Start here. (a)

The concepts of work and leisure are used by many people in order to examine the distribution of time in a person's life. Each and every activity that is categorised under work or leisure, with the exception to these categories being sleep.

Work can be described as the allocation of time spent on activities considered necessary to the individual. A job to earn money is work, household chores are considered work as well. Leisure, on the other hand, describes activities done in either free time, or activities the individual enjoys doing, or activities that. Leisure activities can be divided into passive - reading, watching television, etc, or active - such as going for a walk, swimming, or playing a sport. It must be noted that work and leisure are not entirely separate concepts. Work can be considered leisure, for example, if the individual enjoys their paying job or if they don't mind performing chores.

As a result, work and leisure are concepts that can be used to examine lifestyles in any country or period of history, and to a very small extent, to examine an individual.

(b) Technology in all societies over time has contributed to leisure. In fact it could be argued that the limitations of what an individual can achieve in their spare time are limited by technology in some senses - if your hobby is gardening, then it would be difficult to garden if no tools are available.

Over the modern period, however, technology has evolved, allowing a globalised macro world to shift into similar changing patterns of leisure. The introduction of electricity and other machinery has allowed for transport to evolve - in the early twentieth century in the United States, the Model T Ford was mass produced and widely available, allowing people to drive to new places to spend their free time. In fact, church attendance dropped as a result of the conception of the 'Sunday drive' came about.

With the commercial use of television and the introduction of wireless technologies, the way people watch television has changed immensely. In the 1980's, if Australia wanted to watch sport matches from overseas, the tapes of the match had to be flown in. Twenty years later, it is possible to watch television sport on television as it occurs, live. If this is inconvenient, it is also possible to record the sporting event and watch it whenever you want. As a result,

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The pattern of passively watching television has changed, allocating for a wider range of shows (it wasn't just sport that had to be flown in) to be viewed at any time.

However, it is the advent of the internet that has allowed for an increase of a shift of passive leisure over active leisure. The internet has only reached full commercial use within the past decade, with 'social networking' allowing people to interact with each other across the world, television shows to be viewed whenever the user desires, news to be checked, sport to be viewed, or just see what people post online at a moment's notice. This part of technology shifting leisure ties in with global history, as thirty years ago, there was one or two news programs available. To see how to be updated with global events that was the only means, other than a newspaper. Now there are even news websites devoted to specific kinds, with websites like Kotaku. Kotaku.com or Joystiq.com dealing only with technology and video games.

As a result, the evolution of technology has, primarily, brought the technologically advanced countries closer, and seen a shift towards a much wider range of passive activities.

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