TASK (Abiturprüfung 2014 Haupttermin / http://www.economist.com/news/united-states/21579828-spending-billions-more-fences-and-drones-will-do-more-harm-good-secure-enough**)**

"Greater use of surveillance technology may reduce crossings further." **(l. 48-49)**

Explain the quotation in relation to the text and give other examples of surveillance technologies and their purposes.

According to the text the US government has invested heavily in surveillance technologies to get a grip on illegal immigration on the Mexican border. They use drones to "patrol the skies", and "tower-mounted cameras" together with "ground sensors to monitor land movements". However, today surveillance technology is not only used for border control. There are many other ways in which this kind of technology has become an integral part of our daily lives around the globe.

One obvious example is CCTV. The technology is used to prevent or help to solve crime. You can find CCTV cameras in public places, on buses, or in museums. CCTV helps identify criminals and provides useful data to the police. Critics say that for every criminal that can be identified by CCTV thousands of innocent people are also recorded - even when they are poking their noses, scratching their bottoms, or kissing their lovers.

Another means of surveillance technology that is used very often is mass data collection by intelligences services. In their search for terrorists they hack the most important data knots or insert spy software on computers to secretly spy on every single person who uses the internet. It is said that many governments also spy on foreign companies and use the collected data for economic gains.

Newspapers have been known to tap celebrities' phone calls and text messages to sell stories. People like the actor Hugh Grant sued those newspapers successfully for invading their privacy. In some cases the newspapers even tapped the phones of underaged murder victims and their families.

The most widespread way, however, in which we are snooped on daily is via the software we download ourselves on purpose to our many devices: Companies like Facebook, WhatsApp, or Google - to name only a few - all provide services they label "free". However, they come with the cost of your personal data. Whenever you update your status on Facebook, chat with a friend on WhatsApp, type in a search term on Google, or even use their translation service - every bit of data is saved on their servers. At the moment, the technology multi-nationals use their data powers to sell even more personalized ads. What will happen in the future, we can only guess.

So, even if you are not currently somewhere in the Nevada desert trying to cross the US border illegally, even if you are in Germany, sitting on your couch, watching telly - you are not alone!