

Participant's number:

READING COMPREHENSION

Task 1: Read the text carefully. Complete the task on the next page.

ONLINE FRIENDS or OFFLINE FRIENDS?

by Dr. Kristel Sharpe, psychologist

The biggest criticism levelled at social networking is that our young people are losing their offline friends to online friends who are unable to provide the same deep connection and emotional support and satisfaction. In fact, there is a lot of research that shows these criticisms are generally unfounded.

Research by *Allen et al.* (2010) discovered that it is socially adjusted adolescents who are more likely to have a social networking profile than those who are not. One study carried out by the *Pew Internet and American Life Project* (2009) found that people are not substituting offline friends with online companions but are using them to support their offline relationships. They also found that social networks allow us to have discussions with a much more diverse set of people from a wide variety of backgrounds.

It is certainly true that our definition of friendship is evolving. An acquaintance we saw twice a year is now a friend we regularly talk to online. Yes, this relationship tie is weaker than one with a person in the real world, but there is evidence that young people still have a lot to gain from it. A study conducted by Michigan State University (2010) concluded that virtual friendships provide social benefits and improve our psychological well-being. So, teenagers do not appear to be losing their face-to-face friends, and the additional connections provided by social networking have proven to be beneficial.

But there is one element of social networking that is deeply worrying and that is the fact that we find ourselves in a hyper-connected world: one where people access social media day and night, excited to make announcements about the tiniest details of their lives. Research is starting to show that this culture is negatively affecting not our friendships but our character. Professor Larry D. Rosen, in his book *iDisorder*, presents evidence that social networking is turning us into narcissists. He says that young people who overuse social networking sites can become vain, aggressive, and display anti-social behaviour in their offline lives. He says that sitting behind a screen makes them harsher and more mean-spirited. But perhaps an even more disturbing effect is that one of our most basic emotions seems to be disappearing – empathy. This is the emotion that bonds us together; it allows us to see the world from our friends' point of view. Without it, we are far less able to connect and form meaningful adult relationships. And yet a study has found that college students are actually 40% less empathetic than college students 30 years ago, with the largest decline occurring from the year 2000. In the 2010 study, fewer students described themselves as “soft-hearted” and more claimed that they are not affected when friends have bad fortune.

Sherry Turkle, a professor of social sciences at MIT, has made a fascinating observation about the impact of being plugged into your smartphone. Through her years of research, she has noticed that these devices permit us to have complete control over our friendships. Young people decide who they communicate with, when and how. Friendships are unpredictable and difficult to deal with, but social networks are allowing people to tidy them up and manage them. If we do not want to be friends anymore, a lengthy, awkward conversation is no longer needed. We simply click a button and unfriend them.

Olympiáda v anglickom jazyku, 29. ročník, okresné kolo 2018/19, kategória 2B - úlohy

Participant's number:

READING COMPREHENSION – TASK

Task: Based on what you have read in the article, decide whether the statements below are true (T) or false (F). Circle one of the two letters. Be careful, sentences do not follow in the same order as the information in the article.

1. The author of the article views a hyper-connected world through social media as a threat for people's character. **T / F**

2. One study concluded that offline friendships and online relationships are interconnected. **T / F**

3. Violent and anti-social behaviour can become common for an average user of social media. **T / F**

4. Findings of one institution revealed that a social profile is more frequently created by teenagers who have firm social ties in real life. **T / F**

5. One research found out that our mental welfare is boosted due to our online relationships. **T / F**

6. Due to social networking sites, the curve of empathy of young people has increased over the period of 30 years. **T / F**

7. Being unable to adopt their friends' viewpoint is another frightening feature of young people overusing social networks. **T / F**

8. One study discovered that people have a tendency to communicate online with people from one particular background. **T / F**

9. Social networks enable us to direct the course of our friendships. **T / F**

10. The author supports the idea that satisfactory emotional connections can only be maintained by offline friends. **T / F**

..... / 10 pts

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Participant's number:

V O C A B U L A R Y

Task 1: Read the text and decide which option (A, B, C or D) best completes each collocation or fixed phrase. Circle the letter representing the correct option.

THE WORST IN EUROPE

A report on the notorious Fiveways School, visited recently by government inspectors, was published yesterday. The report (1) inadequate strategic planning, poor (2) of teaching, and semi-derelict building conditions as being largely to blame for the problems at Fiveways, the school branded “the worst in Europe”. Our reporters entered the school by prior arrangements, and witnessed at (3) hand the chaos that has made the school infamous. On the day of their visit, our reporters learned that one disruptive pupil had been given a 3-week (4) for punching a teacher in the face. Our reporters saw pupils virtually (5) a riot, throwing stones at passers-by and verbally (6) a teacher.

- | | | | |
|-----------------|---------------|------------------|-------------|
| 1. A highlights | B illuminates | C activates | D features |
| 2. A patterns | B standards | C specifications | D measures |
| 3. A immediate | B original | C direct | D first |
| 4. A caution | B ban | C suspension | D expulsion |
| 5. A going | B running | C taking | D making |
| 6. A damaging | B harming | C abusing | D hurting |
- / 6 pts

Task 2: Fill each blank space in the article below with the correct form of the word in capital letters.

LEADERSHIP AND CHANGE MANAGEMENT

We are all aware that if a business wants to succeed, it has to create a culture of (7) in a fast-changing market. When one company innovates, others will quickly follow suit. Without continued creativity, a business will become (8) , lose its (9) edge and very quickly find itself behind the times. The need for change is obvious, and yet businesses around the world fail to actively work towards change, (10) suffering the consequences.

INNOVATE

STAGNATE

COMPETITION

NECESSARY

..... / 4 pts

..... / 10 pts

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Participant's number:

G R A M M A R

Task 1: Fill each of the numbered blanks in the passage with one suitable word.

OVERPOPULATION

EXAMPLE: (0) the

In 2001, (0) population of the world reached seven billion people. The UN Population Division predicts the number could be as high as nine billion (1)..... 2050; that is an increase of two billion people - the same number of people (2) currently live in the African and American continents combined – living on Earth, using (3) resources to survive.

(4) families are getting smaller, people are living longer because medical and technical advances have meant that the effect of infectious diseases (5) been reduced. (6) a result the UN's worst-case scenario for 2010 is that the world population will reach almost 16 billion. That is more than twice (7) number of people we have today. And (8) already we are placing enormous pressure on the Earth. The kind of pressure that, (9) increased, could have a profound effect on our planet.

The first major issue is water. Just 2.5% of the world's water is fresh, (10)..... of that caught up in polar ice caps. Drought and poor infrastructure mean that (11)..... today water is a scarce resource. Over one billion people lack access to clean water, and one (12)..... three people in every continent does not have enough water to satisfy their daily needs.

..... / 12 pts

Task 2: Rewrite each sentence, beginning as shown, so that the meaning stays the same.

13. You won't be allowed in until your identity has been checked.

Only when

14. Press photographers are banned from taking photographs backstage.

On no account

15. Jean managed to finish all her work on time.

Jean succeeded

..... / 3 pts

...../ 15 pts

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LISTENING

You will hear a radio programme describing five study tips that will improve your study results in 2019. Below, you can read ten statements, which summarize ten tips (marked A–J) related to learning strategies. In the gaps provided, write the number 1–5 next to the statement, which refers to a particular tip. There are five extra statements – write X in the gaps provided. You will hear the programme twice.

FIVE STUDY TIPS TO ACHIEVE YOUR GOALS IN 2019

- A. Manage your time effectively.
- B. Test yourself.
- C. Find the right balance.
- D. Mark small challenges.
- E. Collaborate with study partners.
- F. Identify aims of your study.
- G. Focus your mind on positive outcomes.
- H. Establish a study routine.
- I. Take regular study breaks.
- J. Turn lessons into stories.

..... /5 pts

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