

COMMUNICATION

In highly commercialised countries, much of the postal revenue comes from “junk mail” – letters to promote companies and products that are neither asked for nor wanted. However, sheer volume slows down more personal communications; can anything be done?

What services could you expect in a city centre post office, a suburban one, and a small country one?

Can you explain the expression “letter box” and compare with the U.S. “mail-box”?

Although queuing may be said to be an institution in both GB and this country, attitudes to it are much different. British queues are more organised and disciplined – discuss possible reasons.

Is the telephone just an expensive toy or an essential part of modern life?

Children sometimes run up enormous bills for their parents on “chat-lines”; how can the telephone service help the parents, and does it even want to?

“Phone-in's” have become a fashionable part of radio programmes. Are they useful, or just a way of filling in time at the expense of the caller's pocket and the listeners' patience?

Will the fax replace the letter in the near future?

Posting parcels – explain what to do when sending something fragile or perishable.

Prepare a short talk about the latest means of communication, such as the Internet or e-mail connections.