# Worksheet 6 Social, legal and cultural issues

**Task 1**

Use the Internet to find answers to the following questions:

1. What percentage of UK adults who are online use Facebook?

2. How many UK adults use Twitter? How many political leaders worldwide? How many followers does Barack Obama have in 2015?

3. “Social networking sites improve the quality of people’s lives.” List some arguments for and against this statement. (Try a Google search on “social networking – good or bad?”)

4. List some instances where social media sites have been a great force for good in a crisis situation, and some instances in which they have brought devastating consequences to individuals or society.

5. Are there laws aginst Internet trolls, cyberbullying and hate sites? What are the challenges facing legislators and law enforcers?

**Task 2**

1. Government security agencies need strong encryption algorithms to keep their communications secure. Explain why some governments, for example in China, have made it illegal to use strong encryption. Do you think the UK should ban strong encryption? Give reasons for your answer.

2. Find answers to these questions about **bitcoin**. You can look at the website whose address is given below, or search on Google.

<http://www.coindesk.com/information/what-is-bitcoin/>

(a) What is bitcoin?

(b) Is bitcoin legal?

(c) Name 2 online stores that you can buy goods from using bitcoin.

(d) Name 2 shops, hotels or restaurants that you can pay with bitcoin.

(e) Give two reasons why you would use bitcoin.

(f) Name two illegal uses of bitcoin.

(g) Why is is used for illegal purchases?

(h) Who created bitcoin?

(i) What does this case study tell us about the power and responsibility of software developers?

**Task 3**

**The Tor browser**

Do some research on the Tor browser.

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tor_(anonymity_network)>

1. Who developed this software and why?

2. What are the negatives to the existence of browsers such as TOR?