



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

TRACK
3

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 evolved over time. The Internet got its start 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 data 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 4, 1957, the Soviet Union launched the world's first manmade satellite into orbit. The satellite, known as Sputnik, did not do much. It tumbled aimlessly around in outer space, sending blips and bleeps from its radio transmitters as it circled the Earth. Still, to many Americans, the beach-ball-sized Sputnik was proof of something alarming. While the brightest scientists and engineers in the United States had been designing bigger cars and better television sets, it seemed, the Soviets had been focusing on less frivolous 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, such as the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the Department of Defense's Advanced Research Projects Agency (ARPA), to develop space-age technologies such as rockets, weapons and computers.

Scientists and military experts were especially apprehensive 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 proposed a solution to this problem: a “galactic network” of computers that could talk to one another. Such a network would enable 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 steadily 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. An Internet that was not simply a way to send files from one place to another but was itself a “web” of information that anyone on the Internet could retrieve. Berners-Lee created the Internet that we know today.



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Name: _____ Index No: _____ Class: _____

A. Mark (✓) whether the statement is TRUE or FALSE. 3 marks []

1. There is no single inventor of the Internet.
2. The Internet began in the Soviet Union more than 50 years ago.
3. On 4 October 1957, the Soviet Union launched the first man-made satellite known as Sputnik.
4. The American federal government formed agencies to improve space-age technologies after Sputnik's launch.
5. ARPAnet delivered its first message from one computer to another in 1962.
6. The World Wide Web was introduced in 1991 by Tim Berners-Lee.

T	F

B. Write a word or phrase from the documentary that means the same as the following. 4 marks []

1. To perform acrobatic moves such as somersaults, rolls or twists	
2. Unworthy of attention	
3. An object or weapon that is fired at a target	
4. To bring back again	

C. Answer the following questions. 3 marks []

1. Mention **two** reasons why scientists and researchers used the internet during the Cold War.
a. _____ b. _____
2. Mention **two** things American experts were focusing on before Sputnik was launched.
a. _____ b. _____
3. What solution did J.C.R Licklider propose to the problem of efficient long-distance communication?
