READING AND USE OF ENGLISH

PART 2 OPEN CLOZE

For questions 1–8, read the text below and think of the word which best fits each gap. Use only one word in each gap. There is an example at the beginning (0). Write your answers in CAPITAL LETTERS.

REDUCING SCREEN TIME

In the 21st century, there (0) HAS been growing concern about the pervasive influence of technology. Certainly, over (1) _____ past few years, most children and teens have spent a larger proportion of their free time on social media, binging TV shows and gaming. So much so that (2) _____ have become an integral part of everyday life; thereby adding to their screen time considerably.

Parents probably need to step (3) _____ and monitor the screen time of their children. Furthermore, educators should insist on giving hands-on creative assignments and emphasis must be laid (4) _____ using hybrid models to impart the lessons. To instil the habit (5) _____ using pen and paper, educators can ask learners to maintain handwritten notes and submit scanned documents. Educators, parents and learners should collaborate to (6) _____ an eye on when it is time to switch off and take a break.

It's not just young people though. We all need to find and maintain a balance between on-screen and off-screen time. We must expect that some part of the day will involve (7) _____ in front of a screen, but it is essential for physical and mental health that it is not the majority of our waking hours! To help the brain unwind, it's recommended to stay in touch with the creative pursuits, (8) _____ as sketching, painting, playing music and so on.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

READING AND USE OF ENGLISH

PART 7 GAPPED TEXT

You are going to read an extract from a magazine article. Six paragraphs have been removed from the extract. Choose from the paragraphs A–G the one which fits each gap (1–6). There is one extra paragraph that you do not need to use.

WHAT IS TECHNOLOGY DOING TO OUR MEMORIES?

Here's a quick quiz. Let's see how many questions you can answer without using a search engine or your phone. What's the Icelandic capital, and how do you spell it? Now think of three friends or family members. What are their phone numbers and email addresses? And finally, what is your bank account number?

[1] ___
In fact, we have happily allowed technology to become an extension of our own brains. There is a huge amount of information that we don't need to store in our own minds because our smartphones will do it for us. But is this good for us?

[2] ___
The results were interesting. When quizzed later as to what the people had seen, those who hadn't taken any photos were able to remember up to 20% more in the way of details about the paintings.

[3] ___
Researchers have suggested that what is happening here is a form of cognitive offloading of information. We are externalising our memories and giving the task of storing them to the technology we use.

[4] ___
What we now do with smartphones, hard drives or online cloud networks isn't exactly new. Humans have always externalised information. That's why we have long had libraries full of books, or people like professors and teachers in our societies, whose function is partly to act as repositories of knowledge.

[5] ___
In short, we are entrusting technology to remember far more than ever before. And the more this happens, the more we start to believe that there is little point in committing 'minor' facts (such as your own bank account number or where certain roads are in your own town) to memory when you know that it's easily accessible online somewhere.

[6] ___
And what happens if that technology suddenly stops working, or if for some reason, the internet became unavailable to us? What would happen to all our memories then?

LIVEWORKSHEETS



OPTIONS A–G



A

In similar experiments, it was found that any form of recording an object or an event was likely to reduce a person's ability to remember details about it. This happened whether the person was taking a photo of something or writing down notes about it.

B

The term 'digital amnesia' is sometimes used to describe this phenomenon. There is no doubt that technology is an incredibly useful aid. But while we needn't needlessly fill our heads with often trivial-seeming information, is it a good idea to essentially give computers the job of remembering everything about our lives?

C

Not only this, but when we spend time photographing something, we are, of course likely to be concentrating just as much or more on the act of recording as on the object of the recording. Someone recording a band at a concert may remember more about how difficult it was to take a recording with so many people in front of them, or how hard it was to keep their hand in the air, than the actual concert itself.

D

Of course, these might seem like easy questions. And information like this is accessible merely through a flurry of brief activity on a touchscreen or by going online for a few seconds. But what we have done is to entrust huge amounts of information about not only our world, but about our personal lives as well to technology.

E

There has – for a very long time now – been simply too much information in the world to store inside one human brain. And as the extent of human knowledge expands and accelerates, we will rely more and more on technology to store information for us.

F

There's been some research to suggest that this might not be the case. Let's take photos as an example. It has been discovered that when we take a photo of an event, the event itself becomes less memorable. In one experiment, a group of people were put in front of some paintings. One half of the group were asked to simply gaze upon the works of art. The other half could take photos of them – just as people often do in art galleries.

G

This has been termed the 'Google Effect'. Basically, it's a tendency to forget things – or not bother to remember things – which are easily found in a quick internet search. There is no doubt that being able to use search engines is incredibly useful. But there is another problem that we need to consider.

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