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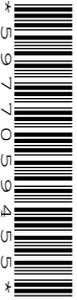**H**

Tuesday 7 June 2016 – Morning

GCSE ENGLISH/ENGLISH LANGUAGE

A680/02/RBI   Information and Ideas (Higher Tier)

READING BOOKLET INSERT

Duration: 2 hours


INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

- The materials in this Reading Booklet Insert are for use with the questions in **Section A** of the Question Paper.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

- This document consists of **8** pages. Any blank pages are indicated.

INSTRUCTION TO EXAMS OFFICER/INVIGILATOR

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TOO SMART FOR OUR OWN GOOD?

by John Arlidge
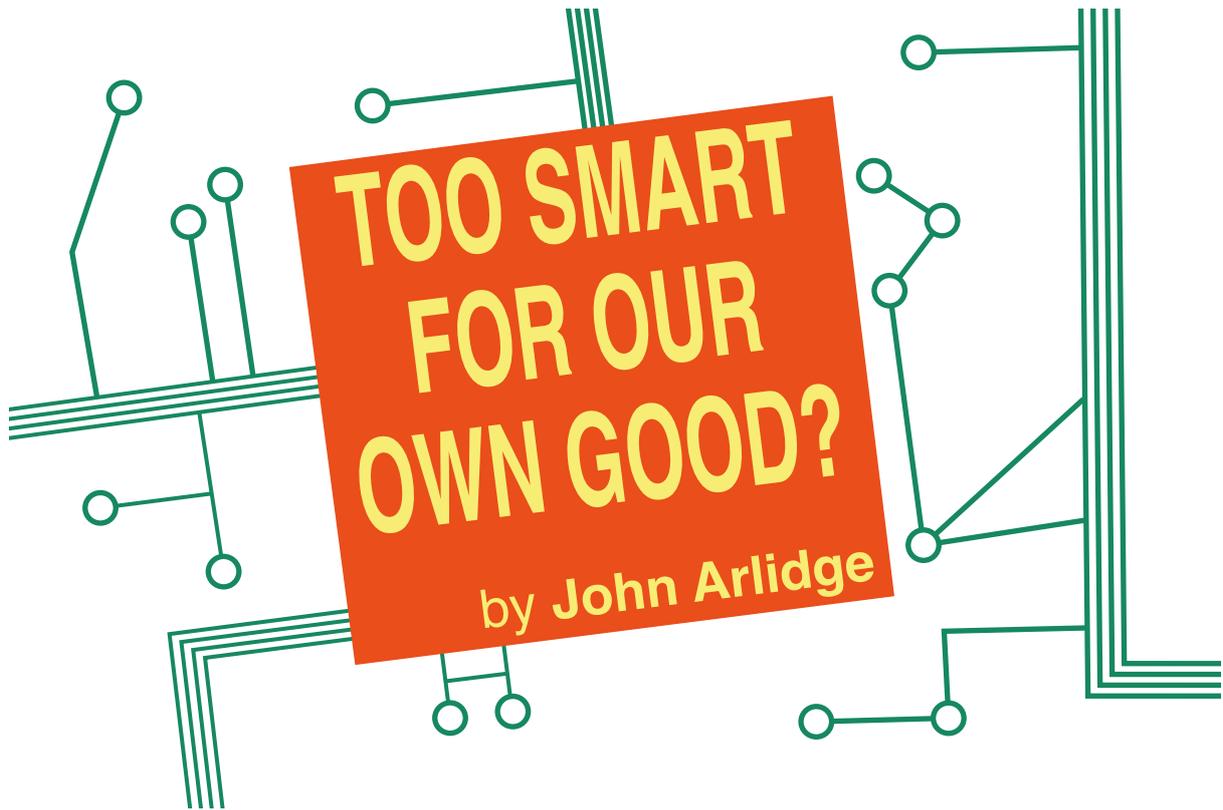
A typical home will soon contain a network of gadgets designed to make life easier. All these developments have one thing in common: they are part of "the internet of things". But the convenience will come at a cost.

A warm glow bathes your bed and you wake up feeling perfectly refreshed. Your bedside sleep monitor has roused you with your favourite "dawn light", just as you emerge from a period of deep sleep into lighter sleep.

The aroma of fresh-brewed coffee and hot rolls fills the air. The bed has told the kitchen you are awake, and the coffee maker and oven have turned themselves on. While you eat breakfast, the bath fills itself to your favourite depth and temperature.

As you dress after your bath, you tap your smartwatch to order your car. Ten minutes later you walk out and it is waiting for you with no driver. It has driven itself to your door. You tap your smartwatch again and the door opens.

Heading for the office, you read your emails and then watch the morning news on one of the television screens that has scrolled down from the ceiling. You barely notice as the autonomous car slows down or speeds up, except when it brakes quickly – and then apologetically explains why. "A child walked into the road in front." It gets you there by the quickest route having read the latest traffic reports.

The car pulls up outside your office. You walk out and it drives off to park itself. As you walk in, your digital diary gives you a ten minute warning of your first meeting. Your smartwatch knows where you are in the office. If you stay in a room too long, it knows a meeting has overrun, so it reschedules later meetings and lets your colleagues know the new times. Efficiency is therefore increased.

07:00
A bedside sleep monitor wakes you with 'dawn light' as coffee is brewed and rolls heated. A bath is filled to your preferred temperature

Back at home, you have forgotten to turn down the heating. Your house reads your diary and realises you will not be back until late, so it turns down the thermostat and helps protect the environment.

Your smart electricity meter has noticed there is a cheap new morning tariff, so it switches on your washing machine and saves you money. The machine has calculated you are low on washing powder, so it adds that to the online shopping list, alongside the eggs your fridge has sent for and the toothpaste ordered by your smart bathroom cabinet.

And there is, possibly, more.

A car that parks itself; a GPS tracker for pets; a bicycle with sat nav; and an online temperature patch to warn parents about their children's health. There are experiments with smart sports clothing that monitors your fitness as you work out. Like smart connected people, smart connected objects are cool.

But there are concerns about how safe this all is.

All the new connected devices give hackers the chance to break into our homes, opening doors and seizing control of security systems, monitoring cameras, smart TVs and even baby monitors. The chief executive of Mercedes Benz cars has described the "nightmare vision" of a car on the road being hijacked and controlled by hackers. "We are working with all our strength to make this impossible," he said.

You might want to ask how much your privacy is worth because, to make all this work, you will need to give them 24/7 access to your online diary. Anna Fielder, chairwoman of the campaign group Privacy International, says: "It could be the ultimate invasion of privacy". Who owns the data we would provide to the tech firms? This is still very unclear.
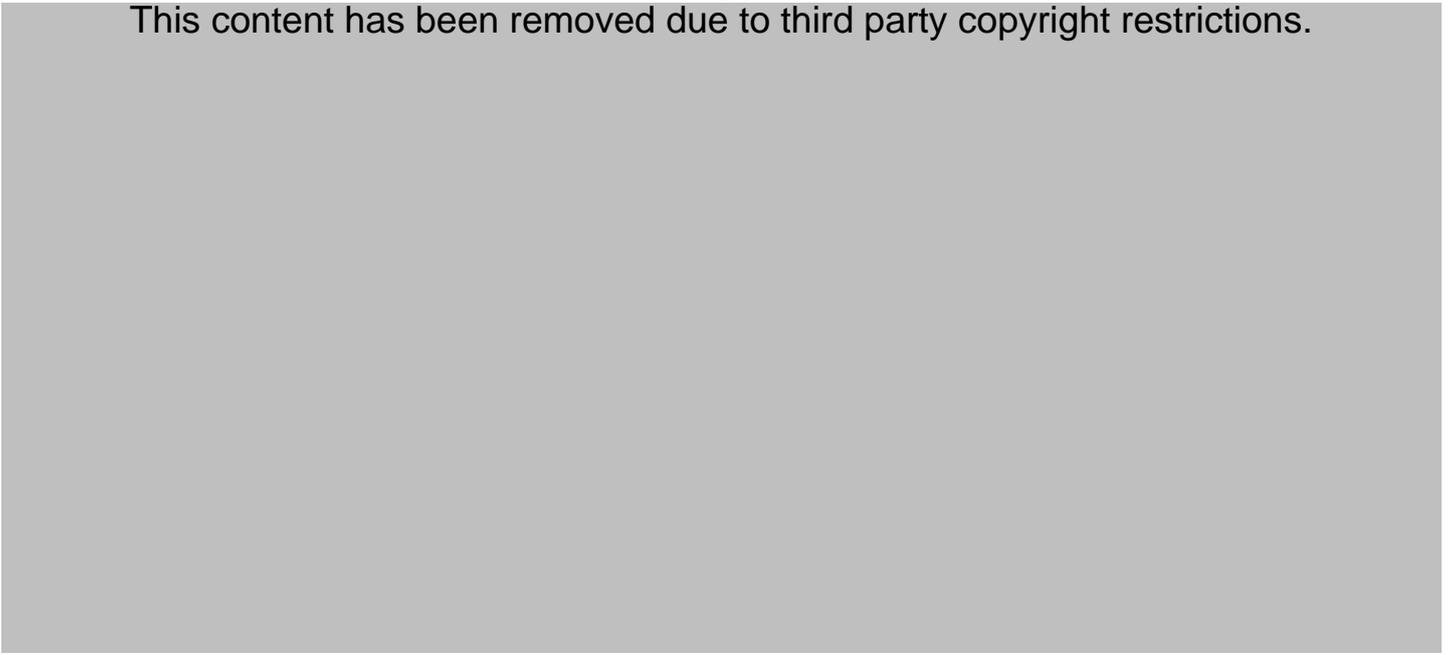
What is clear is that the big tech companies want to use the 24/7 digital record of our lives to sell on to advertisers and anyone else who wants to exploit it, just as they do at present with our search history.

If our home sensors know we are cooking breakfast, Google would love to send us pancake recipes. If this sounds fanciful, remember that Google has form when it comes to invading our homes: its Street View cars illegally grabbed details of home wi-fi networks.

Like it or not, the whole world is becoming the web. So log on if you want. But look before you click.

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