



Task 1 Social Media

Use the Internet to find answers to the following questions:

1. What percentage of UK adults who are online use Facebook?

55.2% of uk adults use facebook as of 2025

2. What proportion of UK adults use online banking?
about 88%

3. "Social networking sites improve the quality of people's lives." List some arguments for and against this statement. (Try a Google search on "social networking – good or bad?")
social networking improves peoples lives by making it easier to share what you are doing with friends and family but it can be bad for you if you doomscroll often or stay inside too much

4. List some instances where social media sites have been a great force for good in a crisis situation, and some instances in which they have brought devastating consequences to individuals or society.

one instance when social media was very good for society when jake paul was punched in the face and everyone was very happy. a time when social media was very bad for society was on the 26th of february 2025 where instagram suggested a lot of videos of people committing suicide

Task 2 eGovernment

1. Research ways in which digital technology can involve citizens in political and economic decision-making

digital technology can influence citizens' poticial and economic decision making as they can get influenced by ads that are placed on these platforms

2. Consider the risks to effective decision-making posed by the ideas you found in part 1.
the risks are that the opinions are not truly theirs

3. Why do you think that Estonia can organise a national system for electronic health records, while the UK has not?

estonia has stronger digital infrastructure than the UK, and the uk by contrast has a lot of legacy systems in place

4. You have secured a position as a virtual intern at XYZeVote GmbH, a startup from Wiesbaden, who are working on a secure online voting system for local and state elections for German, EU and eventually global markets. You have been tasked with bringing a fresh perspective to their project by writing a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) analysis of online voting.

strength:



its much easier to vote as one can stay at home

weakness:

if the users device is compromised, an invalid vote could be cast

opportunities:

extremely fast vote counting

threats:

a lot more susceptible to attacks as the servers could be hacked

Task 3 Automated decision-making

1. Make a list of three areas where you feel that automated decision-making is an excellent idea, and three where it would be inappropriate.

automatically choosing whether to alert the user for a notification: eg ads vs direct messages

automatically set a detention if a student is not marked present in a register

suggest routes based on past data

not suitable:

making arrests

surveillance

attacks

- 2 Using your examples, try to identify a set of principles by which to determine when it is appropriate to automate decisions.

it is unsuitable to automatically make a decision when it could harm a human being if it is made in error

- 3 Apply the principles you found in part 2, above, to these examples and discuss if the use of automated decision-making is appropriate.

- (a) An insurance company requires you to install a tracking device in your car. Your premium is then based on data including when and how you drive, where you live, your age and the value of your car.

automated with human review

- (b) The same insurance company requires you to take a medical test, which includes a DNA swab. Premiums for driving, household goods and life insurance are then all calculated on data including your DNA, and in particular any inherited medical conditions or indications of likely behaviour.

fully human review as it is highly sensitive data

- (c) Given your excellent predicted grade in A-level Computer Science, you have decided to apply for jobs in the defence sector, some of which involve a comprehensive security



vetting process. This includes a third party HR agency examining details not only of your designated friends on social media, but their friends as well.

totally manual, systems are prone to false positives that would be unfair to candidates

- (d) You bought a surprisingly cheap smartphone. You clicked 'agree' to a long list of terms and conditions. One of them allows the smartphone retailer to monitor all text and internet communications and sell data about your contacts, purchases and location to direct marketing companies.

unsuitable, that is invasion of privacy