NOTE: Choose option A or B, and answer the questions from 1 to 4. For question 5, you can choose to write the composition that you like best, from either option A or option B.

OPTION B

BRITAIN BECOMES LATEST TO BAN TIKTOK ON GOVERNMENT PHONES

British authorities said Thursday that they are banning the Chinese-owned video-sharing app TikTok from government mobile phones on security grounds, following similar moves by the U.S. and European Union. Cabinet Office minister Oliver Dowden told Parliament the ban applies, with immediate effect, to work phones and other devices used by government ministers and civil servants. He described the ban as a "precautionary move" and said it does not apply to personal phones and devices.

"Given the particular risk around government devices, which may contain sensitive information, it is both prudent and proportionate to restrict the use of certain apps, particularly when it comes to apps where a large amount of data can be stored and accessed," Dowden told British lawmakers.

The U.S. government mandated last month that employees of federal agencies had to delete TikTok from all government-issued mobile devices. Congress, the White House, the U.S. military, and more than half of U.S. states already had banned the app. The European Union, Belgium and others have also temporarily banned the app from employee phones.

The company has insisted such concerns are based on "misinformation", and said it was taking steps to boost protection of user data from Britain and Europe. "We believe these bans have been based on fundamental misconceptions and driven by wider geopolitics, in which TikTok and our millions of users in the U.K. play no part", the company said. "We remain committed to working with the government to address any concerns, but we should be judged on facts and treated equally to our competitors."

Last year, the British Parliament shut down its TikTok account which was intended to reach younger audiences just days after its launch, following concerns from lawmakers. (Fragment adapted from *Los Angeles Times*.)

1) BRIEFLY ANSWER ONLY 4 OUT OF THE FOLLOWING 6 QUESTIONS WITH ONLY THE DATA REQUIRED (NOT A WHOLE SENTENCE) (2 POINTS; 0.5 POINTS EACH).

1. On which grounds are British authorities banning TikTok?

2. Who are the owners of the phones and devices affected by the UK ban?

3. How did Oliver Dowden describe the move to ban TikTok?

4. How many U.S. states have also banned the app?

5. What is TikTok requesting UK government in reference to competitors?

6. Who were worried about the launching of the British Parliament TikTok account?

LIVEWORKSHEETS

2) ARE THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS TRUE OR FALSE? INDICATE THE LINES THAT SUPPORT YOUR ANSWER (1 POINT).

1. Oliver Dowden stated that the reasons for the government ban on TikTok were to protect information from apps which store and access a lot of sensitive data.

2. In order to avoid the bans, the many users of TikTok in the UK have claimed a greater role in geopolitics.

3) CHOOSE a OR b, ONLY ONE CHOICE IS CORRECT ACCORDING TO THE TEXT (1 POINT).

a) The British government has decided to ban TikTok in all phones and devices.

b) TikTok said that the company was doing its best to increase protection of user data from Britain and Europe.

4) VOCABULARY (2 POINTS).

4.1 Choose one of the options below and find one word in the text for its definition (0.6 POINTS):

a) Occurring or done at once.

b) An occasion at which a new product is introduced to the public.

4.2 Find a synonym in the text for one of the two words below (0.6 POINTS):

a) public employees

b) delicate

4.3 For one of the following words from the text, give a synonym that fits the meaning of the text (0.8 POINTS):

a) personal (line 5)

b) audiences (line 19)

5) WRITE ABOUT THE FOLLOWING TOPIC USING BETWEEN 120-150 WORDS (4 POINTS).

Should social networks which endanger personal information be banned by the government? Justify your answer.

LIVEWORKSHEETS