UNIT 1 – LESSON 5

PART 1: READING PASSAGE

Lesson summary: Identify the topic and main ideas of the text

READING TEXT



The 'NET GENERATION'

Quang is watering his garden and can't wait to pick the ripe fruit. He spends most of his spare time looking after the garden. Sounds great, doesn't it? But his garden is a virtual one!

In today's world, teenagers rely on technology more than in the past. This can be a problem because using computers too much may have harmful effects on both their minds and bodies. They prefer watching TV and playing computer games to reading books, perhaps because they don't think and imagine as much. They don't join clubs or have hobbies and they don't play sports. They sit in front of the computer all the time. They don't get out of the house, even for a walk. They are in a world that doesn't exist.

While Quang now knows the names of many plants, and his English seems to be improving as he chats with his 'gaming friends' from all over the world, his parents are getting worried. They want him to get out more. They are even thinking of banning him from using the computer.

This text is taken from English 8, Unit 1"leisure activities", Reading.

IDENTIFY THE TOPIC OF THE TEXT

Question 1: Read the text above and choose the correct answer.

The text is about...

A. teenagers' leisure time in the past

B. teenagers' leisure time in the present

C. adult's leisure time in the present

*This question asks you to identify the **topic** of the whole text.*

What is the topic of the text?

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The topic is the **general subject** of the text. It answers the question "***what does the author want me to know about the topic?***".

How to identify the topic of the text?

First, look at the picture that goes with the text. This is a picture of a game.

=> The topic may be about a game or a leisure activity.

Second, read quickly through the text and underline some keywords. These keywords are: ***"watching TV", "playing computer games", "reading books", "have hobbies", "play sports".***

=> The picture and these keywords tell us that the text is about "leisure time".

Third, go back to the three options above. Underline the phrases: **teenagers and adults**; **in the past** and **in the present**.

The text is about...

A. teenagers' leisure time in the past

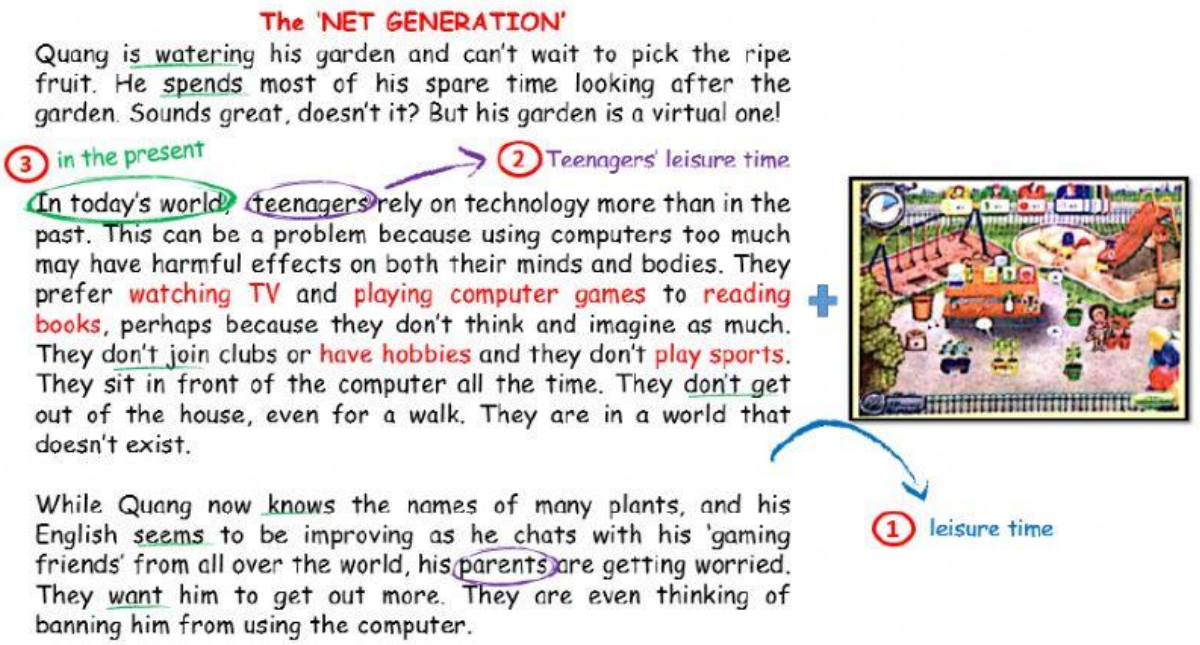
B. teenagers' leisure time in the present

C. adults' leisure time in the present

Next, read the text quickly again. Circle the word **"teenagers"** in paragraph 2. Move on and quickly circle the word **"parents"** in paragraph 3. From these clues, we know that the text is about **"teenagers' leisure time"**, not **"adults' leisure time"**.

Next, read the text quickly again. Circle the phrase **"In today's world"**. Notice that all the verbs in the text are in present tenses. These clues tell us that the text is about leisure time **"in the present"**, not **"in the past"**.

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Finally, decide that the correct answer is **B. teenagers' leisure time in the present.**

Clues to find the topic of the text

In general, you can get the topic of the text by reading quickly through the text several times and pay attention to the following clues:

- **The visuals: pictures or diagrams**
- **The title of the text**
- **Keywords**

You don't need to use all the clues above. Sometimes, just one or two clues can help you find the topic of the text.

IDENTIFY THE MAIN IDEAS OF THE TEXT

Question 2: Read the text above and choose the correct answer

The text discusses...

A. the positive side of using technology in your free time

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B. the negative side of using technology in your free time

C. both A and B

*This question asks you to find the **main ideas** in the text.*

What are the main ideas of the text?

While the text is more general, main ideas are **sub-topics**. They are the main ideas of each paragraph in the passage.

How to identify the main ideas of the text?

First, read the text quickly again. Notice the number of paragraphs. This text has three paragraphs.

Second, identify the main ideas of each paragraph by looking for the most important sentence (topic sentence) of each paragraph and the keywords in this paragraph.

Paragraph 1

This paragraph gives an example of Quang's game.

Paragraph 2

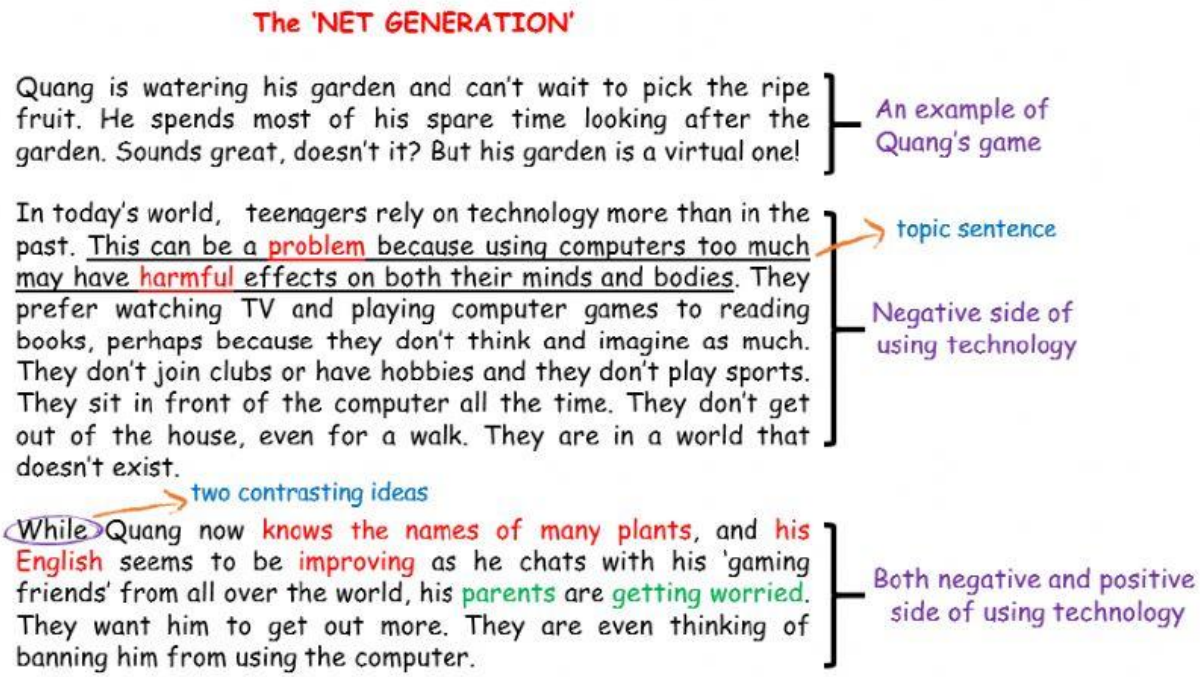
The most important sentence (topic sentence) in this paragraph is **"This can be a problem because using computers too much may have harmful effects on both their minds and their bodies."** The keywords are: **"problem"** and **"harmful"**. These clues tell us that this paragraph the **"negative side of using technology"**.

Paragraph 3

The keywords in this paragraph are: **"knows the names of many plants"**, **"his English improving"**, **"parents getting worried"**. The sentence structure: **"While……, ….."** tells us that this sentence expresses two contrasting ideas. These clues tell us that this paragraph is about **the positive side of using technology** but also **the negative side of using technology**.

Finally, decide the main ideas of the text.

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The clues above suggest us that the correct answer is **C: The text is about the positive and negative sides of using technology.**

Clues to find the main ideas of the text

Read the text quickly. Pay attention to:

- **The structure of the text (how many paragraphs)**
- **The most important sentence (topic sentence) of each paragraph**
- **The keywords in each paragraph**
- **The sentence structure of important sentences**

Source: hocbaionha.com

PART 2: PRACTICE

I. Identify the topic and main ideas of the text

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Before you read, let's learn some new words and phrases.

1. At somebody's leisure: *trong thời gian rảnh của ai đó*

2. At somebody's own pace: *theo tốc độ riêng của ai đó*

3. Benefits (n.): *lợi ích*

4. Real-life (a.): *có thật*

5. Eyesight (n.): *thị lực, tầm nhìn*

6. Blue light rays (NP): *các tia ánh sáng xanh*

A. Fill in the blanks with the given words.

LEISURE, REAL-LIFE, SCHEDULE, EYESIGHT, RAYS, BENEFITS

1. When you get older, your _____ becomes worse.

2. People are easily exposed to blue light _____ when they stare at a computer screen for hours at a time.

3. Mary fancy watching reality shows at her _____.

4. I don't like taking a full-time job because I love to work on my own _____.

5. You can gain a lot of _____ from playing sports every day.

6. The movie is based on a _____ story.

B. Read the text about the Internet and choose the correct option.

Nowadays the Internet has changed the way teenagers spend their free time. Spending time online have both positive and negative effects on young people.

Using the Internet at their leisure can help teenagers study by themselves and make new friends. Instead of going to school, they can learn from online websites at their own pace. They can receive feedback after submitting their assignments and discuss the lessons with their teachers. In addition, thanks to some social networking sites such as

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Facebook, Zalo, Instagram, teenagers can have conversations with people from all over the world. By sharing interests and feelings, some of them find their true friends.

While young people can get these benefits from the Internet, they have to face some problems related to their health and real-life relationships. Using the Internet too much in their free time can cause harm to their eyesight because of blue light rays. Some teenagers also tend to eat unhealthy food while playing video games or watching online movies, then easily become obese. When they get addicted to the Internet, they have to reduce time for their family, friends and school. As a result, they may lose important relationships in the real world.

1. What can be the best title of the text?

A. The pros and cons of the Internet for young people

B. The pros and cons of the Internet

C. The influence of the Internet on people's lives

2. What does the text mainly discuss?

A. The good and bad points of using the Internet in teenagers' free time

B. The good points of using the Internet in teenagers' free time

C. The bad points of using the Internet in teenagers' free time

3. According to the text, what are the benefits of teenagers' learning online? Choose more than ONE option.

A. Learning at any time they want

B. Getting their assignments back without comments.

C. Talking to their teachers about the lessons

4. Which of the following sentences is NOT correct about social networking sites?

A. Social networking sites connect people from different countries.

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B. Some examples of social networking sites are Facebook, Zalo or Instagram.

C. People cannot find their true friends through social networking sites.

5. If teenagers spend too much time online, what negative impact does it cause?

A. They only have virtual friends.

B. It affects their eyes.

C. They are addicted to video games.

6. Minh is on social networking sites for 5 hours each day. According to the text, what health problems might he have? Choose more than ONE option.

A. eye strain

B. obesity

C. headache

7. According to the text, why may some teenagers lose their real-life relationships?

A. Because they spend too much time on the Internet and have less time for their family and friends.

B. Because their family and friends do not like them spending time on the Internet.

C. Because their family and friends do not like them eating unhealthy food.

8. According to the text, how should teenagers use the Internet?

A. Use the Internet for long hours without a break

B. Sit in front of the computer as close as they can

C. Make use of the Internet for self-study

II. Read the following text and decide which answer best fits each numbered

Although computers can be used as a tool to spread awareness about problems in the environment, they cause (1) _____ of environmental problems themselves.

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Pollution caused by the production of computer (2) _____ as well as from the cleaning agents used to clean computers, is (3) _____ great hazard to the environment and the people that live in it. People leave (4) _____ computers on non-stop resulting in a lot of energy consumption and enormous amounts of paper are (5) _____ used daily to print out electronically stored data. It causes health problems as well as (6) problems and is in urgent need of treatment. Use computer only when needed. If we all shut (7) _____ our computers at night the energy savings could light the Eiffel Tower 24 hours a day for 720 years. The increased (8) _____ of computers in the workplace has brought about the development of a number of health concerns. Many individuals who (9) _____ at a computer report a high level of job-related complaints and symptoms, including ocular discomfort, muscular strain and stress. The (10) _____ of discomfort appears to increase with the amount of computer use.

(Source: https://sites.google.com/a/danteacademy.ca)

1. A. a lot	B. lot	C. many	D. much
2. A. software	B. hardware	C. glassware	D. footwear
3. A. a	B. an	C. the	D. x 4.
A. they	B. them	C. their	D. theirs
5. A. be	B. to be	C. being	D. been
6. A. economic	B. economy	C. economics	D. economize
7. A. up	B. down	C. on	D. under
8. A. used	B. to use	C. to be used	D. use
9. A. working	B. work	C. works	D. to work
10. A. area	B. range	C. level	D. size

III. Read the following text and complete the statements below.

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