

## A2.10 Science/Technology - Handout

- 1** This activity is just to serve as an introduction to the topic of scientific discovery, but it should also provide the opportunity to practise saying dates and requires use of the Passive Voice in the Past Simple tense. Allow time for speculation about the possible answers as this should include use of *may*, *might* and *could*. The answers are though, in chronological order: 1876 for the telephone, 1879 for the light bulb, 1903 for the airplane, 1963 for the audio cassette, and 1990 for the world wide web.
- 2** These two people's answers are given here to provide an example of typical native speaker responses to the specified questions. As usual, they can be read aloud for pronunciation puposes.
- 3** Remember to discuss both of the questions: that is, which have been and currently are most important *for society* and also which you and your partner would find most difficult to live without *as individuals*.
- 4** A majority of people would probably consider most on this list to be very desirable scientific developments. However, the ability to choose the I.Q. and sex of children has worrying implications in countries where one sex is favoured over another and, of course, there are potentially religious objections. Also, not everybody wants to live to 350 years of age as adjusting psychologically to all the changes one would witness would perhaps be traumatic.
- 5** There should be plenty to discuss here. Even if you or your partner are advanced in years, everybody has opinions about the way modern technology has become all pervasive in society – with both positive and negative effects.
- 6** The age of your partner should have an interesting influence on what they write in response to this title. 'Digital natives' will usually have very different reactions to those born into earlier generations. Please discuss ideas concerning effects of technology with your partner to make the writing of these paragraphs easier.