



Technology in Irish life: digital systems around us

5th Class

Print and cut along the dashed lines. These carry the **text a group reads**: a job to do, a brief to research, or notes to identify by. Check the lesson's teacher notes for how many sets each group needs and how they are used: some lessons hand out one card per group, others sort or sequence a full set.

Card A: Self-checkout

System: In many Irish supermarkets, shoppers scan items themselves at a machine instead of a staffed till. What you see or do: You scan barcodes, bag items, and pay by card or cash. What the screen shows: A running total, sometimes a request for help, then a receipt or payment confirmation. Data hint: The machine keeps a list of scanned items and how you paid. Your job: Map input → process → output. Name the data. Decide which data matters most. Choose one privacy or fairness question you can explain

Card B: Weather app

System: A weather app on a phone or tablet shows forecasts for places in Ireland. What you see or do: You open the app and choose or search a place before PE or a match. What the screen shows: Forecast icons, rain alerts and maps that update. Data hint: Forecasts use station and satellite readings; the app may also use the place you searched or your location if location services are on. Your job: Map input → process → output. Name the data. Decide which data matters most. Choose one privacy or fairness question you can explain

Card C: Smart farming

System: On some Irish farms, sensors and apps help track soil, animals or machines. What you see or do: A farmer checks a phone or computer dashboard, or a sensor sits in a field or milking parlour. What the screen shows: Numbers, alerts, and sometimes an automatic action such as switching a pump. Data hint: Readings can include moisture, milk yield or machine status, often linked to fields or animal IDs. Your job: Map input → process → output. Name the data. Decide which data matters most. Choose one privacy or fairness question you can explain

Card D: eFlow toll tag

System: On some Irish roads, drivers pay tolls with an electronic tag or a number-plate read instead of stopping at a booth. What you see or do: A car drives under a gantry; a tag may beep or a camera reads the plate. What the screen or account shows: A charge on an account, a text or email receipt, or a barrier/light confirmation where there is one. Data hint: The system can link a vehicle or tag ID to time, place and payment. Your job: Map input → process → output. Name the data. Decide which data matters most. Choose one privacy or fairness question you can explain