

**Reading 6<sup>TH</sup> ADOL**

**FINAL EXAM**

**Name:** .....

**A. You are going to read an article about problems with modern methods of communication. Five sentences have been removed from the article. Choose from the sentences A–F the one which fits each gap (1–5). There is one extra sentence which you do not need to use.**

- A** Some of my friends say it's the same with mobile phones, but I don't agree.
- B** No more games and no more useless surfing!
- C** They said that there was a big drop in my marks and that they were worried about me.
- D** I would eat in front of it and do my homework in front of it.
- E** That feeling didn't last long, though.
- F** and maybe even watch a third, or turn over and watch music videos until three or four in the morning.

**MODERN COMMUNICATIONS – ONE BOY'S STORY**

***Philip is just like any other 16-year-old boy – except you won't find him playing computer games, or even watching television, in the near future. He tells us why ...***

Two or three years ago, I was a normal kid – I was getting good marks at school, I did sport and I was healthy. All that seemed to change very quickly, though. I started having problems at home, at school, and with my friends. It took a while to realise what was causing all these problems.

I noticed that I was watching a lot of television. It started normally, and I used to watch a film in the evenings, or a comedy programme, or music videos. But then it became a habit – a bad habit! I would get home from school and immediately turn on the TV. **1**\_\_\_\_\_ Even that wasn't so bad – I still didn't think there was a problem. I started getting some low marks at school, but I didn't believe they were anything to worry about.

It started to get serious when the school called my parents in. **2**\_\_\_\_\_ My teachers asked my mum if there was anything wrong at home, but Mum couldn't think of anything. What Mum didn't know was that by then I was watching television in my room for half the night, and then struggling to get up for school in the morning, spending most of the day half asleep.

What I used to do was start watching a film at about ten, intending to go to sleep afterwards. But when the film finished, I just switched channels. If there was another film starting, I'd watch that **3**\_\_\_\_\_ Sometimes, I'd wake up and the TV would still be on – I'd fallen asleep watching it.

Eventually, I had to do something drastic, so I gave it to my cousin! There was still one in the living room, but I just never turned it on.

Life without television was hard for about the first week, but then I started to feel better. **4** \_\_\_\_\_ Within a month or two, I noticed that I had the same problem with the computer! It used to be the first thing I did when I came home – turn on the computer and check my emails. Then surf the internet or play games. For hours and hours! One day I realised I had been sitting at the computer for six hours. In that time, I had read and written emails, played several games and surfed aimlessly for ages, but I still hadn't even started to do the homework I had sat down to research!

I didn't sell my computer, though. I could never do that – besides, I need it for my school work. What I did do was uninstall all the games and programs that I didn't really need – things that were distracting me. Now, I only surf the Net when I need to, and the only programs I have installed on my computer are to do with music because I keep all my MP3s there. **5** \_\_\_\_\_ And if you want to communicate with me, you'll have to phone me because I don't have email anymore!

But I've just got my exam results, and they're excellent. My parents are very pleased. I have some great friends (I didn't have time for friends before – only the electronic kind!) I've also just joined a football team and I'm getting in training for the start of the season. If you ask me, there's nothing wrong with television, and there's nothing wrong with computers either. But there are other things that are more important. I think computers and televisions should come with a health warning!