

# FCE

## READING TEST – UNIT 3

Read the article and choose the answer which you think fits best according to the text.  
Write your answers (A, B, C or D) in the gaps.

### The no-tech school that is getting results

2 These days, it is commonplace to hear about schools  
4 investing heavily in technology and even having 'cyber-  
6 school' days, when pupils work remotely from home  
8 using their computers. But one school has bravely  
10 rejected the use of technology for its pupils. At a school  
12 in the north of England, pupils aren't allowed to use  
14 smartphones or computers and they can't watch TV at  
16 home even during the holidays. In the school, there are  
18 no iPads, no smartphones and no television screens.  
20 Parents who choose to send their children to this fee-  
22 paying school have to follow the same strict  
24 programme at home, with no television, computers or  
26 films, both during term-time and during holidays.

28 The school opened in 2011. It charges high annual  
30 fees so it is only for families with money, and it is  
32 taking advantage of recent doubts about how much  
34 using technology in schools promotes learning. James  
36 Bishop, who is chair of the school board of directors,  
38 explained the ban on technology as a way to give  
40 children the space to grow. He believes children today  
42 can rely too much on technology and television feeding  
44 them stimulation rather than learning to create their  
46 own activities and entertainment. Therefore, the aim of  
48 the school is to encourage creativity so that the  
50 children are active creators not passive consumers. In  
52 September 2015, a global study found that schools that  
54 had spent a lot of money on computers and technology  
56 did not have improved results. In fact, the exact  
58 opposite was the case.

60 Another study revealed children are too busy playing  
62 games on their tablets to spend time in the sun during  
64 holidays, which could have negative effects on their  
66 physical health. Other reports highlighted the  
68 potentially negative effect of social media, with one  
70 finding that nearly a quarter of students were on it at  
72 night, thus reducing the hours spent asleep. There is  
74 also a concern that allowing students to use mobile  
76 phones and iPads in the classroom leads to disruptive  
78 behaviour and poor concentration.

40 The school is against the use of all forms of electronics  
42 by small children and only gradual integration in  
44 adolescence. Many parents accept that following this  
46 edict means an agreement on their part to reduce the  
48 use of screen time at home. According to school rules,  
50 children are not allowed to watch television at all  
52 before they are twelve, when they can watch  
54 documentaries that have been viewed and approved  
56 by their parents. Films are banned until fourteen and  
58 the internet is out of bounds for anyone under sixteen.  
60 Following these require great commitment on the part  
62 of all concerned.

64 Ann Springer, whose daughter Isobel, eleven, joined  
66 the school two years ago, believes the ban asks a lot  
68 of both parents and children. But she has no doubts  
70 that it is worth the effort. In her view, reduced exposure  
72 to screens has resulted in less social pressure on  
74 Isobel to be like other children and behave in certain  
76 ways. Isobel, herself, says she was 'a bit annoyed'  
78 when she found out about the no-technology rules and  
80 that she sometimes finds it difficult when she plays with  
her friends who go to other schools, which stresses her  
out. She reports that it can be a problem that she can't  
share viewing experiences with her friends and can't  
join in conversations based on what they have seen  
and heard. But she claims the no-technology rule has  
resulted in her having a better imagination.

Another parent, Richard Atkins, who works in IT,  
enrolled his two children in the school after seeing a  
friend's children do really well at a similar school  
without new technology. He says both he and his wife  
completely approve of technology on condition it is  
age-appropriate as it is detrimental if it is introduced  
too soon. When asked if he, especially as someone  
employed in the technology industry, is worried he is  
taking away the opportunity for his children to learn  
important skills for a digital future, his response is  
unconcerned. 'Technology is growing and developing  
at a huge rate, so the future is likely to see this  
accelerate even further. Anything we teach our children  
now will be out of date very soon indeed.'

1. In the first paragraph, what is the writer's main point about the school?

- A Its policy on technology is going against a trend.
- B Its teachers dislike the use of technology in class.
- C Parents should be involved in decisions it makes.
- D Students like to conform to its rules.

**2. What is James Bishop doing in paragraph 2?**

- A explaining the effect of too much technology on children
- B justifying the school's approach to technology
- C describing the school's policy on use of the internet
- D illustrating the kind of problems technology can cause

**3. What does 'it' refer to in line 35?**

- A their tablet
- B social media
- C the study
- D disruptive behaviour

**4. In paragraph 4, what does the internet is 'out of bounds' mean?**

- A its use is partially restricted
- B it's part of a package of rules
- C it's banned completely
- D it's a useful tool for some people

**5. What do Ann and Isobel disagree on about the ban on technology in paragraph 5?**

- A It has reduced social pressure to conform.
- B It causes problems with friends from other schools.
- C It has made her more creative.
- D It can be difficult to accept at times.

**6. What is Richard's attitude towards the school's policy for his children?**

- A He regrets his children's lack of technical expertise.
- B He is unconvinced that they are benefiting from their general education.
- C He is not concerned about the range of general skills they will need in future.
- D He understands that technology is moving too quickly for them to keep up.



Good luck  
in your exams

Let your wit shine bright!