocation

Commented [TG18]: Transitive verb

Commented [TG19]: Collocation

Commented [TG20]: Important pattern

Commented [TG21]: Important pattern

Commented [TG22]: Less common lexis

Commented [TG23]: Less common lexis

Commented [TG24]: idiom

Commented [TG25]: collocation

Commented [TG26]: noun clause

## Grammatical Range and Accuracy

Opinions are divided on whether the internet has made life easier, or whether it may threaten some aspects of our lives. I believe that, although it has improved the lives of countless people, it is also a threat, particularly to our privacy.

The internet has improved people's lives in many ways, but especially by giving access to knowledge and by providing a means of communication. With regard to the former, people who have an internet connection can now educate themselves on virtually any subject that takes their interest. For example, anyone who is interested in learning English can do so for free by using the many teaching sites as well as by being able to watch instructional videos on Youtube. The other major contribution that the internet has made is to revolutionise our ability communicate. More specifically, it has enabled people to keep in touch with friends and to make contact with similar minded people throughout the world.

However, these benefits do have a potential cost with regard to privacy, as everything that internet users do is recorded by companies like Google and Facebook and their users are powerless to prevent it. It follows that anonymity on the internet is an illusion and internet users should bear in mind that all of their emails and searches are saved, and that Google knows more about their activities than their families do. The same applies to social networks like Facebook, whose users seem happy to reveal the identities of their friends and families, as well as their daily activities, to a company that is known to sell its users' information.

In conclusion, even though the internet brings the tremendous benefits to many people by providing knowledge and improving communication, it does also threaten our privacy because we cannot control who has access to our private information.

### Commented [Tony27]:

Error free sentences - to get a high score you need to eliminate errors.

Note the tenses – present simple and present perfect used correctly.

Also correct modals where appropriate.

Grammar that will impress the examiner is shown underlined

### Commented [TG28]:

Important structure. Note the use of the second whether, which is necessary

### Commented [TG29]:

Adjective clause

**Commented [TG30]:** The auxiliary *do* is used for emphasis

**Commented [TG31]:** Noun clause

**Commented [TG32]:** Noun clause