Listening

TASK 1
1   T
2   F
3   F
4   T
5   F
TASK 2
1   D
2   D
3   C
4   A
5   B

Audioscript:

Task 1

Speaker 1: I think that even up until just a few years ago we could never have imagined how our behaviour would change with regards to using mobiles and tablets. I know that I would find it incredibly difficult to live without my mobile. I'm constantly looking at my phone to see if I've got any new messages or updates, and checking my apps to see what's new. I wouldn't say that I post my life online, not like some people I know, but I do like to keep up with what people are up to – friends, family and even other people I know but maybe haven't seen for years, like old school friends, and check out photos of what they look like now, ha ha ha (laughing)…

Speaker 2: In a way, I think it's quite funny that we're always worrying about teenagers and young people becoming obsessed with online communication, but if you ask me we need to worry just as much about adults! At the office where I work, even when we have a break, nobody talks to each other unless they absolutely have to, which is a sorry state of affairs to say the least. Everyone's too busy checking their social networks and sending messages to have time to communicate face-to-face! People spend their lunchtime glued to their screens or barely glance up from their phones. Even during meetings people can't resist subtly checking their phone, and what really irritates me is when you are trying to talk to someone and they're more interested in looking at their phone than paying attention to what you're saying, even though you're right in front of them! Phubbing, I think it's called!

Speaker 3: I was listening to this discussion on the radio the other day talking about online communication and they were talking about FOMO or, what was it, Fear of Missing Out, which apparently is a kind of modern-day psychological syndrome which we're affected by because of our obsession with online communication. Basically, they were saying that the reason why people feel that they have to be connected 24/7 and communicate everything they're doing and keep up with everything that other people we know are doing is down to this fear of missing out. We're worried that everyone is having more fun than us or doing something more exciting than us. They also said that because we're spending more time communicating in the online world, we're losing the ability to enjoy the present.

Speaker 4: My generation is so different to my parents'. I mean, they're always telling me that they grew up in a world without mobiles and social networking and they managed fine. Hard to imagine how they arranged to meet their friends without a phone … but they say they did! Uh ... I had so many arguments with them while I was growing up, until they let me have my first

smartphone. But they didn't let me have Snapchat or Instagram or anything like that! 'It's not the end of the world,' they'd say! They just didn't understand that that's the way people my age communicate with each other. Nobody actually talks on the phone any more. They have no idea how much I missed out on at school being the only one who didn't have Snapchat. Also, at school we had loads of talks and stuff on how to stay safe online and most of us knew that anything you post online was going to be there forever.

Speaker 5: For me, one of the best things about online communication is that you can stay in touch with everyone at the same time, all the time. You know exactly what's going on, when and where, so you never miss out on anything. I love the fact that you can update all your friends on what's going on in your life and they can respond immediately with a like or a comment, so you feel like you're together with people even though you might be completely alone sitting on a bus or at home. I share loads of photos, but I only post up my best edited shots. I hate it when people I know post photos of me not looking my best.

Task 2:

Presenter: Hi, everyone. On today's Tech-times podcast we're lucky to have Sam Wogan, a well-known digital journalist, with us. So, Sam – what interesting techie-topic would you like to talk about   today?

Journalist: Hi, Brad. Today I'd like to talk about some of the reasons why we shouldn't automatically believe everything we read online, and how false information spreads so easily with the help of technology. One of the reasons for this is a phenomenon known as circular reporting.

Presenter: Circular   reporting?   What's   that?

Journalist: Well, it's basically reports which are based on other reports, rather than on the primary evidence or source. To the reader, it looks like the information is coming from several different independent sources, which normally means it can be trusted. But, in actual fact, all the reports are based on each other. Imagine a piece of false information is published, for example on Wikipedia, and then is referenced in a newspaper article or other publication. Then, in turn, the original Wikipedia entry references or quotes the article as validation that the information is true. In a nutshell, it's the confirmation of false information by more than one   publication.

Presenter: OK, let me see if I've understood this correctly. So, someone writes an article on Wikipedia   which   contains   some   false   information...

Journalist: That's right, false information which is not referenced or checked and in no way is obvious   as   being   false.

Presenter: OK, and then this false information is copied from Wikipedia by a journalist and included   in   a   newspaper   article.

Journalist: Yes, or other type of article, as if it were true information.

Presenter: And then Wikipedia references the newspaper article, which verifies the information in   the original   Wikipedia   article   as   being   true.

Journalist: That's right! And sometimes it's not just one newspaper article that cites the false information. Several publications may include it and so it becomes very difficult to prove that the original information is false. Let me give you an example. A few years ago a 17-year-old American student was on holiday with his family in Brazil. He spotted what he believed to be an aardvark, but which was in fact a type of Brazilian raccoon called a coati. When the boy got home after his holiday, he went online and changed the Wikipedia entry by adding the name 'Brazilian aardvark' to the information on the article, as a sort of joke, and then he forgot about it and thought nothing more of it. However, what started to happen was that articles and blogs began to quote the information from Wikipedia and then those articles were re-reported as evidence in Wikipedia. Before long, everyone was talking about the 'Brazilian   aardvark'   as   if   it   were   factual   information.

Presenter: So when information makes its way from a Wikipedia page into a published article,

the article could be spreading false information without even realising it? Exactly! It makes you wonder how many hoaxes initiated by people in this way have ended up as truths in many people's minds just because people copy and paste vandalised Wikipedia pages. That's not to say that all information on Wikipedia is false by any means. There's a ton of really valid information there and it is constantly being updated – many people consider it to be the most up-to-date and unbiased encyclopaedia in the world. However, it is the open structure of Wikipedia, compared to a traditional encyclopaedia, which makes it a target to be tampered with.
Presenter: So we just have to be aware that there may be a certain amount of inaccuracies on Wikipedia?
Journalist: Yes, and it's also worth mentioning that circular reporting is not just restricted to harmless information like the 'Brazilian aardvark'.
Presenter: Isn't it?
Journalist: No. For example, some time ago, claims that certain vaccines could cause autism in children were published in a prestigious medical publication by a British surgeon. The problem was that the unsupported claims were picked up by the media and the news spread like wildfire. Soon enough the general public were understandably concerned about the risks and huge numbers of parents refused to vaccinate their children. Consequently, in recent years we have seen an increase in the number of children suffering childhood diseases such as measles. By the time the claims were proven unfounded, the damage was done and even to this day some people still believe that there is a link between vaccines and autism.
Presenter: It just goes to show how difficult it is sometimes for the truth to be heard.
Journalist:Absolutely.
Presenter: So, in practical terms, how can we be sure that what we're reading is true?
Journalist: Well, we can take certain steps such as checking the original source of the information and, if at all possible, checking that the original source is reliable and not just taken from either Wikipedia, Facebook or the media.
Presenter: Right, so we need to be a little more critical and not just believe everything we read online.
Journalist: That's right, although it's difficult because we want information quickly and immediately, so it's not always viable to spend time checking the sources of information, even though we should. And we should certainly try and reflect on the information and decide ourselves if we think it's true or not. If you feel unsure about the validity of certain information, then there's no harm in looking into it further to check how true it actually is.
Presenter: That's very true. We often take things at face value and don't really take the time to think critically about them.

READING

11. A
12. C
13. A
14. B
15. B
16. C
17. C
18. A
19. C
20. A

Use of English

Task 1

.
1 upon
2 on
3 become
4 work
5 else

Task 2

6. mouse
7. print
8. wave
9. tablet
10. build

Task 3

11. consideration
12. introduced
13. devised
14. extensive
15. require

Task 4

16.   H
17.   A
18.   B
19.   D
20.   C