

PART I: ACCESS TO INFORMATION FROM WRITTEN TEXTS (70 points)

Read the article below and then answer questions 1-8.

HOW DOES WATCHING TV AFFECT CHILDREN?

I Most kids are exposed to the world of television long before they enter school. According to the Kaiser Family Foundation, a non-profit organization focusing on national health issues¹, it is not uncommon for parents of very young children to turn to the TV as a way of keeping their children entertained. As a result, two-thirds of infants watch TV for an average of two hours a day. As children grow, the number of hours they spend in front of the screen increases. In addition to watching TV, older children have access to shows and games on the Internet and on mobile phones.

II Since research shows that the first two years of life are critical for brain development, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) advises that kids under two years old should not watch any television at all. TV and other electronic media can get in the way of exploring, playing and interacting with others; activities which are essential to learning and developing healthy physical and social skills. In addition, it recommends that children older than two watch TV less than two hours a day and that their parents should monitor² the quality of these shows.

III Too much TV comes at a price for older children too. Children who consistently spend more than four hours a day watching TV instead of playing outdoors are in danger of being overweight and suffering from related diseases. In addition, not all TV characters are suitable role models³. Some of them smoke, drink and display violent behavior, all of which have a negative effect on young viewers. Lastly, because many children under the age of eight find it difficult to tell the difference between program content⁴ and commercials⁵, they are easily influenced, especially if their favorite hero is promoting the product.

IV TV in moderation, however, does have its advantages. Young children who watch educational TV programs can benefit from shows that teach the alphabet and basic reading skills, while those who are older can learn about wildlife, the environment or endangered species⁶, for example. There is no doubt about it: TV can be an excellent educator and entertainer if it is used wisely.

V Even children's psychologists are divided when it comes to deciding what is best. Some urge for more hours per week of educational programs, others insist that no TV is the best solution, while there are those that believe that parental⁷ guidance

is the answer. The latter⁸ group advises parents to both monitor the viewing habits of their children and encourage them to do other things such as reading, participating in after-school activities, and spending more time with their friends and family. Doing this, they claim, has a crucial effect on their physical, emotional and social well-being.

GLOSSARY	
1. issues	נושאים, مسائل, قضايا
2. monitor	לפקח, להשגיח, يراقب, يرصد
3. role models	דמויות לחיקוי, شخصيات يُقتدى بها
4. content	תוכן, محتوى, مضمون
5. commercials	פרסומות, إعلانات تجارية
6. species	זנים, أجناس, أنواع
7. parental	הורי, نسبة لأحد الوالدين
8. the latter	האחרון (מתוך כמה) الأخير

Answer questions 1-8. (70 points)

1. What do we learn from **paragraph I**?

PUT A ✓ BY THE TWO CORRECT ANSWERS.

- i) Age does not affect the kinds of shows children watch.
- ii) Most infants use mobile phones as entertainment.
- iii) Older kids love watching shows about the Internet.
- iv) Many children begin watching TV at a very young age.
- v) Age is relevant to the number of hours children watch TV.
- vi) Many parents love watching TV as a form of entertainment.

(2x7=14 points)

2. The AAP recommends (–). (**Paragraph II**)

- i) allowing children to watch whatever they want
- ii) exploring how electronic media affects our brain
- iii) limiting the number of hours children watch TV
- iv) teaching children how to use TV to interact

(7 points)

3. Complete the sentence according to **paragraph III**.

Write ONE result.

Children who stay indoors watching too much TV might

.....

(7 points)

4. The use of children's heroes in advertising (-). (**Paragraph III**)

- i) has the same effect on all viewers
- ii) makes young viewers enjoy TV shows more
- iii) has a more powerful effect on young children
- iv) makes it difficult for young children to watch TV

(7 points)

5. What are shows that teach the alphabet an example of? (**Paragraph IV**)

.....

(7 points)

6. What are the TWO functions of watching TV according to **paragraph IV**?

(1) To

.....

(2) To

.....

(2x7=14 points)

7. "Doing this" (**lines 33-34**) has a crucial effect on children's physical, emotional and social well-being. Doing WHAT?

ANSWER:

.....

(7 points)

8. According to **paragraph V**, some psychologists believe that parents should encourage children to take part in activities other than watching TV. Who else in the article gives the same advice? Take your answer from another paragraph.

ANSWER:

(7 points)