

Chapter # 5 – The Digital Divide.

June 2017 – P11 & P12

9 A recent BBC news bulletin claimed:

The digital divide, like many other economic or social problems, is a global issue.

Explain what is meant by the digital divide.

Answer:

9	<p>Six from:</p> <p>The divide between people who have access to and the resources to use new information/communication technology and those who do not This technology can include the telephone, television, personal computers and the internet</p> <p>The divide between those who have the skills, knowledge and abilities to use the technologies and those who do not</p> <p>The digital divide can exist between those living in rural areas and those living in urban areas...</p> <p>...due to lack/expense of infrastructure in rural areas</p> <p>The digital divide can exist between the educated and uneducated</p> <p>The digital divide can exist between economic classes</p> <p>The digital divide can exist between old and young people...</p> <p>...as young people have grown up with the technology/older people may feel they are too old/unwilling to learn about new technology/do not know how to use it</p> <p>May refer to inequalities between individuals, households, businesses, or geographic areas</p> <p>The divide between countries or regions of the world is referred to as the global digital divide</p> <p>The quality of connection to the internet may vary between groups/countries</p> <p>The price of connection to the internet may vary between groups/countries</p> <p><i>Can be overcome by:</i></p> <p>Community teaching programmes to teach older people how to use advanced technology</p> <p>Giving cheap computers/laptops to school children from poor backgrounds</p> <p>Setting up cyber cafes in rural areas</p> <p>Providing overseas aid to poor countries to purchase the technology.</p>	6
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November 2017 – P13

5 The digital divide can exist between different groups of people.

Describe the groups of people who are affected and explain why this is the case.

Answer:

5	<p>Six from:</p> <p>The digital divide can exist between those living in rural areas and those living in urban areas There may be a lack of/expensive to install infrastructure in rural areas The quality of connection to the internet may be poor in rural areas The digital divide can exist between people from different economic classes/rich and poor The poor cannot afford to buy computers/hardware/software/equipment Poor cannot afford the education/training needed to learn about the new technology Lower-income and minority groups are buying smartphones but there are rising costs of data plans Disabilities of potential internet users constitute another type of divide Users with poor hand coordination will not be able to manipulate keyboards/input devices The digital divide can exist between the educated and uneducated The less well educated may not have the skills, knowledge and abilities to use the technologies The digital divide can exist between old and young people Young people have grown up with the technology/older people may feel they are too old/unwilling to learn about new technology/do not know how to use it The digital divide can exist between developed and developing countries The quality of connection to the internet may be poor in developing countries The price of connection to the internet may be high in developing countries In some less well developed countries the population has limited access to digital services.</p>	6
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June 2018 – P11

- 4 There is a global digital divide between more and less industrially developed nations.

Describe this type of digital divide.

Answer:

4	<p>Six from:</p> <p>The global digital divide is the different levels of access of countries to modern information and communications technology</p> <p>Less industrially developed nations cannot afford to invest as much in technology as more well developed countries</p> <p>It does not necessarily mean that a nation does not have technology just a difference in the type of technology</p> <p>This technology can include the telephone, television, personal computers and the internet</p> <p>Not all countries are able to keep up with the constant changes in technology</p> <p>There is a large inequality worldwide in terms of the distribution of installed telecommunication bandwidth/some countries may not have a well-developed broadband infrastructure/rely on dialup connections</p> <p>The majority of the globally installed bandwidth is spread among a tiny number of countries</p> <p>Some countries may have lower-performance computers</p> <p>Some may have difficulty in obtaining technical assistance.</p>	6
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June 2018 – P13

- 6 A number of schools in the Americas have introduced a BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) policy. This means that students are expected to bring their own device to school for use in lessons. This can encourage a digital divide within schools.

(a) Describe **three** ways in which this can widen the digital divide within schools.

Answer:

6(a)	<p>Three from:</p> <p>Students whose families can afford the devices have an unfair advantage Teachers find it difficult to manage learning activities when they have to support multiple platforms and device types Some activities and applications may only be compatible with certain devices The gap widens as underprivileged students lack access to high performance computers at home Underprivileged students do not have internet access at home so they do not learn the same things putting them at a distinct disadvantage.</p>	3
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(b) Describe **three** ways in which this situation could be rectified.

Answer:

6(b)	<p>Three from:</p> <p>Teachers could be given time to train on and understand the platforms they are using Teachers could have to learn how to integrate them into a class of students who may not have access to the internet or mobile devices at home Schools need to have different versions of software that can be used on all devices Libraries and schools should offer technology training for parents A fund for the purchase or subsidy to purchase machines for poor children A stock of spare machines kept in school in case students do not have machines A list of software could be issued to staff which runs across all platforms.</p>	3
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November 2018 – P11 & P13

- 4 The lack of a broadband connection is a symptom of the digital divide.

Explain why different groups of individuals do not have a broadband connection and what can be done to improve this situation.

Answer:

4	<p>Six from:</p> <p>Lack of understanding of the relevance and benefits of broadband Lack of skills/education about/knowledge of/familiarity with information technologies, or confidence to use them Affordability of connection and access fees Affordability of devices with which to access broadband Tend to live in rural areas where broadband infrastructure is not as good as in cities Government programmes to implement education Stimulate initiatives such as the development of e-government, e-health, e-learning and e-business, aimed at encouraging the development and use of new broadband applications Extend faster broadband to rural areas.</p>	6
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March 2019 – P12

2 Tick the **four** most accurate statements, referring to the digital divide.

	✓
The digital divide can exist between the educated and uneducated	
The digital divide can exist between those living in rural areas and those living in urban areas	
The digital divide does not exist between people from different economic classes	
Everyone these days owns a smartphone so the divide is closing rapidly	
Minority groups have no difficulty performing transactions on smartphones thereby reducing the divide	
Disabilities of potential internet users constitute another type of digital divide	
Some less developed countries have limited access to digital services	
Most tribal communities have universal mobile phone coverage in their community	
The digital divide only refers to those who can and cannot access the internet	
The price of connection to the internet tends not to vary between countries	

[4]

Question 2**Answer:**

2	The digital divide can exist between the educated and uneducated	✓	4
	The digital divide can exist between those living in rural areas and those living in urban areas	✓	
	The digital divide does not exist between people from different economic classes		
	Everyone these days owns a smartphone so the divide is closing rapidly		
	Minority groups have no difficulty performing transactions on smartphones thereby reducing the divide		
	Disabilities of potential internet users constitute another type of digital divide	✓	
	Some less developed countries have limited access to digital services	✓	
	Most tribal communities have universal mobile phone coverage in their community		
	The digital divide only refers to those who can and cannot access the internet		
	The price of connection to the internet tends not to vary between countries		