A N G L A I S

The real digital divide

1. On March 14th, the United Nations will launch a "Digital Solidarity Fund" to finance projects that address "the uneven distribution and use of new information and communication technologies" and "enable excluded people and countries to enter the new era of the information society". Yet the debate over the digital divide is founded on a myth –that plugging poor countries into the Internet will help them to become rich rapidly.

2. **_This_** is highly unlikely, because the digital divide is not a problem in itself, but a symptom of deeper, more important divides: of income, development and literacy. Fewer people in poor countries than in rich ones own computers and have access to the Internet simply because they are too poor, are illiterate, or have other more pressing concerns, such as food, health care and security. So even if it were possible to have a computer in every household on earth, **_it_** would not achieve very much: a computer is not useful if you have no food or electricity and cannot read. (…)

3. S0 the financing of specific local infrastructure projects, such as rural telecentres by the UN's new fund, is the wrong way to go about **addressing** the inequality in access to digital technologies. **_It_** is treating the symptoms, rather than the causes. The benefits of building rural computing centres, for example, are unclear. Rather than trying to close the divide, the more sensible goal is to determine how best to use technology to promote bottom-up development. And the answer to **_that question_** turns out to be remarkably clear: by promoting the spread not of PCs and the internet, but of mobile phones.

4. With mobile phones, there is no need for intervention or funding from the UN: even the world's poorest people are already rushing to embrace mobile phones. Mobile phones do not **rely on** a permanent electricity supply and can be used by people who cannot read or write. Phones are widely shared and rented out' by the call. Farmers and fishermen use mobile phones to call several markets and work out where they can get the best price for their produce. Mobile phones can help in reducing transaction costs, broadening trade networks and reducing the need to travel, which is of particular value for people looking for work.

5. The digital divide that really matters, then, is between those with access to a mobile network and those without.

<u>The Economist</u>, Mar 10th 2005 /from the print edition

Footnote:

1. Loué, mis en location

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COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

A. Say what the underlined wards refer to in the text.   **(2 marks)**

1.   "This" ---

2.   "it"   --

3.   "It" --

4.   "that question" ---

B. Reordering Ideas   **(3 marks)**

Idea	Paragraph number
5. Investing in new information and communication technologies will not fill the technological gap.	------------------
6. Aims of the fund raising and belief about its consequences.	------------------
7. The benefits of building mobile networks in developing count ries.	------------------
8. The obstacles to promoting the spread of computers and the Internet	------------------

C. Identifying ideas: Quote from the text: **(2 marks)**

9. a definition of the concept of "digital divide".

----

10. The (3) major barriers causing the digital divide.

a ---

b. --

D. Complete according to the text.   **(2 marks)**

11. For the author, computers --------------------- -------in the life of people in poor countries.

a. bring changes   **b. are necessary**   **c. are spreading**   **d. are not a priority**

Justification from the text: . --

. --

12. For the writer, developing-------------------- produces more benefits than anything.

a. a solidarity fund   **b. internet access**   **c. mobile telphony**   **d. permanent electricty**

Justification from the text: . --

E. Complete the sentence according to the text.   **(0.5 mark)**
13. For the author, the real divide is ---

F. Vocabulary in context. Circle the letter of the correct answer: **(0.5 mark)**
14. "addressing"means"
a. discussing   b. dealing with   c. identifying   d. evaluating

15. "relying on" means:
a. present   b. sustain   c. adapt to   d. require

LINGUISTIC COMPETENCE

G. Reformulate the senteences as indicated using the prompts.   **(1.5 marks)**

16. When I arrived at the workshop, I switched on the milling machine to test it.
On --—--

17. It is the responsibility of the new technician to monitor the progress of the work.
Monitoring ---—------

18. No one can predict accurately the end of power cuts in our country.
It --

. **H. Prefixes and Suffixes:** Circle the lette to indicate the correct ,eaning of the sentence.   **(1 mark)**

19. **We usually do not publish articles we don't PREVIEW.**
          .a.we usually read articles before publication;
          b. we do not read articles after publication;
          c. we read articles the day we publish them.
          d. we review articles after we publish them.

20. **I'm sorry I MISREAD the notice and therefore MISUNDERSTOOD the message.**
          a.   I read the notice with difficulty and therefore did not understand the messagecorrectly;
          b.   I read the notice and understood the message correctly;
          c.   I did not read the notice and therefore did not understand the message;
          d.   I did not read the notice correctly and therefore did not understand the message correctly.

I.   Complete the sentences with the appropriate question tags.   **(1 mark)**
21.They brought about changes into the production line,------------------------------ ?
22. Let's resume the servicing of the steam locomotive, -----------------------?

J.   Put the verbs into the correct tense.   **(1 mark)**
23. This day next week, the price of rice………..……………………………………… (fall) by 30% as decided
      by the government.
24. Since last week, the entry to the workshop …………………………. (clean; not) by the
.   newly employed workmen.

K. Complete with the appropriate PRONOUNS.   **(1 mark)**

25. Being a mechanic has…………………… disadvantages,

26. "This screwdriver is……….. I bought it just the other day."

27."Give thebook to Arame."

    ''I've already given it to………..''

28. The director said to me: "Think of others before you think of ………."

L. Write the question for this answer: **(0.5 mark)**

29. **Question**……………………………………………………………………………..?

   Answer: Five times a week

WRITING: **Choose a topie and write a passage of not more than 200 words,**

32. Topics:

a)- Can the use of computers improve the life of poor people? Justify your position.

b)- Which digital technology(ies) should African countries favour: computers and internet or mobile phones? Say why.

==================END==================