Intermediate Plus Adults End of term Test

READING

1 .Read the article below and complete the gaps with headings a)–f).

a) Looking back and forward

b) Creative dreamers

c) Multiple imaginations

d) The process of imaginative thinking

e) ~~Is imagination the answer?~~

f) Learning how to imagine

How to be creative

1 *e*

Most people would agree that the one thing which keeps us moving forward as a species is imagination. The more we imagine, the more we create new ideas, develop new inventions, and make ground-breaking discoveries. But why is it that people differ so much in the way that they imagine? Is there a way to train ourselves to be more imaginative and as a result more creative?

2 ___

Recent psychological studies have revealed that there are three broad categories when it comes imagination, and possessing a combination of these can help you to achieve an element of creativity in different fields. Each type has different characteristics which assist in the development of ideas. The categories are as follows: creative imagination, fantastical imagination, and episodic imagination.

3 ___

Creative imagination is perhaps what most people think of when they talk about people being 'creative' – it's the way of thinking associated with composing music, or discovering something novel. This kind of imagination has two different stages. During the first people think divergently, connecting a wide variety of ideas to address a problem or topic. Then there's a stage known as convergent thinking, when you evaluate all these ideas in terms of usefulness. In the first stage thinking is fast and automatic, in the second it's slower and more reflective.

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Interestingly, studies have shown that creative imagination can be acquired. When children observe others being creative, or engage in creative play, their own creativity grows. So one way to improve this is immerse yourself and learn from an environment that encourages and supports new ideas.

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Fantastical imagination describes a person's ability to become absorbed by creativity. Critics might suggest that encouraging people to daydream is a waste of time, but there is some evidence that allowing yourself space to do this can lead to moments of realisation where ideas or discoveries are reached. So the occasional flight of fantasy isn't always a bad thing.

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The final category is known as episodic imagination. This is a process where people visualise alternatives – for example, thinking about how they could have learned from past experiences. This information is then used to make the future a more positive one. This kind of imagination is what psychologists focus on when encouraging positive thought and visualisation. So next time you want to be more creative, why not just sit down and imagine that you already are?

2. Read the article again. Decide if the statements are true (T) or false (F).

1 Imagination is key to the development of the human race T

2 People tend to imagine things in the same ways. ____

3 Creative individuals have a mix of types of imagination. ____

4 Divergent thinking requires a lot of time. ____

5 Convergent thinking is when people decide if an idea is practical. ____

6 It's impossible to teach someone to be imaginative. ____

7 Children benefit from watching creative behaviour. ____

8 Fantastical imagination focuses on fast thinking to find solutions. ____

9 Daydreaming might be something we should do more of. ____

10 Episodic imagination involves thinking about only one option. ____

11 Positive thinking and imagination are related ideas. ____

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Have smartphones changed our lives for the better?

It's hard to believe that smartphones have only been around for little over a decade. They're now so common that it's surprising if someone doesn't have one. As I sit on the underground in the mornings, all I see are tired-looking travellers staring at their smartphones. When I step off the underground, others are navigating the platform, eyes still fixed on their screens. Most of them will spend the rest of their day checking their messages and the latest news updates or keeping up on celebrity gossip.

There's no doubt that the smartphone has changed our lives significantly. For most of the twentieth century, the telephone changed little. It only allowed us to talk to people over long distances and, later, send text messages to them. The smartphone, however, changed all of that by adding features such as cameras, GPS and sophisticated computer technology. They are multi-purpose tools, whose uses are only limited by the imaginations of computer programmers. If you're lost, your phone will help you find your way. If you're feeling lonely, it will help you find the perfect friend. You can even do your shopping on it, without leaving the comfort of your kitchen. The problem is that we've become so dependent on this technology that we've failed to notice the dangers.

What worries me most is that we are now more interested in our smartphones than in the people around us. How many of us check our phones before we've even said 'good morning' to our families? How many of us are checking our friends' online profiles when we could be talking to them? Instead of actually talking to people, we send them three-word messages or emojis. One advantage of the telephone was that it helped us become more communicative. Smartphones, on the other hand, have limited the way we communicate with others.

What about work? Surely, smartphones have made us more efficient in our jobs? After all, we can send and receive emails at any time, organise our schedules and make sure we don't miss an important call. That's great for our companies, but not so great for us or our families. In the past, when we finished work, we would go home and forget about it. Nowadays, smartphones mean many people take their work home with them

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so there is less time to relax. Apart from making you more tired, this can have a negative effect on your personal relationships, with more arguments and misunderstandings.

But smartphones are fantastic for knowing what's going on in the world, right? Well, that's true to a certain extent. In the past, we used to rely on papers or television and radio for our news. Sometimes, you had to wait for a whole day before hearing the latest updates. However, the online newspapers and social networks which we use nowadays are constantly updated. If there's an earthquake on an island on the other side of the world, we know about it in minutes. But can we really trust the social networks for our news? Were the reporters on the island when the earthquake happened? Or were they just repeating a story that they'd seen on another social network?

I'm not trying to say that the smartphone was a bad invention. I couldn't imagine not being able to search for a recipe or share my photos with my family and friends. However, I strongly believe that we need to understand the risks related to their use. We should ask ourselves whether working longer hours or having fewer 'real' conversations is a good thing. If we disagree, then we must think carefully about the way we use our smartphones.

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

1. **What does the writer say about travellers on the underground in paragraph 1?**

A It's surprising to see them using smartphones.

B They're using their smartphones to find their way out of the station.

C They're all concentrating hard on their smartphones.

D They're only checking their messages on their smartphones.

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2. What does the writer say about the telephone in paragraph 2?

A It had a number of different purposes.

B It changed significantly in the twentieth century.

C It had the same features as most modern smartphones.

D It helped us communicate with people who were far away.

3. What does the writer think about using smartphones for work?

A They make us less efficient at work.

B They make it difficult to stop working.

C They stop us from going home on time.

D They can be costly for companies.

4. Why does the writer mention an earthquake in paragraph 5?

A to show that some news might not be accurate

B to show how smartphones can help rescue operations

C to show that we are all interested in world news

D to show how long it takes us to get the latest news

5. How does the writer feel about smartphones in general?

A enthusiastic about what they'll be like in future

B concerned about the negative aspects of their use

C fed up with people using them on public transport

D proud of the fact that he doesn't use one

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