

Name: _____

Date: _____

Complete the passage by filling in the blank with the most appropriate sentence.

1. In cryptography, encryption is the process of transforming information so that, ideally, only authorized parties are able to decode it. The process converts the original representation of the information, known as plaintext, into an alternative form known as ciphertext. ---- For technical reasons an encryption scheme usually relies on a pseudo-random key generated by an algorithm, and although a message can in principle be decrypted without that key, a well-designed scheme makes doing so demand considerable computational resources and skill.

- A)** Early forms of the technique were used above all in military messaging, and comparable methods have since become commonplace in every area of modern computing.
- B)** Despite this goal, encryption does not in itself prevent interference with a message; what it denies a would-be interceptor is the intelligible content of that message.
- C)** Once a message has been converted in this way, no amount of computing power will ever be sufficient to recover the original text from what remains.
- D)** An authorized recipient can decrypt the message without any difficulty by using the key that the originator supplies to recipients but withholds from everyone else.
- E)** Governments in several countries have debated at length whether companies ought to be obliged by law to weaken these protections for the purposes of investigation.

2. Consumerism is a socio-cultural and economic phenomenon in which the aspirations of many individuals include acquiring goods and services beyond those necessary for survival or for traditional display. In contemporary consumer society the purchase and consumption of products have moved beyond the mere satisfaction of basic human needs, becoming an activity that is not only economic but also cultural, social and even identity-forming. ---- Experts often argue that it meets physical limits, such as the growth imperative and overconsumption, whose effects on the environment range from the overexploitation of natural resources to climate change itself.

- A)** It emerged in Western Europe and the United States during the Industrial Revolution and had become widespread across much of the world by the twentieth century.
- B)** In economics the word refers more narrowly to policies that emphasise consumption and treat the free choice of consumers as a guide for manufacturers.
- C)** The phenomenon has been criticised both by those who choose other ways of taking part in the economy, such as simple or slow living, and by environmentalists concerned about its effects on the planet.
- D)** Research of this kind concentrates instead on sociological consequences, among them the reinforcement of class barriers and the creation of new inequalities.
- E)** Advertising is generally held to be the single most important mechanism through which these aspirations are created and then sustained over time.