Modern technology is harming society

Carl Henegan once said "Life was so simple when apples and blackberries were fruit, a tweet was the sound of nature, and facebooks were photo albums". Is it difficult to deny how technology has enhanced the way we live and how we build relationships. What is *undeniable* is that it has changed us in ways we perhaps don't quite yet understand. With ever more advancements on the horizon, in the form of artificial intelligence and automation, has humanity been permanently changed by these developments?

Points For	Points Against
Medical technology has allowed us to treat cancer using chemotherapy, save premature babies using incubators, and understanding genetic diseases using DNA analysis. We can all live longer as a result of these inventions.	Many people still die as a result of chemotherapy, it is not a guarantee of live extension. There are also 'superbug' viruses which have evolved through the use of vast anti-biotic use.
We are able to communicate with people over long distances. Governments, businesses, and ordinary citizens can benefits from increased communications.	People are too focussed on talking on their phones, emailing, taking selfies, and other useless activities. People are becoming less aware of the problems around us.
Technology has reduced waste. In the past, say around 300 years ago, if you wanted to preserve an image of an event, you would have needed many hours, bottles of paint, brushes and a canvas. Not only is that impractical, but it is also requires huge amounts of resources. Similarly, it is very time intensive. Smartphone cameras are faster and cleaner.	There is nothing wrong with having a painting. Some of the most treasured artworks in all of humanity are in the medium of paintings. They capture emotion, movement, and context far better than more cameras. How many people do you know are good photographers and can be remembered for hundreds of years?
Automation and robotics are probably able to help us escape from our most mundane tasks. Security guards,	Robots have the potential to cause violence towards us. If artificial intelligence becomes sentient, we are finished.

Useful language to use in formal debates

In general, you would need to come up with 4-5 main arguments to support your team's debating position. It's also important to remember to also anticipate the opposition's arguments to help you defend your team's point of view.

Building your Argument
Introducing your point: To begin with... First of all...

Connecting your points: Also... Furthermore... What's more...

Showing importance: More importantly... What's worse... Above all else...

Giving examples: For instance... For example...

Opinions, Preferences:
In my opinion..., The way I see it..., As far as I'm concerned..., If it were up to me..., I suppose..., I suspect that..., I'm pretty sure that..., I honestly feel that, Without a doubt...,

Disagreeing:
Don't you think it would be better..., Shouldn't we consider..., But what about..., I'm afraid I don't agree..., Frankly, I doubt if..., The truth of the matter is..., The problem with your point of view is that..., It's a fact that..., According to ..., The reality of the situation is..., The numbers show that..., The fact is this:...,

Partially agreeing:
I agree with you to a point however..., I see where you are coming from but..., I see what you are saying but ...,

Delaying Strategies
I can't answer that directly..., I'll need time to think about that..., That's a very interesting question, because..., That's a difficult question to answer,

Asking someone to repeat
Pardon me? Pardon? Excuse me? Sorry? I'm sorry? I beg your pardon?

Holding the floor
Hold on..., Hold on a second..., Yes, I was about to mention that...., Well, I was about to come to that..., Sorry, I haven't finished yet ., I haven't made my point yet ...

Expressing solutions and alternatives
The solution is to..., Then you will..., The best way to ... is ...,
To ..., you really have to ....,   There are many choices....,

Supplementary materials

If needed, each member can be given a card indicating their position in the debate.

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