



# SUGGESTED ANSWERS

## THE BIG TECH ISSUE

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TikTok is Not a National Security Threat

Here are suggested answers to our grammar exercise:

<p>The future of video sharing service TikTok in the United States of America (USA) is uncertain as the USA and China <b>competes</b> for technological influence. TikTok, <b>who</b> is owned by Chinese company Bytedance, was banned from operating <b>on</b> the USA last year. The USA does not trust that China’s technology is independent from the Chinese government and is concerned that any user data collected might be used to compromise the USA’s <b>nation</b> security. China, on the other hand, sees the USA’s <b>restrict</b> as efforts to limit the growth of China’s technology companies as both countries compete to become the global superpower. To circumvent <b>this</b> restrictions, TikTok might soon be purchased by an American company so that <b>they</b> can continue operating in the USA. However, TikTok was not the first, and <b>were</b> not be the last technology company to be singled out as a threat in this new tech war.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. compete</li> <li>2. which/that</li> <li>3. in</li> <li>4. ✓</li> <li>5. national</li> <li>6. restrictions</li> <li>7. ✓</li> <li>8. these</li> <li>9. it</li> <li>10. will</li> </ol>
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### Nature of errors:

1. compete → subject verb agreement, plural to correspond with “USA and China”
2. which/that → relative pronoun, relating back to “TikTok” and not a person
3. in → prepositions of place; relating to USA, a place that is within boundaries
4. ✓
5. national → word class, adjective instead of noun
6. restrictions → word class, noun instead of verb
7. ✓
8. these → demonstrative pronoun, plural to correspond with “restrictions”
9. it → third person personal pronoun, singular to correspond to “American company”
10. will

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Visual Comprehension: Be a Voice for the Voiceless

Here are suggested answers to our visual comprehension exercise:

1. The headline reads "Be a Voice for the Voiceless".
  - i) What is the purpose of the headline?

The purpose is to persuade the readers to speak up (voice) for those who cannot speak up for themselves (voiceless) by supporting the petition for higher wages and better working conditions. [1]

Writer's intent question – answer must explain the meaning of the key words in context of the poster.

- ii) Explain how the image of the man on the top of the poster fits the headline and the message of the poster.

The man's mouth is covered suggesting that he is being silenced. This supports the headline and message about content moderators who are unable to speak up for themselves and who need our help. [1]

Answer must describe the picture briefly and explain how it supports the message.

2. Who is the target audience of this poster?

It is people who use Facebook / Facebook users. [1]

3. Refer to the heading "The darkness faced by moderators". Explain how the information below it supports the heading.

The information below presents three difficult types of content that the moderators are exposed to. [1]

Answer must show the meaning of "inclusivity", not just state it

4. Identify a **three-word** phrase that has the same message as "be a voice for the voiceless".

The phrase is "stop the silence". [1]

Clue: look for words that reflect the key words in the quotes.

Do not accept the entire sentence.

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Text Comprehension: A Way Forward

Here are suggested answers to our expository text comprehension exercise:

1. From Paragraph 1, in what **two** ways is Shopify a “shining star” of Canada?

- i) Shopify’s revenue is on the rise and it has committed to sharing its gains with partners. [1]
- ii) It is lowering barriers to entrepreneurship. OR It is turning e-commerce into a force for good. [1]

2. From Paragraph 2, “the goalposts are moving” (line 7)

- i) What does the term “goalposts” refer to?

It refers to the standards used to assess/judge tech companies OR It refers to the public acceptance of tech companies. [1]

*Clue: “scrutinized for everything”, “responsible innovation to gain public acceptance”*

*Consider: what are goalposts used for?*

- ii) In what ways are they “moving” unlike before? Answer **in your own words**.

Before, it was less challenging for tech companies to be publicly admired when they provided cheap goods and services. [1] However, now, they are examined for every move / action they take and require more daring moves in responsible innovation in order to attain the same respect. [1]

*Answer must show the ‘before and after’ conditions in order to get full marks. Key words underlined should also be paraphrased accurately.*

*From passage: Tech companies previously **gained acceptance easily** for the **convenience and low prices they offered**. However, they are now being **scrutinized for everything** from pricing and advertising, data use to content policies, taxation and employment practices. Players in the industry **need bolder models** for responsible innovation to **gain public acceptance**.*

3. From Paragraph 3, which **two** separate words show that Canadian tech companies highly regard Shopify and its practices?

- i) admiration [1]
- ii) replication [1]

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4i. Give **two** pieces of evidence from Paragraph 3 that Marvin can use to explain his position.

- It offered free trials to help thousands of businesses go digital, contributing to the survival of Canada’s small businesses during COVID-19 closures.
- It partnered with indigenous organizations.
- It provided work-integrated learning opportunities to aspiring developers.
- It committed to investing at least US\$5 million annually to reduce carbon-emissions.

[Any 2 evidence for 1 mark]

4ii. How can Mikaela support her view? State one detail from Paragraph 4 to back up her claim. Answer **in your own words**.

People now have higher standards for tech companies in this time of change [1], so Shopify has to raise its standards/do much more in its practices/duties/actions as a company. [1]

Key words underlined should be paraphrased.

From passage: In this moment of renewal and recalibration, public expectations are shifting, pushing the bar for responsible innovation higher.

5. **Using your own words as far as possible**, summarise the steps Shopify could take to stay socially responsible as a tech company. Use only information from Paragraphs 5 to 7.

Your summary must be in continuous writing (not note form). It must not be longer than 80 words (not counting the words given to help you begin).

*Shopify can ensure that it stays socially responsible by ...* [15]

	From the passage	Paraphrased
1	break new ground	being innovative
2	by embedding social responsibility into its goals.	and incorporating social responsibility in its targets.
3	proactively establish an independent review board to keep its business practices in check and ensure they do no harm.	It can create a review board to ensure its business methods are safe.
4	provide worker and merchant representation when resolving conflict.	and provide legal aid for its workers and merchants when settling disputes.
5	incorporate greater diversity in their employment, pay and promotion practices.	It can ensure diversity and inclusion when employing, paying and promoting workers.
6	enhance accountability by reporting on the demographics of its business clients,	It can be more accountable by stating the backgrounds of its clients,



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7	as well as on the groups that are not able to access the company's products or services.	including those who cannot use Shopify's products or services.
8	These data could even inform Shopify's plans for extending into new markets and designing products that are more inclusive and widely accessible.	It can use such information to help improve its products for more people.
9	consider publishing clear information about merchants that have been banned or deactivated, and why.	It can publish data on merchants that have been barred.

Accept any 8 points for 1 mark each.

Total: 15 marks

- Content: 8 marks
- Language: 7 marks (grammar, spelling, punctuation, vocabulary)



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Listening Comprehension: The Gift and Curse of Big Tech

Here are suggested answers to our listening comprehension exercise:

### Questions 1 - 6

You will hear six short recordings. In each recording, a speaker talks about his or her experiences with various Big Tech companies.

1. Speaker 1

C. It won over my customers with low prices I couldn't compete with.

2. Speaker 2

B. I was demoted for protesting against their unfair practices.

3. Speaker 3

A. Their platforms could potentially help curb the spread of Covid-19.

4. Speaker 4

D. The company's goods and services helped sustain my family during the pandemic.

5. Speaker 5

E. I am afraid to use the tech company's app as it has been used to target my people.

6. Speaker 6

G. The tech company took away our means to counter misinformation on social media.

Unused: Option F. This option is similar to Option B, but speaker 2 was demoted, not fired.

### Question 7

You will hear a recording about how technology can affect our mental health, for better or worse.

Information	Stated/Implied
It is up to us to use technology for good.	✓
Technology is essential to do good.	
Taking care of our mental health is akin to taking care of our physical bodies.	✓
A positive mindset is not a given, it has to be slowly trained.	✓
Technology has enabled us to access more mental health resources.	✓
We shouldn't use technology too much.	