TOPIC:
TECHNOLOGY

Sample answers, useful vocabulary and resources for IELTS speaking exam

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PART 1

1. **Do you use any gadgets on a daily basis?**

- Although, I don't consider myself an addict, I couldn't properly function without my laptop and smartphone. All in all, we're now experiencing the influence of the **computer age** that has made it impossible to ignore the **cutting-edge technologies.**

2. **How much time do you spend using a computer at work or at home?**

- Daily I spend roughly 4 to 6 hours working on the computer, either doing my home assignments or project work. However, **it comes in handy** for other extra-hour activities as well, such as watching YouTube, editing my new videos and podcasts, chatting with my friends, that takes up to 2 hours a day.

3. **Have you ever bought anything online?**

   - Yes, I frequently buy things online. This is mainly because I don't have time to roam brick-and-mortar stores. I appreciate how fast and easy it is to order anything you can think of online. My last purchase like that was a new set of studio headphones for my boyfriend's birthday.

4. **Has the Internet made your job/studies easier?**

- Indeed, thanks to the Internet, my learning has become quicker and smoother. For one, I can easily access any necessary literature, articles without looking through all the library materials. Second, the Internet tools have made **online collaboration** with other students possible.

5. **Do you like working online or in the office?**

- I actually see benefits in both. However, it is truly very convenient **to stay in touch** with colleagues anywhere I go. I just need a laptop and the Internet connection. This **flexibility** allows me to work everywhere – even in the airport or taxi.

PART 2

Talk about some technology that you have started using fairly recently. You should say:
- **What it is and what it does**
- **How it makes life better or easier**
- **How it is different to other similar technology**

And say whether you think you will still be using it in ten years' time or not, and why.

Let me talk about a technology that is very familiar to all of us but still was a breakthrough in the past.

I bought a bicycle two months ago from a shop nearby to my house. This new purchase comes in handy to **my weekly routine** because I don't have to use a car to commute to work and move around. The bicycle is obviously convenient when going to **short-distance destinations**.

There are certain things that have become easier to handle with the purchase of the bicycle. **On the one hand**, I am able to save money by spending less when it comes to using a car for short-distance trips. **On the other hand**, I started incurring some expenses to enhance the bicycle. All that being said, riding a bike is considered a great form of aerobic exercise which gives your heart and lungs a good workout and protects health from such diseases as high blood pressure, heart problems, obesity and arthritis.

A bicycle essentially is a different form of a vehicle. **First,** it does not require fueling and therefore helps to save the planet by **reducing the air pollution**. **Second**, finding a parking area **is no longer a problem** because it is small and **compact**.

All in all, taking all the advantages into account, I would rather say that I will still be using a bicycle in ten years' time as it **brings significant benefits**. Firstly, I will be able to save more money and protect the nature since the fueling and repairing are no longer required. Furthermore, I will be able to live healthy because of constant exercises. Lastly, I will be more flexible when it comes to moving around the city, since it will be no longer needed to call and wait for a taxi

PART 3

1. **Do you think people rely too much on technology today?**

   As a matter of fact, I personally believe that technology has a significant impact on our daily lives **(idea).** It enables us to resolve lots of our **day-to-day problems**: communication has been made faster and easier, global information is rapidly spreading around, the entertainment industry has been **fostered** by Netflix and Amazon Prime **(explain). Nevertheless**, it is crucial to develop a balance in order to identify the time we spend with the technology as well as the time we spend with ourselves delving into our thoughts **(alternative).**

2. **What are some great inventions you know about?**

   It is really tough to pick one particular scientific invention that had positively influenced the human race, as there are possibly hundreds and thousands of such innovations. However, I **firmly believe** that among the greatest ones are the wheel and the cellphone **(idea).** These inventions have made our lives easier to the extent that their absence may cause lethal cases for some **(explain).** For instance, without the use of a phone, it would be tough to immediately notify people about accidents. Without **wheeled motor vehicles** it would be impossible to quickly rush victims to the hospital **(example).**

3. **Do you think that the advance of technology has improved standards of education at schools?**

   To my mind, the spread of the Internet has had a significant impact on the modern methods of teaching **(idea). I strongly believe** that the motivation has increased both in teachers and students because information is now freely available **(explain).** I am happy that education has become accessible for people regardless of borders, income of skin colour. International community should definitely continue fostering the improvement of education **accessibility**.

2. KEY VOCABULARY

TECHNOLOGY AT HOME

appliance	A piece of equipment, especially electrical equipment, such as cooker or washing machine, used in people's homes	There's plenty of space for all the usual kitchen **appliances**.
household	related to looking after a house and the people in it	Washing powder and other **household** products.
chore	Something you have to do that is very boring and unpleasant	I feel driving a real **chore**.
to operate	to work or cause something to work, be in action, or have an effect	I do not know how to **operate** this new washing machine.
to repair	To do some work on something that is damaged or not working properly, so that it is in a good condition again	My neighbor knows how to **repair** all kinds of household appliances.
useful	effective; helping you to do or get what you want	She was very happy about the **useful** appliance she bought.

TECHNOLOGY – TRANSPORTATION

transportation	a system or method for carrying passengers or goods from one place to another	The city needs to improve its public **transportation**.
mode	a particular way or style of behaving, living, or doing something	The most efficient **mode** of transport.
convenient	useful to you because it saves your time, or does not spoil your plans or cause you problems	Mail-order catalogs are a **convenien**t way to do shopping.
destination	a place where someone is going or where something is being sent or taken	Allow plenty of time to get to your **destination**.
to travel	to go from one place to another, or to several places, especially ones that are far away	We **travelled** by train across eastern Europe.
distance	an amount of space between two places or things	A shark can smell blood at a **distance** of half a kilometer.
self-driving car	a vehicle that is capable of sensing its environment and navigating without human input	The prototype of **self-driving cars** first appeared on European public roads in 2013.

infrastructure	the basic systems and structures that a country or an organization needs in order to work properly, for example: roads, railways, banks, etc.	Some countries have inadequate economic **infrastructure**.
drone	An aircraft that does not have a pilot, but is operated by radio	In the past three decades, the world has witnessed an immense evolution in the sphere of **drone** technologies.

TECHNOLOGY – COMMUNICATIONS –IT

communications	The ways of sending information, especially using radio, telephone, or computers	Modern **communications** are enabling more and more people to work from their homes.
signal	a series of light waves, sound waves that carry an image sound, or message, for example in radio or television	This new TV channel sends **signals** via satellite to cable companies.
gadget	A piece of equipment, usually a small electronic one, that does a special job	He buys all the latest **gadgets**.
message	a spoken or written information that you send to another person or leave for them	There's a **message** from Karen on the answerphone.
to contact	to communicate with a person, organization, country	Unless the money is paid, we will be **contacting** our legal department.

to receive	to get or be given something	She **received** no support from her parents.
augmented reality	a technology that superimposes a computer-generated image on a user's view of the real world, thus providing a composite view	Nowadays, many brands experiment with **augmented reality**.
machine learning	a field of computer science that uses statistical techniques to give computer systems the ability to "learn"	Every day, there seems to be a new way that artificial intelligence (AI) and **machine learning** are used to enhance our daily life.
software development	a complex process of creating computer programs, libraries, online documentation, digital media and mobile apps	**Software development** is the process of creating new software solutions.
innovation	a "new idea, device or method", the application of better solutions that meets new requirements, unarticulated needs, or existing market needs	We must encourage **innovation** if the company is to remain competitive.
invention	a useful machine, tool, instrument that has been invented	The **invention** of the computer has revolutionized the business world.
cloud computing	a practice of using a network of remote servers hosted on the Internet to store, manage, and process data	Service providers **create cloud computing** systems to serve common business or research needs.

Term	Definition	Example
cutting edge technologies	technologies at the latest or most advanced stage of development; innovative or pioneering	Through the years, scientists have introduced **cutting-edge technologies** intended to make life a lot more convenient for humans.
cyber security	a protection against the criminal or unauthorized use of electronic data	Some people have argued that the threat of **cyber security** has been somewhat inflated.
game changers	an event, idea, or procedure that effects a significant shift in the current manner of doing or thinking about something	New technologies are big **game changers** in many industries.
nanoengineering	a practice of engineering on the nanoscale	**Nanoengineering** is one of the fields in nanotechnology.
decentralized energy	a very large number of small-capacity units that are all connected to the power grid	**Decentralized energy** is now recognized as an essential part of the solution to the challenge of ensuring a low-carbon energy future.
artificial intelligence	a theory and development of computer systems able to perform tasks that normally require human intelligence	The use of **artificial intelligence** systems requires processor speeds three to four times as high.

TECHNOLOGY – AT THE WORKPLACE

elevator
a machine that takes people and goods from one level to another in a building
We'll have to take the **elevator**.

skyscraper
a very tall modern building, usually in a city
Offices are usually found in **skyscrapers**.

air conditioner
a machine that makes the air in a building cooler and drier
It's hot in here as there is no **air conditioner**.

computer
an electronic machine that stores and uses programs to help you find, organize, or change the information
The information is stored on a **computer**.

photocopier
a machine that makes copies of documents using a photographic process
Leave the papers with me and I'll get them copied by the **photocopier**.

office
a building that belongs to a company or an organization, with rooms where people can work at desks
The department occupies an **office** just a mile from the White House.

transnational corporations
companies that spread out their operations in many countries to sustain high levels of local responsiveness
The growth in the number and size of **transnational corporations** since the 1950s has generated controversy due to their economic and political power.

TECHNOLOGY – ADJECTIVES

sophisticated

having a lot of knowledge and experience of difficult or complicated subjects and therefore able to understand them well

British voters have become much more **sophisticated**.

advanced

having reached a late point in time or development

The disease was too **advanced** to be treated.

genetic

related to genes or heredity

All the cells in the body contain the same **genetic** information.

global

considering all parts of a problem or situation together

We are taking a **global** overview of our business.

TECHNOLOGY – VERBS

to evolve

to develop and change gradually over a long period of time

The school has **evolved** over time and now it's the best one around.

Word	Definition	Example
impact	an effect or influence that an event, situation has on someone or something	We have to access the **impact** on the climate change.
to embrace	to include or contain (something) as a constituent part	Dr. Davies' research interests **embrace** two areas related to clinical and professional work.
to overstate	to talk about something in a way that makes it seem more important, serious than it really is	To say that all motorists speed in residential areas is **overstating** the case.
to rethink	to think about a plan or an idea again in order to decide if any changes should be made	It's time for a complete **rethink** of the way we farm our countryside.
creative	involving the use of imagination to produce ideas or things	This job is boring. I wish I could do something more **creative**.
imaginative	good at thinking of new and interesting ideas	Children, who enjoy **imaginative** games, have been shown to be more likely to smile.
to empower	to give someone more control over their own life or situation	The Voting Rights Act was needed to **empower** minority groups.
to accelerate	to happen faster than usual or sooner than was expected	We need to take up measures to **accelerate** the rate of an economic growth.

to upgrade

to make a computer, machine, or a piece of software better and able to do more things

You'll need to **upgrade** your hard drive to 120Mb before running this software.

to coordinate

to organize an activity so that people involved in it work well together and achieve a good result

Mark was in a good position to **coordinate** security technology and consultation for IBM.

to process

to handle (papers, records, etc.) by systematically organizing them, recording or making notations on them

She suggests mindfulness exercises to help us **process** the emotion before it triggers a response.

3. WORD FORMATION

transporter	noun	The **transporter** can carry all the heavy objects.
transporting	noun	**Transporting** people is a tough job.
communicator	noun	She's a skilled **communicator**.
communicating	noun	**Communicating** to all employees is a tiring task.
communicative	adjective	Tom wasn't very **communicative** and kept himself to himself.
housing	noun	Health problems caused by bad **housing**.
to house	verb	We need a comfortable place **to house** the visitors.
operator	noun	Julian travelled with Caribbean Connection, the UK's leading Caribbean tour **operator**.
operation	noun	The Education Business Partnership has been in **operation** since 1989.

to operate	verb	The bus is designed to **operate** under all weather conditions.
invention	noun	The dishwasher is a wonderful **invention**.
to invent	verb	Alexander Graham Bell **invented** the telephone in 1876.
inventive	adjective	He was one of the most talented and **inventive** drummers in the modern music.
repair	noun	The **repair** work was not done properly.
to repair	verb	Neil tried to **repair** the damage that his statements had caused.
repairable	adjective	Then I wrecked my car, though fortunately it was **repairable**.
evolution	noun	We can see signs of **evolution** taking place in the world around us.
to evolve	verb	Animals have **evolved** camouflage to protect themselves from predators.
evolutionary	adjective	He is in favor of gradual, **evolutionary** social change.

overstatement	noun	It's an **overstatement** to say that the man's a fool.
to overstate	verb	She's very busy, so don't **overstate** the case – just give her the essentials.
overstated	adjective	The importance of a child's early years cannot be **overstated**.
empowerment	noun	We strongly believe in the **empowerment** of women.
to empower	verb	Purchases of these types of products can **empower** small farm owners, rewarding their efforts.
powerful	adjective	Morey had been scanning the horizon with a pair of **powerful** binoculars.
embracement	noun	I have an apathetic **embracement** of failure that is unlikely to ever lead me to self-harm.
to embrace	verb	This course **embraces** several different aspects of psychology.

4.COLLOCATIONS AND PHRASES

to arrive by
to travel by
to go by
to come by

verb+

bus

to talk on
to get on
to chat on
to speak on
be on

verb+

phone

mode of
way of
form of
mean of

verb+

transportation

use
operate
utilize
manipulate

verb+

appliances

cleverly-designed
useful
latest
high-tech
small
electronic

adjective+

gadget

website
magazine
connection
address
access
search engine

Internet + noun

Internet

service provider
user
traffic
shopping
banking
age

send out / transmit
pick up / receive
carry

verb+

signal

5.USEFUL RESOURCES

THIS TOPIC ON IELTS BLOGS

- IELTS topic vocabulary for speaking test: Technology [thetesttaker.com]

- IELTS Speaking sample: Technology Topic [ielts-up.com]

- Technology - IELTS sample speaking tests [ipassielts.com]

- IELTS Speaking Part 3: Technology Questions and Model Answer [ieltsliz.com]

PODCASTS

- Zapp! English Listening 3.8 – The Future[zappenglish.com]

- TED Radio Hour: Building Better Cities [npr]

- The Rick Thompson Report: Technology and The Future (January 2017) [teacherluke.co.uk]

ARTICLES
- What technological changes will create the most opportunities for new startups over the next 2-3 years? [quora.com]

VIDEOS

- Band 9 Sample IELTS Part 3 Answers About Technology [allearsenglish.com]

- IELTS & TOEFL Vocabulary – Technology [engVid]

- TED Talk by Ray Kurzweil: The accelerating power of technology [ted.com]

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