

NAME: _____

READING – COMPREHENSION

- Read the article and choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which you think fits best according to the text.

Have smartphones changed our lives for the better?

1 It's hard to believe that smartphones have only been around for little over a decade. They're now so common that it's surprising if someone doesn't have one. As I sit on the underground in the mornings, all I see are tired-looking travellers staring at their smartphones. When I step off the underground, others are navigating the platform, eyes still fixed on their screens. Most of them will spend the rest of their day checking their messages and the latest news updates or keeping up on celebrity gossip.

2 There's no doubt that the smartphone has changed our lives significantly. For most of the twentieth century, the telephone changed little. It only allowed us to talk to people over long distances and, later, send text messages to them. The smartphone, however, changed all of that by adding features such as cameras, GPS and sophisticated computer technology. They are multi-purpose tools, whose uses are only limited by the imaginations of computer programmers. If you're lost, your phone will help you find your way. If you're feeling lonely, it will help you find the perfect friend. You can even do your shopping on it, without leaving the comfort of your kitchen. The problem is that we've become so dependent on this technology that we've failed to notice the dangers.

3 What worries me most is that we are now more interested in our smartphones than in the people around us. How many of us check our phones before we've even said 'good morning' to our families? How many of us are checking our friends' online profiles when we could be talking to them? Instead of actually talking to people, we send them three-word messages or emojis. One advantage of the telephone was that it helped us become more communicative. Smartphones, on the other hand, have limited the way we communicate with others.

4 What about work? Surely, smartphones have made us more efficient in our jobs? After all, we can send and receive emails at any time, organise our schedules and make sure we don't miss an important call. That's great for our companies, but not so great for us or our families. In the past, when we finished work, we would go home and forget about it. Nowadays, smartphones mean many people take their work home with them so there is less time to relax. Apart from making you more tired, this can have a negative effect on your personal relationships, with more arguments and misunderstandings.

5 But smartphones are fantastic for knowing what's going on in the world, right? Well, that's true to a certain extent. In the past, we used to rely on papers or television and radio for our news. Sometimes, you had to wait for a whole day before hearing the latest updates. However, the online newspapers and social networks which we use nowadays are constantly updated. If there's an earthquake on an island on the other side of the world, we know about it in minutes. But can we really trust the social networks for our news? Were the reporters on the island when the earthquake happened? Or were they just repeating a story that they'd seen on another social network?

6 I'm not trying to say that the smartphone was a bad invention. I couldn't imagine not being able to search for a recipe or share my photos with my family and friends. However, I strongly believe that we need to understand the risks related to their use. We should ask ourselves whether working longer hours or having fewer 'real' conversations is a good thing. If we disagree, then we must think carefully about the way we use our smartphones.

1. What does the writer say about travellers on the underground in paragraph 1?

A. It's surprising to see them using smartphones.
B. They're using their smartphones to find their way out of the station.
C. They're all concentrating hard on their smartphones.
D. They're only checking their messages on their smartphones.

2. What does the writer say about the telephone in paragraph 2?

A. It had a number of different purposes.
B. It changed significantly in the twentieth century.
C. It had the same features as most modern smartphones.
D. It helped us communicate with people who were far away.

3. What does the writer think about using smartphones for work?

A. They make us less efficient at work.
B. They make it difficult to stop working.
C. They stop us from going home on time.
D. They can be costly for companies.

4. Why does the writer mention an earthquake in paragraph 5?

A. to show that some news might not be accurate
B. to show how smartphones can help rescue operations
C. to show that we are all interested in world news
D. to show how long it takes us to get the latest news

5. How does the writer feel about smartphones in general?

A. enthusiastic about what they'll be like in future
B. concerned about the negative aspects of their use
C. fed up with people using them on public transport
D. proud of the fact that he doesn't use one

GRAMMAR

➤ Mark the correct answer to fill the blank based on the statements.

1. She ... three languages: English, French, and Spanish.
A. Speak
B. speaking
C. speaks
2. He ... twenty minutes for the bus yesterday.
A. Waits
B. waited
C. was wait
3. (A) Did you have a good time? (B) Yes, I
A. had
B. did
C. have
4. (A) Are you studying English now? (B) Yes, I
A. do
B. am
C. are
5. are you going to do on your summer holiday?
A. Where
B. What
C. How
6. My sister ... busy at three o'clock, so you can call back at that time.
A. Will
B. won't be
C. will be
7. My sister ridden a bicycle. She is afraid that she will fall off.
A. Never
B. has never
C. has ever
8. I was sure that I _____ her before.
A. had saw
B. seen
C. had seen

LISTENING – COMPREHENSION

➤ You will hear five young people talking about things they are good at. For questions 11–15, choose from the list (A–H) what each speaker says about the thing they are good at.

- A. I have doubts about doing this activity in the future.
- B. I understand that other teenagers find this activity difficult.
- C. I would get frustrated when I couldn't do it properly.
- D. I used to enjoy doing an activity, but I enjoy it less now.
- E. I'm surprised I've been so successful.
- F. I hope to represent my country in the future.
- G. I wish my parents were prouder of my achievements.
- H. I'm pleased I didn't stop doing this when I was a child.

9. Speaker 1
10. Speaker 2
11. Speaker 3
12. Speaker 4
13. Speaker 5

WRITING – STRUCTURES & VOCABULARY

- Based on the previous listening of the message on Deidre's machine. Deidre's mother-in-law went to the post office to send the parcel.

14. Choose the best words to complete the conversation at the post office.

Mother-in-law: I want to send this _____ to my son's family. The salesperson _____ it specially. Is it okay?

Clerk: Yes, madam, it's fine. What does it _____, please?

Mother-in-law: I'm sending some _____. They're for my _____

Clerk: Very nice, I'm sure.

Mother-in-law: I'd like it to get there by _____, please.

Clerk: Then you'll have to send it _____.

Mother-in-law: That's fine. Thank you.

- A. contain parcel
- B. grandson
- C. wrapped
- D. special delivery
- E. baby clothes Friday