

I. READING COMPREHENSION (12 marks)

1. Last summer, we were in a ritzy resort in Southern Italy, chosen because there was lots for children to do. But rather than go kayak paddling, rock climbing or riding mountain bikes, they were stuck on a sunlounger all day long, pressing buttons on their electronic game consoles.
2. I begged, I threatened, but nothing shook their obsession with those damned gadgets. So I hatched an alternative game plan — a technology-free family break, just like those I had as a child. We'd make sandcastles, go on walks — and they'd soon forget all about Super Mario.
3. I booked a break at Sharm El Sheikh in Egypt ... When I revealed the true nature of our holiday a couple of weeks before the off, my seven-year-old's eyes widened in shock. 'No DS?' he bellowed, and he and his brother spent the next 14 days trying to wear me down.
4. We finally did a deal: Nintendos on the plane, but not on the holiday because, quite frankly, the thought of a five-hour flight to Cairo, plus another hour's hop to Sharm, without the tranquillising effect of those little screens was too much for me.
5. On arrival at the Ritz Carlton, I packed away the gadgets. The boys looked gloomy. But my sons' eyes lit up hopefully at the sight of an enormous TV near the spectacular double bed, but I sent them off to sleep and stiffened my resolve for the morning.
6. At home, if the children wake up early, I put on Teletubbies for the baby and the boys surf something unwise on YouTube, allowing me to stay in bed for a precious extra half-hour.
7. Without the electronic babysitter, I was out of bed by 6 am with my one-year-old and walking round the resort by 6:45 am. By nine o'clock, I'd been up for three hours and felt exhausted.
8. But I persevered. This was for their benefit, not mine. I was saving them from brain rot.

By Lowri Turner, Daily Mail

January 2009

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. Tick (✓) the best title. (1 mark)

- a) Egypt ... Games off
- b) Egypt ... A 5-hour flight
- c) Egypt ... New summer destinations

2. Complete the following paragraph with words from the text. (3 marks)

The holiday in Italy failed because of the kids' with electronic games. Therefore, the mother decided to take them on a holiday in Egypt. Despite the children's attempts to make her change her mind, she

3. For each of the following statements, pick out one detail showing that it is FALSE. (2 marks)

a) The mother was successful in getting her sons off the game consoles. (paragraph 2)

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b) The eldest child welcomed his mother's plan. (paragraph 3)

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4. In order to be able to get more sleep, Lowri does two things. List them. (2 marks)

a)

b)

5. For their holiday in Egypt, Lowri reached an agreement with her sons. What did they agree on? (1 mark)

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6. Tick the appropriate alternative. (2 marks)

a) Lowri knew the flight to Egypt would be unbearable without

i. taking tranquilizers

ii. the electronic game consoles

iii. the enormous TV

b) "... a couple of weeks before the off" (paragraph 3) The 'off' nearly means

i. departure to Egypt

ii. arrival in Egypt

iii. switching the gadgets off in Egypt

7. Give a personal and justified answer to the following question. (1 mark)

Do you approve of Lowri's plan? Why? Why not?

I because

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II. WRITING (12 marks)

1. Use the notes below to write a four-line paragraph about the UNESCO. (4 marks)

Foundation: November 4, 1946

Composition: 195 member states / 8 associate members

Interests: education, sciences, culture

Aims: promote peace, social justice, human rights , international security

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2. Clara is an electronic newspaper editor. She received the following email from Margaret.

Dear Clara,

I'm a divorced mother. I have a 14-year-old son. As I don't earn enough money in my country, I'm planning to work abroad to ensure a good future for him. But the problem is that I can't take him with me because of his studies.

I'm torn between being a good mom and a good provider. What should I do? Please help me.

Write Clara's answer. (8 marks)

(DO NOT WRITE YOUR NAME)

Dear Margaret,

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Yours, Clara

III. LANGUAGE (6 marks)

1. Fill in the gaps with 6 words from the list below: (3 marks)

highlighted – between – technology – according – of – transmitted – from – flexible

The most relevant disadvantages of online learning are directly tied to the specificities of the web environment itself. The nonexistence of a physical classroom, schedules and reduced personal interaction are all factors that attract people. However, these factors have their own aspects that should be

First, participants can only receive information from the instructor, and usually have limited opportunities to exchange ideas and information with other students. The lack of visual cues may also bring delays or misunderstanding when information is Added to that, much exposure to the internet deprives the users practising their interpersonal skills. Furthermore, the relayed nature of communication teacher and student dampens a timely exchange of questions. Lastly, to a study in the American Economic Review, this may result in poorer test scores among learners.

2. Put the bracketed words in the right tense or form. (3 marks)

Experts hail rapid development of handsets. As a matter of fact, mobile phone technology has come a long way since the first mobile phone call (make) 40 years ago – but there is much more (innovate) ahead, according to one expert.

It was on 3 April 1973 that Motorola employee Martin Cooper made a call in New York on a Motorola Dyna TAC, which was (wide) regarded globally as the first public mobile phone call. The device was 9 inches tall, comprised 30 circuit boards, had a talk-time of 35 minutes and took 10 hours (recharge) Four decades on, a worldwide telecoms industry with annual revenues of 800 billion pounds (grow) rapidly based on wide choice, falling prices and an array of technologies, (result) in the average mobile being used to take photos, play music and games, send emails, download maps, watch video clips, all as well as talking and texting.