Biometrics – applications and implications

1. **Look at the two parts of the term below and say what they might refer to.**

BIOMETRICS

2. **Read the definition of *biometrics* and complete the gaps with the correct forms of the words in brackets. Then, look at the icons and complete the examples of biometric identifiers in the final sentence.**



Biometrics refers to the measurement and analysis of human …… (DISTINCTION) characteristics. It can be used for …… (RECOGNIZE) of individuals. With …… (ADVANCE) in computer vision and AI, biometric technology can be applied to …… (AUTHENTIC) people based on their unique biometric identifiers. These include, e.g. ……, ……, ……, ……, …… .

3. **Discuss the questions.**
   - What kind of technology is the article about and what does it allow Mastercard users to do?
   - Mastercard says you can pay “with a smile or a wave”. Would you like to be able to authenticate your payments this way?
   - What identity, privacy and security concerns with regard to using biometric technology might there be?
   - Do you think it’s inevitable that biometric technology will become as ubiquitous as cameras in smartphones?
   - In what other areas of life might this technology be used?

4. **Look at the list of biometric technology applications and say which of them (if any) you find intrusive and why.**
   - Taking payments for school lunches by scanning the faces of pupils.
   - Using facial recognition in public places for police surveillance.
   - Voice recognition for banking, e.g. to check account balances or make payments.
   - Continual remote monitoring of patient’s biometrics by healthcare professionals.

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