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*'Modern Technology is making us all lazy and stupid.'* How far do you agree with this assertion?

[Warning: This is not written in the GP Essay standard and should not be used as reference for any sort of revision. This essay is purely for entertainment and as a break from slacking for the author.]

Why climb the stairs? Just press the button and wait for the lift to send you up the building. Hungry? Put the couple of packet of artificial flavouring into hot water and pour it over the instant noodles. You don't know the answer to  $103046531 + 45435434$ ? It's just the freaking string of digits you see after pressing that statement and 'equals' on the calculator. Modern technology has made it so convenient for us to do so many things with such ease and little knowledge of how things really work that they seem to be causing us to become lazy and stupid. It's even convenient to sue those who call you 'lazy and stupid' for libel, just use the Graham Gadget (ie. Telephone) to contact your lawyer although emailing him with your Personal Digital Assistant will do fine. With such desire to get those who call you 'lazy and stupid' into trouble, how far would you agree with that assertion? Apparently while modern technology has indeed made us lazy and stupid literally some of the time, it has pushed us to greater heights in acquiring greater productivity and knowledge of nature, hallmarks of effort and intelligence. Of course, I would agree to the assertion only to a tiny extent, if even any.

Like all General Paper essays, we should first begin with the counterarguments then countering them before going on to the arguments that defends our stand and thus elevate our thesis to the factual status, at least in the minds of the readers. So to begin, modern technology has indeed made us all lazy and stupid. The invention of anti-psychotic drugs, used to treat schizophrenia, mania and delusional disorder has been realized to produce dopamine-reducing effects. Dopamine, an important chemical in our brains consisting of a benzene-ring, with 2 hydroxyl groups and a ethylamine, is also commonly called 4-(2-aminoethyl)benzene-1,2-diol according to the IUPAC standard. This chemical has the effect of spurring us and keeping us motivated. The reduction of dopamine by the action of the anti-psychotic drugs such as Vesprin and Prolixin, would cause the victim to become lazy and unmotivated. While modern technology has made those suffering from schizophrenia, mania and delusional disorder to become lazy, it is a gross overgeneralization to say it is making all of us lazy and stupid. Moreover, with the help of modern technology, doctors have been able to administer treatment to enhance the dopamine concentration in the brains of these patients.

Other times, modern technology such as leaded petrol in the combustion engine has made us stupid. After the cursed Thomas Midgley (who went on to 'discover' CFCs after inventing leaded petrol and getting himself lead poisoning) introduced tetra-ethyl lead into gasoline and reduced the 'knocking' phenomena in the combustion engine, there's a huge release of lead into our atmosphere, raising the concentration of lead in the air. Lead has been proven to affect both the peripheral and the central nervous system; in fact, a direct link between early lead exposure and extreme learning disability has been established by multiple researchers and child advocacy groups. Modern technology (as well as Thomas Midgley and the vehicle users) must bear the responsibility for making us stupid. Nonetheless, the average IQ scores of the test-takers around the world have continued rising steadily despite leaded petrol, proving that the lead-poisoning phenomenon have been greatly reduced after banning tetra-ethyl lead in most of the engines in the world (aviation engines still uses it quite extensively).

However, the leaded petrol and anti-psychotic drugs are really just isolated examples of modern technology making us lazy and stupid. Most other gadgets and gizmos does the contrary, they makes us more intelligent and hardworking. The convenience that technology provides does save us labour, but this labour saved is often traded off in other ways and minor effort savings like the ease of taking lifts, or traveling in a vehicle instead of walking, should not constitute laziness. True enough, technology like graphing calculators and computers does lots of calculations for us, but it does nothing to lower our intelligence. Given the logic of such arguments, how can anyone possibly conceive other means by which modern technology make us lazy and stupid besides the severely exclusive examples of anti-psychotic drugs and leaded petrol?

Mobile phones, notebook computers and PDAs make us more hardworking by enabling us to work outside our offices and study rooms. While the coolies of the past, void of modern technology slack off after a day of brick-carrying, the corporate executive today has to continue conversing with big clients when he's driving home and check his computer for stock exchange news or emails from bosses. Modern technology has virtually immersed man in work and enabled the hardworking person to become a workaholic - what could be more hardworking than someone who loves to work? In fact, the lines between work and play for the modern man have become so blurred even gaming is no different from the chore of a professional sniper or a counter-terrorist at the frontline of the war against terror thanks to modern technology.

Finally, let us consider the devices that have made us so much more intelligent. Without the invention of X-ray and neutron diffraction, we would never have been able to confirm the cyclic nature of benzene. And not to forget the contributions of laser cooling technology - without it, we'll probably never know whether Bose-Einstein condensate truly exists anywhere besides Einstein's imagination and equations. And intelligence is more than just hard knowledge; we have to consider learning abilities as well. The invention of television has greatly enhanced the learning abilities of every child. Studies have shown that since the inception of television as a mass entertainment device, the age at which children pick up profanities as been decreasing steadily. Modern technology has certainly made us much more intelligent both in terms of understanding of nature and enhanced our learning abilities greatly.

Detractors are going to start hurling drink cans at me and exclaim about how lazy and stupid they have become such that they are too unmotivated to argue with me, and definitely not intelligent enough to conceive any thesis against mine. I trust this is really just those suffering from delusional disorder or the limited number of aviation tank refilling station staffs who are suffering from an overdose of lead. I believe all who are rational see the blinding (pun intended) logic of my arguments and would agree that modern technology, far from making us lazy and stupid, has helped enhance our intelligence and capacity to adore hard work.

Next time you climb the stairs and cook traditional dishes when you are hungry, you are not being hardworking but just stupid. And if you are don't want to work out what is  $103046531 + 45435434$ , it's really because you are plain lazy. Even if modern technology is making you lazy or stupid, it's not at the same time, unless you are a leaded petrol combustion engine-user suffering from delusional disorder. Nonetheless, it's just making those limited group of people lazy and stupid, not 'us'. Moreover, the bulk of modern technology is really making us more intelligent and hardworking.