

5.2 Digital Divide

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____ **Total: 9 marks**

KEY WORDS access 获取 • digital divide 数字鸿沟 • opportunities 机会 • equity 公平

Objective

Build the skills to answer exam questions on **the digital divide**.

You must be able to:

- explain how the **digital divide** 数字鸿沟 describes unequal **access** 获取 to computing and the Internet
- identify factors such as income, geography, and age
- describe how limited access affects **opportunities** 机会
- evaluate efforts to improve **equity** 公平 of access

1 Worked examples

Study these first. Each one shows the method for a question type used later.

■ The digital divide

The gap in **access** to computing and the Internet between different groups of people.

■ Factors

Shaped by **income**, **geography** (rural vs urban), and **age**, among others.

■ Effects and equity

Limited access reduces a person's **opportunities** in education and work. Decisions by governments and companies can **widen** or **narrow** the divide.

2 Practice

2.1 Define the digital divide. [1]

2.2 Name two factors that shape the digital divide. [2]

2.3 State how limited Internet access can affect a person. [1]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 The digital divide describes unequal [1]

- **A** prices
- **B** access to computing and the Internet
- **C** file sizes
- **D** network speeds only

3.2 Which of these factors shapes the digital divide? [1]

- **A** income
- **B** the weather
- **C** the programming language
- **D** the screen colour

3.3 A rural village has no reliable Internet access.

(a) State one effect on residents' opportunities. [1]

(b) Name one factor behind the divide here. [1]

(c) State one way to narrow it. [1]

Solutions

2.1 the unequal access to computing and the Internet across different groups.

2.2 any two of: income, geography, age.

2.3 it reduces their opportunities in education and work.

3.1 B.

3.2 A.

3.3 (a) fewer education or job opportunities. (b) geography (or income). (c) provide affordable access or build infrastructure.