



ST. NICHOLAS COLLEGE
NAXXAR BOYS' SECONDARY SCHOOL
HALF YEARLY EXAMINATIONS 2015

TRACK
2

FORM 4

ENGLISH
LISTENING COMPREHENSION

TIME: 15 minutes

TEACHER'S PAPER

You are going to listen to a documentary about the invention of the Internet.

The Invention of the Internet

Unlike technologies such as the light bulb or the telephone, the Internet has no single “inventor.” Instead, it has developed over time. The Internet started in the United States more than 50 years ago as a government weapon in the Cold War. For years, scientists and researchers used it to communicate and share information with one another. Today, we use the Internet for almost everything, and for many people it would be impossible to imagine life without it.

On October 4th 1957, the Soviet Union launched the world's first man-made satellite into orbit. The satellite, known as Sputnik, did not do much. It rolled aimlessly around in outer space, sending beeps from its radio transmitters as it circled the Earth. Still, to many Americans, the beach-ball-sized Sputnik was proof of something that worried them. While the most intelligent scientists and engineers in the United States had been designing bigger cars and better television sets, it seemed, the Soviets had been focusing on more important things—and they were going to win the Cold War because of it.

After Sputnik's launch, many Americans began to think more seriously about science and technology. Corporations took government grants and invested them in scientific research and development. In addition, the federal government itself formed new agencies like NASA and ARPAnet to develop space-age technologies such as rockets, weapons and computers.

American scientists and military experts were especially concerned about what might happen in the event of a Soviet attack on the nation's telephone system. Just one missile, they feared, could destroy the whole network of lines and wires that made efficient long-distance communication possible. In 1962, a scientist named J.C.R. Licklider offered a solution to this problem: a “galactic network” of computers that could talk to one another. Such a network would allow government leaders to communicate even if the Soviets destroyed the telephone system.

In 1969, ARPAnet delivered its first message: a “node-to-node” communication from one computer to another. By the end of 1969, just four computers were connected to the ARPAnet, but the network grew securely during the 1970s. Throughout the 1980s, researchers and scientists used it to send files and data from one computer to another. However, in 1991 the Internet changed again. That year, a computer programmer in Switzerland named Tim Berners-Lee introduced the World Wide Web. It was an Internet that was not only a way to send files from one place to another but also a “web” of information that anyone on the Internet would be able to save. Berners-Lee created the Internet that we know today.

