

The First Quarter Examination

Reading

Part I

I. Read the paragraph. Then check True or False

Today's grandparents are joining their grandchildren on social media, but the different generations' online habits couldn't be more different. In the UK the over-55s are joining Facebook in increasing numbers, meaning that they will soon be the site's second biggest user group, with 3.5 million users aged 55–64 and 2.9 million over-65s. Sheila, aged 59, says, 'I joined to see what my grandchildren are doing, as my daughter posts videos and photos of them. It's a much better way to see what they're doing than waiting for letters and photos in the post. That's how we did it when I was a child, but I think I'm lucky I get to see so much more of their lives than my grandparents did.'

Ironically, Sheila's grandchildren are less likely to use Facebook themselves. Children under 17 in the UK are leaving the site – only 2.2 million users are under 17 – but they're not going far from their smartphones. Chloe, aged 15, even sleeps with her phone. 'It's my alarm clock so I have to,' she says. 'I look at it before I go to sleep and as soon as I wake up.'

Unlike her grandmother's generation, Chloe's age group is spending so much time on their phones at home that they are missing out on spending time with their friends in real life. Sheila, on the other hand, has made contact with old friends from school she hasn't heard from in forty years. 'We use Facebook to arrange to meet all over the country,' she says. 'It's changed my social life completely.'

Teenagers might have their parents to thank for their smartphone and social media addiction as their parents were the early adopters of the smartphone. Peter, 38 and father of two teenagers, reports that he used to be on his phone or laptop constantly. 'I was always connected and I felt like I was always working,' he says. 'How could I tell my kids to get off their phones if I was always in front of a screen myself?' So, in the evenings and at weekends, he takes his SIM card out of his smartphone and puts it into an old-style mobile phone that can only make calls and send text messages. 'I'm not completely cut off from the world in case of emergencies, but the important thing is I'm setting a better example to my kids and spending more quality time with them.'

Is it only a matter of time until the generation above and below Peter catches up with the new trend for a less digital life?

1. More people aged 55 or more use Facebook than people aged 65 or more.

True

False

2. Grandparents typically use Facebook less than their grandchildren.

True

False

3. Sheila feels grateful to social media.

True

False

4. Peter found his own smartphone use affected how he felt about how much his children used their phones.

True

False

5. Peter has changed how much he uses his phone during the working day.

True

False

6. Peter feels that the changes make him a better parent.

True

False



❖ **Answer the questions below.**

7. How many users are in the second biggest user group?
8. How many users aged over-65s are in the second biggest user group?
9. How many users aged 55-64 are using facebook in the UK?
10. How many children under 17 are using facebook in the UK?

❖ **Put the phrases in the correct groups. Write only its substantive letters.**

- A. Use social media to find friends
- B. Are less keen in facebook
- C. Were the first generation to get smartphones
- D. Feel lucky to have internet in their lives
- E. Like to keep their phones near them
- F. Are returning to older technology

Teens



Grandparents

Parents

Part II

II. Read the text below.

Pearce was born in Liverpool in the 1950s, in a very poor family. At school, all teachers thought he was stupid because he couldn't learn to read or write at that time, not many people knew about dyslexia. But there was something that he was good at: selling things. Pearce's first experience as a salesman was when he was a boy, and he and his mother used to go to door-to-door asking for old clothes that they could sell in the market. He instinctively knew what people wanted, and it soon seemed that he could make money from anything. His mother always believed in him and told him that one day he would be successful and famous.

In 1983, when he already owned a small boutique, he decided to invest 750\$ in leather trousers, and to sell them very cheaply in his shop. 'It was a bit of a gamble, to tell you the truth', he says. But Liverpool loved it, and there were photos of shoppers sleeping in the street outside his boutique on the front page of local newspaper. The first day the trousers went on sale, the shop took 25,000\$. Pearce became a millionaire, but later he lost most of his money in the recession of the nineties. He was almost 40, and he was broke again. He even had to go back to selling clothes in the money. But he never gave up, and soon he set up a new business, a department store, called Pearce's, which again made him a millionaire.

However, success didn't mean anything to Pearce he still couldn't read or write. Even his two daughters didn't realize that their father couldn't read. When one of them asked him to read her a bedtime story he went downstairs and cried because he felt so ashamed. At work he calculated figures in his head, while his wife Gina wrote all the cheques and read contracts.

In 1992 Pearce was awarded a Businessman of the year prize for the best clothes store in Liverpool. It was at this moment that he told his friends and colleagues the truth, and decided to write a book about his experience.

But first he had to learn to read and write . He went to evening classes, and employed a private teacher, but he found it very difficult because of his dyslexia. Finally, with the help of the gosh-writer, his autobiography, A Pocketful of Hotels and Dreams, was published, and became a best seller. Recently, he was woken in the middle of the night by someone knocking on his front door. It was his daughter to whom he hadn't been able to read a bedtime story all those years earlier. She had come to tell him that she had just read his book. 'Dad, I'm so proud of you ' she said-and burst into tears in his arms.

➤ **Read the text again and number the events in the order in which they happened.**

- A. He became a millionaire again.
- B. He learnt to read and write.
- C. He lost all his money.
- D. He sold old clothes in the market.
- E. He opened a department store.
- F. He won an important price.
- G. He opened a small clothes shop.
- H. He became a millionaire.
- I. He sold clothes in the market again.
- J. He wrote his autobiography.
- K. His shop was on the front page of a newspaper.

➤ **Complete the questions with one of the underlined words and phrases.**

1. When was the last _____ in your country?
2. Do you know someone who works as a _____?
3. Have you ever bought something the first day it _____?
4. Do you know someone who has _____ on their own?
5. If you were completely _____, who would you ask to lend you some money.

➤ **Read the text again and answer the questions below.**

1. When did Pearce own a small boutique?
2. How did all people consider on Pearce when he was a student?
3. What did Pearce get in 1992?
4. What did he decide to invest in 1983?
5. What was he good at even he got dyslexia?

