Audio source: https://www.engcornershop.com/_Risk%20and%20Respobsibility_technology.mp3

Risk and Responsibility

By inventing dynamite in 1886 Alfred Nobel revolutionised the construction industry. The invention helped in building new cities and construction roads. It made drilling tunnels and mines much easier and safer. Dynamite changed the construction industry forever and in the meantime brought the Nobel family wealth and boosted their construction business.

On the other hand the invention made warfare deadlier as it led to manufacturing of more powerful ammunition and explosions. Millions of people have been killed in different conflicts as a direct result of this invention.

Though not a pacifist, Nobel didn't believe in wars. He was well aware of the fact that his creation was used for war. There is no doubt that it prolonged the WWI and caused devastation and death in many countries.

However he continued his research into dynamite and other explosives.

Discussion issues:

- **Do you think Nobel should be hold accountable for the loss of life his invention brought?**
- **There are other well-known examples when a peaceful technology is (or was) used for military or criminal purposes. Can you think of any?**
- **In your opinion what safeguards can be put in place to stop the misuse of scientific and technological developments and inventions?**
- **A lot of environmentalists claim that the ill health of our planet is undoubtedly caused by the new technological developments. What do you think about this claim? What can be done to reduce the effect of the technology on the environment?**

Risk and Responsibility (The Reith Lectures. Lecture 5)

You are going to listen to a lecture that deals with the issues discussed above. Listen to the lecture and take notes.

Below is the lecture outline and some words that might help you with understanding the talk. Make sure you know their meaning. The words will appear in the lecture in the order given

Introduction to the lecture

1. Shortcomings (n)
2. Appalling (adj)
3. Triumph (v)
4. To be beyond the grasp (n)
5. To drive (eg. the discussion) (v)
6. To live up to (v)
7. Concern (n, v)
8. Fail (v)

Science and school education

9. (To be) ignorant (of) (v)
10. Despise (v)
11. Plethora (n)

Travel : The airports and Roads

12. Profligate (adj)
13.
14. To have /bury one's head in the sand (idiom)
15. Implement (v)
16. Per capita
17. Adequate (adj)
18. Emissions (n)
19. Altitude (n)

Energy: Consumption and Generation

20. Insulate (v)
21. meters (as in Gas Meters) (n)
22. trivial (adj)
23. Sustainable (adj)
24. Impasse (n)
25. Naïve (adj)
26. Malign (adj)
27. Jeopardise (v)
28. Depletion (n)
29. Paramount (adj)
30. Straightforward (adj

Ethical issues related to technological developments

31. Pace (n)
32. Immense (adj)
33. Guideline (n)
34. Crucial (adj)
35. Eliminate (v)

Conclusion

36. Indulge (v)
37. Overestimate
38. Challenge (n)
39. (To end) in fiasco (n)
40. Endeavour (n)
41. Alleviation (n)
42. Tag (n)
43. Prosthetics

Now, listen to the lecture and take notes

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