



Understanding texts and charts - answers

1. What sort of a text is this and what might be its purpose?

The text is a news article. In this case it comes from a website, but it is the sort of text that is also found in newspapers and magazines. Its purpose is to inform.

2. Where do the statistics come from? How can we judge if they are accurate?

We are told that the statistics come from the Office of National Statistics. As this is a Government Office, we might guess that their accuracy has been checked.

3. What is the job title of Martha Lane Fox? What did this mean at the beginning and how has that now changed?

Her job title is given as 'Government digital champion'. Her role at the beginning of the campaign in 2009 was to get the poorest four million Britons online in time for the 2012 Olympics. It has changed to creating 'the world's first networked nation'.

4. What do you think "the world's first networked nation" might mean?

It might mean that the aim is to get everyone in the UK online (using the internet). 'Networked' is a way of saying 'on the internet'. It would be 'the world's first' because at the moment, there is no country in the world in which everyone uses the internet.

5. Why do you think the BBC added a chart showing 'Over-55s who have never been online'? What is the link with the text?

At the end of the first paragraph they say that most of those who don't use the internet at the moment are people over 55.

6. Which part of the UK has the most over-55s who have never been online?

The North East has the most over-55s who have never been online.

7. In the South West, what percentage of the over-55s has never been online?

In the South West, 40% of the over-55s have never been online.