Module 6 Let's Get Connected!

Unit 15 Going Online

Censorship and the Internet

Internet censorship is the deliberate suppression of what can be accessed or published on the Internet.

Governments or organisations may impose these restrictions for various reasons, including to limit access to:
- socially unacceptable material;
- what they regard as dangerous information.

The extent to which the Internet is censored varies from country to country, depending upon the political and social situations in those countries.

Access to websites is filtered by reference to blacklists that are set up with unacceptable sites and through dynamic examination of the website content for unacceptable content.

The main categories being blocked by Internet Service Providers (ISPs) in the UK include extremist politics, extreme pornography and sites that **infringe** on copyright.

Total control of information through censorship is very difficult to apply unless there is a single central censorship unit. Some individuals will still share information through underlying data transfer networks, for example the deep web that cannot be found by the Internet.

There is some debate about the use of Internet censorship, but most see the need to censor extreme content. The real debate is about where to draw the line between protecting the public and infringing their rights to free **speech** and access to information.

(Adapted from George Rouse and Sean O'Byrne, *OCR Computer Science for GCSE*, Hodder Education, 2016)

❖ Understanding the text

1. **Place each of the adjectives below next to its synonym.**

> deliberate • unacceptable • dangerous • dynamic • difficult

1. intentional ....
2. demanding ....
3. menacing ....
4. inadmissible ....
5. changing ....

2. **Choose the right meaning for each term.**

1. *Assess* means
   a. ☐ review.
   b. ☐ modify.
   c. ☐ evaluate.

2. *Impose* means
   a. ☐ force.
   b. ☐ remove.
   c. ☐ apply.

3. *Set up* means
   a. ☐ open.
   b. ☐ create.
   c. ☐ verify.

4. *Apply* means
   a. ☐ impose.
   b. ☐ abolish.
   c. ☐ extend.

3. **Answer the following questions.**

1. What kind of online material may be subject to censorship?
2. How does censorship work on the Internet?
3. Which are the categories that may be blocked by Internet Service Providers in the UK?
4. What are the main problems in controlling information on the net?
   a. ....
   b. ....

❖ Writing

4. **Write a paragraph of about 60/70 words stating your opinion about censorship. Use the lexicon given.**

- Today ....
- We have access to ....
- Obviously, ...
- This implies that ....
- However, ...
- I think that ....