



UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL EXAMINATIONS  
International General Certificate of Secondary Education

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**GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES**

**0457/03**

Paper 3

**October/November 2012**

INSERT (Resource Booklet)

**1 hour 15 minutes**

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**READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST**

This Insert contains Sources 1 and 2. The time spent reading these Sources is allowed for within the examination.

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This document consists of **3** printed pages and **1** blank page.



**Source 1:** extracts from a blog.

Scientists, politicians and educators around the world are arguing about the effects of the internet on young people's brains. So we're asking you,

Is the internet having a negative effect on the way we think?

Zafar\_66

Yes. I've read a number of books which show the internet makes us think less clearly. The internet presents small pieces of information and doesn't connect facts together or give us the context. We also get distracted following links and forget what we were looking for. So we lose the ability to concentrate and to think about issues in detail.

keep\_us\_free

The internet is destroying thinking. It fills our brains with celebrity nonsense and pointless computer games so young people around the world don't think about important issues any more. They're more likely to vote on television talent shows like X-Factor than in elections. Real things don't matter any more to young people. It doesn't matter whether they are in Korea or Canada, Burma or Mozambique. They are lost in a virtual world.

violet\_blue

It might seem as if the internet makes us think less clearly but this is because it allows everybody to be heard, including people with confused thoughts. In the past only well educated, rich men could write in newspapers. Today, everybody can have their say, and I think this is a good thing. We all deserve to share our perspectives, because we are all human. Also, the internet has helped us to think differently, more internationally. For example, I'm Iranian and one of my internet friends comes from China, another from Israel, and another from South Korea. Getting to know each other has helped us to realise that we're all people, not just enemies.

no1gamer

keep\_us\_free is wrong. Multi-player online role playing games like World of Warcraft, or games like chess, can really improve your problem solving skills, and that's a kind of thinking, isn't it?

Teacher\_Keith

Young people don't know any facts any more. How can they think with empty heads?

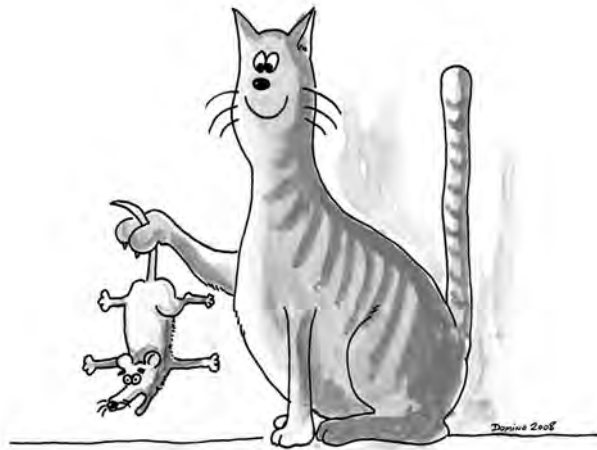
annika\_abalone

Thinking is not just about knowing facts though. Sure, there's so much information it can be distracting, but we can learn skills to help deal with it, and that develops our ability to think way beyond old people like our parents who just learned information by heart.

florista

I agree with annika\_abalone. Having information is only one kind of knowledge. There's also knowledge of how to do things, like riding a bike or doing heart surgery. At the moment you can't learn how to do things on the internet, but it might be possible soon. There's also knowledge about people and relationships. The internet expands our social networks and develops our social thinking. As sensors and imaging tools get better, virtual relationships will become more like face-to-face relationships. So yes, the internet could change the way we think. But it won't all be bad.

Source 2



"But... your Facebook profile  
says you're a vegetarian!"

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