Technology

VOCABULARY PRACTICE
UPPER-INTERMEDIATE | B2

Name: _____ Date: _____

1 Match each precise term with its definition.

1 cloud computing ____	**a** delivering computing services over the internet rather than local hardware
2 cybersecurity ____	**b** the practice of protecting systems and data from digital attacks
3 bandwidth ____	**c** the maximum amount of data that can be transferred over a connection in a given time
4 latency ____	**d** the delay between an action and its effect in a system
5 scalability ____	**e** the ability of a system to handle a growing amount of work
6 interoperability ____	**f** the ability of different systems to work together and exchange information
7 obsolescence ____	**g** the state of being outdated and no longer useful
8 automation ____	**h** using technology to perform tasks without human intervention
9 data breach ____	**i** an incident where protected data is accessed without authorisation
10 firmware ____	**j** low-level software embedded in hardware to control its basic functions

2 Choose the word with the most suitable connotation.

1 For delivering computing services over the internet: cloud computing / local storage only.

2 For protecting systems from digital attacks: cybersecurity / open access.

3 For the maximum data transfer rate: bandwidth / a single file.

4 For the delay between action and effect: latency / instant response.

5 For a system's ability to handle growing demand: scalability / a fixed capacity.

6 For different systems working together: interoperability / total incompatibility.

7 For becoming outdated and no longer useful: obsolescence / continuing relevance.

8 For an incident of unauthorised data access: a data breach / secure storage.

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3 **Complete the technology collocations with one word.**

1 migrate to the _____ (= move to internet-based computing)

2 strengthen _____ (= protection from digital attacks)

3 limited _____ (= maximum data transfer capacity)

4 reduce _____ (= the delay in a system's response)

5 ensure _____ (= ability to handle growing demand)

6 achieve _____ (= different systems working together)

7 planned _____ (= deliberately designed to become outdated)

8 suffer a data _____ (= unauthorised access to data)

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4 Complete the case notes with words and phrases from the box.

automation | bandwidth | cloud computing | cybersecurity | data breach | firmware | interoperability | latency | obsolescence | scalability

Case A: The company migrated its systems to 1 _____, citing improved 2 _____ as demand grew.
Case B: A major 3 _____ exposed customer data, prompting investment in stronger 4 _____ measures.
Case C: Users complained of high 5 _____, making the app feel slow despite sufficient 6 _____ for the connection.
Case D: Engineers worked to achieve 7 _____ between the two competing platforms.
Case E: Critics accused manufacturers of planned 8 _____, designing products to fail shortly after the warranty expired.
Case F: A 9 _____ update fixed a bug affecting device performance, while new 10 _____ tools reduced manual work for staff.

5 Read the text and answer the questions briefly.

The hidden cost of planned obsolescence

Consumer advocates increasingly criticise manufacturers for practices amounting to planned obsolescence, deliberately designing products with a limited useful lifespan to encourage repeated purchases. Critics argue this practice generates unnecessary electronic waste and forces consumers into a cycle of frequent replacement, while manufacturers typically defend shorter product lifespans as reflecting genuine technological progress rather than deliberate design choices. Regulators in some regions have begun requiring manufacturers to support interoperability and provide longer software updates, aiming to extend device lifespans and reduce environmental impact, though enforcement remains inconsistent across different jurisdictions and product categories.

1 What do consumer advocates increasingly criticise manufacturers for? _____

2 What is planned obsolescence? _____

3 What do critics argue this practice generates? _____

4 How do manufacturers typically defend shorter product lifespans? _____

5 What have regulators in some regions begun requiring? _____

6 What does enforcement remain, according to the text? _____

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6 Rewrite each sentence using the word in capitals. Do not change the meaning.

1 The company moved its data to internet-based servers. CLOUD COMPUTING _____

2 Unauthorised people accessed the company's protected data. DATA BREACH _____

3 The two systems could not work together at first. INTEROPERABILITY _____

4 The product was designed to become outdated quickly. OBSOLESCENCE _____

OVER TO YOU

Write a 120-150 word account analysing the debate over planned obsolescence in consumer technology, distinguishing observation from argument.

[ ] Use at least twelve target expressions. [ ] Control connotation carefully. [ ] Avoid unsupported assumptions.

ANSWER KEY

1 Precise terms

1 a 2 b 3 c 4 d 5 e 6 f 7 g 8 h 9 i 10 j

2 Connotation

1 cloud computing 2 cybersecurity 3 bandwidth 4 latency 5 scalability 6 interoperability 7 obsolescence 8 a data breach

3 Collocations

1 cloud 2 cybersecurity 3 bandwidth 4 latency 5 scalability 6 interoperability 7 obsolescence 8 breach

4 Case notes

1 cloud computing 2 scalability 3 data breach 4 cybersecurity 5 latency 6 bandwidth
7 interoperability 8 obsolescence 9 firmware 10 automation

5 Reading - suggested answers

1 Practices amounting to planned obsolescence.
2 Deliberately designing products with a limited useful lifespan to encourage repeated purchases.
3 Unnecessary electronic waste and forces consumers into a cycle of frequent replacement.
4 As reflecting genuine technological progress rather than deliberate design choices.
5 Requiring manufacturers to support interoperability and provide longer software updates.
6 Inconsistent across different jurisdictions and product categories.

6 Rewriting - possible answers

1 The company moved to cloud computing. 2 The company suffered a data breach.
3 There was an interoperability problem. 4 The product suffered from obsolescence.

Over to you

Answers will vary. Check lexical precision, appropriate connotation and separation of fact from inference.