Advantages and disadvantages of using technology

Advantages	Disadvantages
• accessible and inclusive • addresses sustainability, i.e. no need for printed paper copies • an efficient use of time • auditable records can be accessed by those with permission • available and flexible, i.e. resources and materials can be accessed at a time and place to suit • benefits learners who may have difficulties with traditional forms of assessment perhaps due to distance or work commitments • cost-effective, i.e. available to many learners in large online groups, and can save on the purchase of printed copies of text books • documents can be saved in the cloud, i.e. they are stored remotely and can be accessed anywhere at any time via an internet enabled device • evidence from learners can be collated and saved offline first, and uploaded when necessary (perhaps if there is an unreliable internet connection) • increases choice and flexibility • increases learner engagement • improves administration such as record keeping and tracking of progress and achievement • increased learner engagement	• a reliable internet connection is often required • battery life and/or data running out will limit access • finance is required to purchase or upgrade equipment, some software might be expensive for the initial purchase • it is time-consuming to initially set up • it might create barriers if a learner cannot access it, is not confident to use it or has health concerns which prevent using it • if an assessor leaves the organisation, there needs to be a quick succession of who will take over • if passwords and access are not totally secure, things could get deleted by accident • lack of understanding of copyright or ownership rights of the app and/or resources used could result in legal issues • learners might be tempted to copy, cheat or plagiarise the work of others • learners might misuse or abuse certain aspects of technology • learners/teachers/assessors accessing the internet via their own devices might run out of credit if paying for Wi-Fi, or accidentally download a virus • might be difficult to create boundaries between work/study time and home life

- learners can *bring your own device* (BYOD) to use, which they are familiar with

- provides instant individual and adaptive feedback

- reduces marking time

- supports quality assurance

- version control of documents is automatic as everyone will access the current document if they are saved in the cloud (however, this relies on someone uploading the latest version when a change occurs)

- might be hard to motivate learners to establish a routine, for example; to commit regular times for study, online communication and discussions, and to meet deadlines for the submission of work

- moderators and quality assurers might not be able to log in and access the learners' work and assessment records

- not all applications or software will work on all devices

- power cuts/low broadband speeds/limited Wi-Fi networks can affect connections and access

- security of data could be compromised

- some organisations block access to certain online sites

- some people might be afraid of using technology or certain devices

- specific permissions will need to be set as to what can be accessed and by whom

- technical support may be required but not available

- there might not be enough resources available for all learners

- your learners might know more than you