

Part 3 Longer Text

SPM Paper 1: Part 3 (Q19-Q26)

You are going to read an extract from an article. For questions 19 to 26, choose the correct answer (A, B, C, or D).

I am a game addict

I grew up as an average kid riding bikes and playing soccer. I was an excellent student at school and always got good grades. I never had a gaming console growing up. I played video games with the family PC but my gaming was kept in check by my strict parents.

Then university came along. I purposely chose a school far away from home to experience independence. Plus, there were no parents to stop me from gaming. I played all sorts of games and would often skip lectures to play. The only thing that kept my gaming in check was the very real fear of dropping out of school.

The results for my mid-term tests, final test and projects were very disappointing. They were terrible. Fortunately, I didn't fail any courses. I felt lucky that I managed to land a summer internship. Even to this day, I have no idea how I landed that job. I honestly think all the other candidates chose another job, leaving the company with no other choice but to hire me.

The internship felt like a second chance. I worked hard. Sometimes, crazy hard. I would work for average of 60-80 hours a week. While the other interns were out enjoying parties or travelling, I was working hard, not to let my second chance escape. My efforts paid off, and I got a full-time offer. I was due to start after my graduation.

Fast forward a few years. I was working full time and was 'gaming in moderation'. There were a couple of sleepless nights of gaming here and there, but the job kept my gaming in check. Basically, my schedules were working, sleeping and gaming. I would attempt to get out and socialize but would soon give up and go back to gaming. Now that I was getting comfortable with this new life, I felt my gaming time was slowly increasing.

After two years, I was accepted into Grad School, which I had planned to attend part-time after work. So, I rescheduled my gaming time. The first couple of months were the toughest. I craved gaming so much and was depressed for long hours. However, I got rid of all temptations to get through it. Without my realising it, I successfully quit gaming for a whole year!

I wished the story ended there, but it did not. After a year of no gaming, I met the girl of my dreams. She was a gamer who played League of Legends - the game I deleted a year ago! Being a considerate man, I wanted to share the hobby with her as much as possible. So, I got another laptop and installed League back on it. I believed that this was to get closer with the girl I liked and that I would only play with her, and never alone or with others.

It worked for the first few months. Sharing a hobby with someone you like is an amazing feeling. Eventually, I asked her out, and we became a couple. Naturally, our game time together increased. However, as we played, I noticed a lot of toxic players brought my mood down. I hated it when a mistake I made led to her death (in the game of course). To compensate for this, I wanted to play more.

However, unlike me, my girlfriend is someone who can game in moderation. She would only play a few hours a week, and there would be days when she did not feel like playing, allowing me to play alone. This time gradually increased, and when I met toxic players, I switched to other games. This went on for about a year.

After a year of gaming again, I noticed a change in my behaviour. I became less patient with people around me, including my girlfriend. At work, I secretly searched for gaming strategies. I thought about gaming all the time. I ignored my girlfriend when she was talking. After 20 hours of gaming in a weekend, I knew that I had become addicted again. Learning from the past, I told my girlfriend that I wanted a video game detox which eventually would stop me playing video games again. I know I will get urges and I may reason myself back to gaming again. But, I believe, I can do this!

Adapted from : How Quitting Gaming Helped Me Get Into Grad School | Game Quitters

- 19 In paragraph 1, what limits the writer's gaming?
 - A His hobbies in riding bikes and playing soccer.
 - B The absence of owning a PC.
 - C His parents were very stern.
 - D His lack of interest in gaming.

- 20 In paragraph 3, what do you think the writer felt when he said 'My grades were terrible. Fortunately, I didn't fail any courses'...?
 - A Satisfied.
 - B Sad.
 - C Surprised.
 - D Relieved.

- 21 In paragraph 4, why did the writer work extremely hard during his internship?
- A Because he had learnt his lesson before.
 - B Because he worked 60 – 80 hours a week.
 - C Because he wanted to get a full-time offer.
 - D Because he wanted to enjoy parties and travelling.
- 22 In paragraph 5, the phrase 'gaming in moderation' means
- A The writer played the games modestly.
 - B The writer played the games vigorously.
 - C The writer played the games frequently.
 - D The writer played the game regularly.
- 23 In paragraph 7, why did the writer buy another laptop?
- A The laptop he has been using was for work only.
 - B He wanted to install a game.
 - C He wanted to be considerate.
 - D He wanted to share his hobby with his girlfriend.
- 24 "To compensate for this, I wanted to play more."
In paragraph 8, what is the writer's attitude here?
- A Passionate.
 - B Patient.
 - C Determined.
 - D Protective.
- 25 In paragraph 9, why did the writer say his girlfriend wasn't like him?
- A Because she did not buy a new laptop.
 - B Because she did not install League of Legend.
 - C Because she did not meet toxic players.
 - D Because she managed to control his gaming schedule.
- 26 In the last paragraph, how did the writer know he became addicted to game again?
- A He changed his behaviour.
 - B He ignored his girlfriend.
 - C He played games for 20 hours on weekend.
 - D He became less patient.