**Worksheet 5: Internet Censorship Extension Task**

**Read the following notes on censorship in China and complete the task which follow.**

China has around **718 million internet users**, and that number is growing at an incredible rate. The number of internet users in China is greater than the entire population of the United States. This rapid expansion of technology has given new opportunities to dissidents, including the democracy movement, allowing them to reach a huge number of people who have never had the opportunity to hear their message before. This is something that seriously worries the Chinese government, and they have taken a number of steps to try and silence the protestors:



% of Chinese online

### IP Blocking

Every computer has a unique identification marker, known as an ‘IP Address’. This allows a computer to be identified and monitored, and if it is uploading anything that the Chinese government doesn’t approve of, everything from that particular computer is blocked from appearing on Chinese computers. For instance, computers owned by prominent dissidents are blocked from accessing the Internet.

### Keyword Filtering

The Chinese government monitors every address and every search that is done on a Chinese computer. Any words that worry the Chinese government (such as ‘democracy’, ‘freedom’, ‘protest’, etc), and the resulting webpage will be blocked. It was recently found that any search for certain dissidents would only return articles that condemned them.

### Self-Censorship

The Chinese government holds internet hosting companies responsible for the information on the sites they host, so if one of those sites puts up something negative about the Chinese Government, then the hosting company is in big trouble as well. Hosting sites now employ large numbers of staff, whose job it is to check for any offending content and block it (or, as they call it ‘harmonising’). Facebook is banned in China, and the Chinese equivalent, Weibo (pronounced ‘way-bwore’) has been accused of removing comments that are anti-government.

Recently, Western internet-based companies such as Google, Yahoo and Microsoft have been trying to expand into China, making the most of the huge numbers of consumers there. This has expanded the number of sites that Chinese users can visit, but has caused new issues, as China has forced them to drop certain websites from their search results, censor information, or even to turn over details to Chinese authorities. Google faced huge criticism for censoring Google.cn, the Chinese Google search engine. Searches for democracy revealed zero results, as did searches for famous Chinese massacres, such as the one at **Tiananmen Square**.

The worst example of Western companies collaborating with the Chinese government, however, occurred in 2006. A Chinese journalist, **Shi Tao** (pronounced ‘Shur Ta-Oh’) sent *The New York Times* a copy of an instruction given to all Chinese journalists, banning them from reporting on the anniversary of the Tiananmen Square massacre. Yahoo turned over the email to the Chinese government, who charged Tao with ‘**revealing state** secrets’. He was jailed for 10 years.

**Task**

**Create a poster about Censorship in China. It should contain the following:**

* **A defintion of censorship**
* **An explaination of why the Chinese government censors people.**
* **Examples of forms of censorship in China today.**
* **Contain at least one drawing/picture**
* **Contain at least one full paragraph of writing**
* **Be colourful and ready for display in the class**