Task A

1. Explain the causes of a digital divide within the UK using the key terms provided below:

* Accessibility
* Disability or Illness
* People living in remote areas
* Cultural factors
* Lack of knowledge or skills.

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| Accessibility – Those on low disposable income may not have access to digital technology.  Disability or Illness – It can make it difficult for people to get access to technology.  People living in remote areas – May not have access to the internet or mobile phone coverage.  Cultural factors – Gender inequalities and religious beliefs can restrict access.  Lack of knowledge and skills – This is a knock-on effect of other factors, if people are not exposed to technology then they don’t possess the skills required for a particular job for example. |

1. Explain the causes of a digital divide on a global scale using the key terms provided below:

* Affordability
* Limited access to electricity
* Censorship

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| Affordability – More wealthy countries have better access to digital technology.  Limited access to electricity – Countries without a reliable electrical supply have less access.  Censorship – Some governments restrict and censor access to digital technology or certain platforms (e.g. Facebook banned in China) |

1. Use the quadrant provided to explain the implications of the digital divide.

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| **Economic**   * People with good ICT skills tend to get better paid jobs. * The internet gives people access to a wider range of goods and services. * Access to the internet allows people to research products and get cheaper deals. * The internet has led to a rise in e-commerce and globalisation. * Countries without good access to ICT are developing more slowly. | **Educational**   * Students who use computers tend to do better at school. * People with access to online courses can improve their skills and knowledge. * Students need technology to make the most of school’s personalised learning using VLE’s (Virtual Learning Environment) |
| **Social**   * People with access to email, mobile phones and social networking can keep in touch more regularly with friends and family. * People can feel ‘left out’ if they do not have access to digital technology. * Children with access to technology may play on games consoles rather than playing outside. | **Cultural**   * Some religious groups restrict their member’s access to digital technology. * People may be stereotyped by gender: for examples boys and men may be given more access to, and education in technology than girls and women. |