

## How is current knowledge shaped by its historical development?(Knowledge and technology)



For my objects I have chosen a stone tablet, a letter and a laptop. These pieces themselves are directly linked to communication and the evolution of technology. From the “original” stone tablets to a more old-fashioned letter that is still in use but incredibly ineffective and has many quicker alternatives, particularly the laptop.

**The stone tablet** is something that a lot of people wouldn't necessarily qualify as “technology”. However it is a perpetuator of language. We can hear stories from past especially on the stone, things like hieroglyphics have been used to learn about the myths and stories of ancient cultures. It would be much harder to know about history without texts such as these that last generations.

**The stone tablet** highlights that if we lived in a world without written language and records everything would be different. A huge part of everything would be gone. The nature of humanity is one that remembers and without a long-term record other than the subjective memory of those that were witness to an event or situation, the human race would be unable to learn from its own mistakes.

**The letter** demonstrates the disconnect between what was once perceived as technology and what is currently perceived as technology. The letter solves the transportability issue of a massive sheet of stone but loses some of its ability to share information due to the time it takes for a letter to be sent and because it is only sent to one person who might not keep it. A letter might contain knowledge that then gets lost or destroyed, so it shows that there could be knowledge that we don't know about because

it has been lost over the years because there wasn't the technology available to record and preserve it.

**The letter** also highlights that without writing many forms of art would not exist. Books in their entirety would be unable to exist, the beautiful literature and literary masters we have come to love would not exist. Not only the artistic books but the text books we use for many forms of learning.

**The laptop** shows how knowledge can now be communicated and shared much faster than via a letter or movement of a stone tablet. It enhances the communication process by opening a dialogue that happens rapidly instead of the immense amounts of time that are involved in older forms of communication. The laptop also allows for people to talk to each other by video rather than by writing via letter. There is a major drawback to communication being limited only to writing because the only thing that you know is the words that are written down. As evidenced by most literary analysis, the words that are written can be affected by the subtext, personal life experience and so much more. So that can make knowledge hard to discern. But the laptop shows how new technology can allow us to communicate via video instead of just words, so it changes how knowledge is communicated and shared.

**The laptop** also shows that as technology changes over time, some knowledge is lost as well as being gained. For example, if everything was done by laptop then signatures, a vital part of identifying you are who you say you are as an adult, would be nonexistent.