

Teenagers and technology

A) Answer the following questions.

1. How important is technology for you?

- 1) Very important
- 2) Fairly important
- 3) Important
- 4) Important
- 5) Slightly important
- 6) Not at all important

2. Which technological device is essential in your life?

- 1) Printer
- 2) Netbook
- 3) Digital camera
- 4) Webcam
- 5) USB stick/ Pen drive
- 6) Router
- 7) Headphones
- 8) Mouse
- 9) Memory card
- 10) Mobile phone/ Cell phone

B) Read the text and choose the correct option.

genM: The Multitasking Generation

They're e-mailing, IMing and downloading while writing the history essay. What is all that digital juggling doing to kids' brains and their family life?

By Claudia Wallis Monday, Mar. 27, 2006

It's 9:30 p.m., and Stephen and Georgina Cox know exactly where their children are. Well, their bodies, at least. Piers, 14, is holed up in his bedroom--eyes fixed on his computer screen--where he has been logged onto a MySpace chat room and AOL Instant Messenger (IM) for the past three hours.



His twin sister Bronte is planted in the living room, having commandeered her dad's iMac--as usual. She, too, is busily IMing, while chatting on her cell phone and chipping away at homework.

By all standard space-time calculations, the four members of the family occupy the same three-bedroom home in Van Nuys, Calif., but psychologically each exists in his or her own little universe. Georgina, 51, who works for a display-cabinet maker, is tidying up the living room as Bronte works, not that her daughter notices. Stephen, 49, who juggles jobs as a squash coach, fitness trainer, event planner and head of a cancer charity he founded, has wolfed down his dinner alone in the kitchen, having missed supper with the kids. He, too, typically spends the evening on his cell phone and returning e-mails--when he can nudge Bronte off the computer. "One gets obsessed with one's gadgets," he concedes.

Zooming in on Piers' screen gives a pretty good indication of what's on his hyperkinetic mind. O.K., there's a Google Images window open, where he's chasing down pictures of Keira Knightley. Good ones get added to a snazzy Windows Media Player slide show that serves as his personal e-shrine to the actress. Several IM windows are also open, revealing conversations with a MySpace pal.

Naturally, iTunes is open, and Piers is blasting a mix of Queen, AC/DC, classic rock and hip-hop. Somewhere on the screen there's a Word file, in which Piers is writing an essay for English class. "I usually finish my homework at school," he explains to a visitor, "but if not, I pop a book open on my lap in my room, and while the computer is loading, I'll do a problem or write a sentence. Then, while mail is loading, I do more. I get it done a little bit at a time."

Bronte has the same strategy. "You just multitask," she explains. "My parents always tell me I can't do homework while listening to music, but they don't understand that it helps me concentrate." The twins also multitask when hanging with friends, which has its own etiquette. "When I talk to my best friend Eloy," says Piers, "he'll have one earpiece [of his iPod] in and one out." Says Bronte: "If a friend thinks she's not getting my full attention, I just make it very clear that she is, even though I'm also listening to music."



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1) What is the text about?

- a) It is about the uses of technology.
- b) It is about the impact of multitasking on one family and its modern life.
- c) It is about what happens at the end of the workday when parents and kids reunite.



2) How many people does the author mention in the text?

- a) She mentions 4 family members.
- b) She mentions 5 family members.
- c) She mentions 4 friends.
- d) She mentions 5 brothers and sisters.



3) Do Brontë's parents agree with multitasking while studying or doing homework?

- a) Yes, they do.
- b) No, they don't.
- c) It isn't mentioned.

4) What is the meaning of -chip away- in "She, too, is busily IMing, while chatting on her cell phone and chipping away at homework".

- a) To gradually make something less strong or effective.
- b) To stop resisting to something or somebody.
- c) To do something again from the beginning.

5) What does Stephen do for a living?

- a) He is a squash coach and a fitness trainer.
- b) He is an event planner and head of a cancer charity.
- c) A and B are correct.

6) What is the meaning of "multitasking"?

- a) A behaviour characterized by hyperactivity, short attention span and poor powers of concentration.
- b) A service that enables users of iOS-powered devices to send text messages over Wi-Fi from mobile devices.
- c) The performance of more than one task at the same time.
- d) A piece of work to be done or undertaken.

7) What is Piers doing?



- a) Piers is watching a Tv show.
- b) Piers is writing an essay for English class.
- c) Piers is tidying up the living room.



8) Who is Eloy?

- a) Eloy is Piers' best friend.
- b) Eloy is Bronte's best friend.
- c) Eloy is Georgina's best friend.

9) Where are they?

- a) They are in the living room, in the bedroom, in the kitchen and in the bathroom.
- b) They are in the living room, in the bedroom and in the kitchen.
- c) They are in the living room and in the bedroom.

10) Which of these sentences is false?

- a) Piers and Bronte are twins.
- b) The children also multitask when hanging with friends.
- c) Keira Knightley's bad pictures are added to a Windows Media Player slide show.

