

You are going to read a teen magazine article about teenagers and their use of the latest technology. For questions 31–36, choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which you think fits best according to the text.

## TECHNOLOGY AND US!

by Rowena James

Like me, you've probably read newspaper articles in which adults are talking about the bad effects that technology such as computers and mobiles are having on teenagers like us! In fact, it sometimes seems as if our digital lives are under constant scrutiny from the older generation. According to some adults, our online socialising is creating a culture where everything is very trivial, and we're in danger of losing our social skills completely. Of course, we can probably all think of friends that spend virtually all their time online. But I think we'd also agree those people are in the minority, and that the majority of us have learnt to use technology in a responsible and useful way.

Anyway, our parents would probably admit that any advances in technology, such as the radio or the record player, have always caused concern among parents, because they worry about the harmful effects on young people, and want to protect them. But if the same technology had been available when they were young, they would have used it just as we do now, to socialise and establish independence from *their* parents. Of course, there have been extremely rapid developments since our parents were young – but then every generation says that when they look back, I guess.

One of the main things that teachers worry about is that our over-use of technology is having a bad effect on our education, particularly in our literacy. Teachers say teens are using language that's too casual, like we use in texts, even when we're writing formally, and that the influence of texting is producing far more mistakes in our writing than young people made in the past. However, some researchers say these thoughts are based on what they're  
line 33 calling 'misguided nostalgia'. When they looked back at student composition papers, even a hundred years ago, they found they contained just as many errors as students' work today.

As I said, though, we can all think of someone we know who spends half their lives in front of a computer. But those people might still be gaining benefits from that time. Take my friend Luke, for example. In his early teens he was very keen on one particular TV series, and began to follow a fan page online, which he started spending all his free time on. It wasn't long before he got more involved, and was soon editing other teenage fans' contributions, which he became skilled at. That led to an interest in publishing as a career.

Teachers have also realised the huge potential of technology in their classes, no matter what field they're in. Computer teachers at my school now encourage us to use up-to-the-minute software to get us to explore and develop our own talents – with great results. One guy in my class who wasn't interested in school at all, suddenly discovered he was really good at producing elaborate sketches of buildings around the city. He's now considering training to be an architect – a real turnaround for someone who once hated coming to school.

Of course, much as I hate to admit it, there are downsides to advances such as the Internet. One of them is distraction – flicking onto a favourite website in the middle of doing a homework assignment. You'd have to be pretty skilled to achieve good results by trying to do several things at once in that way. There's also a tendency for teenagers not to question whether the sources of information they get online are actually reliable, and just to take what they find there at face value. And I hardly dare mention the effects on sleep patterns – that's one area where my parents have to step in and set boundaries, otherwise I'd be up all night. But as we mature, I reckon we'll get better at learning to moderate that sort of thing ourselves – just as we'll need to in all other aspects of our lives.

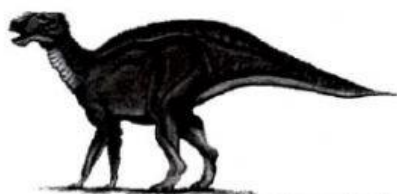
- 31 In the first paragraph, what is Rowena's purpose in writing about adults and their views on teens' use of technology?
- A to say which of their views she thinks are justified
  - B to suggest reasons why older people may hold such opinions
  - C to demonstrate how much exaggeration she thinks they contain
  - D to explore how different she is from the majority of teenagers
- 32 In the second paragraph, Rowena suggests that new technology
- A makes young people's lives easier than their parents' lives were.
  - B has always tended to cause concern among older generations.
  - C allows young people more independence than their parents had.
  - D has developed much faster than for previous generations.
- 33 Which mistaken belief do researchers mean when they refer to 'misguided nostalgia' in line 33?
- A using the present as a guide to understanding the past
  - B trusting that the present is a great improvement on the past
  - C being unable to see any difference between the present and the past
  - D thinking everything was much better in the past than it is in the present
- 34 Rowena gives the example of her friend Luke to demonstrate
- A the advantages of becoming absorbed in online activity.
  - B the opportunities offered by online sites to become more creative.
  - C the benefits of publishing one's own writing online.
  - D the possibilities of finding paid work online.
- 35 What is implied about the computer teachers at Rowena's school in the fifth paragraph?
- A They are unwilling to give up on students who find it hard to fit in.
  - B They are quick to spot undeveloped talents in their students.
  - C They are keen to use technology to help students discover themselves.
  - D They are leading the field in computer-assisted learning.
- 36 In the final paragraph, what does Rowena say is a disadvantage of new technology?
- A It has created a generation of teenagers that is always multi-tasking.
  - B It can tempt teenagers away from what they should be focusing on.
  - C It makes teenagers realise their parents are still continuing to monitor them.
  - D It discourages teenagers from using a range of information sources.



You are going to read a magazine article about the discovery of some dinosaur bones. Six sentences have been removed from the article. Choose from the sentences **A–G** the one which fits each gap (37–42). There is one extra sentence which you do not need to use.

Mark your answers **on the separate answer sheet**.

### New dinosaur discovery



Gryposaurus monumentensis

The dinosaur species known as Gryposaurus monumentensis lived seventy-five million years ago but people only

learnt of its existence at the beginning of the twenty-first century. Its name means 'hook-beaked lizard of the monument', with 'monument' referring to the place in the US state of Utah where this dinosaur's bones were found by a team of archaeologists.

**37** . It had an enormous bill resembling that of the duck-billed platypus, a curious egg-laying mammal native to Australia. The dinosaur, which existed on a diet of leaves, would have found this extremely useful when it wanted to pull something to eat off a nearby plant.

However, the archaeologists who discovered the dinosaur's bones were even more amazed by what they found inside the skull. **38** . There was also evidence of many extra ones waiting to drop into place as others wore out.

Taking all the replacements into account, it is estimated that the dinosaur managed to get through approximately 800 teeth during its lifetime. This indicates that Gryposaurus monumentensis chewed its way through a substantial quantity of leaves every day of its life.

**39** . Tyrannosaurus rex, the enormous meat-eating dinosaur, for example, seems to have got by with considerably fewer.

The unusual number of teeth found in the skull suggest that the Gryposaurus monumentensis was a particularly

large species of dinosaur. **40** . Other bones were discovered in Utah not far from the skull. These made it possible for scientists to calculate that the creature was at least 90 metres in length. The humerus (the bone of the upper arm), for example, is longer than an adult man's leg.

At the time when Gryposaurus monumentensis lived in what is now Utah, the area had little in common with its appearance today. **41** . Nowadays the region tends to receive relatively little rain and not much grows there.

Dinosaurs with duck bills have also been found a thousand kilometres further north in Canada but they appear to be rather different from those discovered in Utah. **42** . Some think that there may have been a mountain system making it impossible for them to move between Utah and Canada, while others believe that they simply had no need to leave an area with plenty of food. However, others are not convinced by either theory. Certainly a great deal more remains to be learnt about Gryposaurus.



Duck-billed platypus

**A** It is known to have been wet and swampy there then and the land was covered by plants.

**B** The creature was seen to possess at least 300 teeth, making it easy for it to grind up the leaves that it ate.

**C** And there is evidence to show that this was indeed the case.

**D** This is in striking contrast to the habitats where other dinosaur bones have been found.

**E** Scientists are puzzled as to why they do not bear more resemblance to each other.

**F** The outside of the skull (the bone of the head) that the Utah archaeologists discovered was unusual.

**G** Otherwise it would never have worn out quite so many of them.

You are going to read a magazine article about a young Japanese snowboarder taking part in a major competition called 'X Games' in Aspen in the USA. For questions **43–52**, choose from the sections of the article (**A–D**). The sections may be chosen more than once.

Mark your answers **on the separate answer sheet**.

**Which section of the article**

describes some negative attitudes towards Hirano's lifestyle?

43	
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comments on Hirano's lack of fear?

44	
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shows how easy Hirano finds it to ignore noise?

45	
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outlines Hirano's early experience of the sport?

46	
----	--

mentions some advice Hirano has been given?

47	
----	--

describes how snowboarders relax between competitions?

48	
----	--

compares how Hirano is thought of in different places?

49	
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shows how ambitious Hirano is?

50	
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mentions that Hirano is unaware of his reputation?

51	
----	--

explains Hirano's growing popularity?

52	
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## Ayumu Hirano, Young Snowboarding Star

**A** The room was hopping. Seemingly everywhere you looked, X Games athletes were eating, laughing and enjoying a few minutes out of the spotlight. Some played video games. Others received a massage. And the rest were glued to the Women's Snowboard final on one of the oversized flat screen televisions in the room. Except for one person, that is. On this night in the X Games athlete lounge, the youngest competitor at this week's X Games Aspen, 14-year-old Japanese snowboarder Ayumu Hirano, was oblivious to everything going on around him. Tucked into the corner of a couch, he sat slumped on his side, his head resting on a white pillow while his ski cap was pulled over his eyes. The kid was sound asleep. Even when the room erupted after Elena Hight landed the first double rodeo in the Women's final, Hirano didn't budge.

**B** On Sunday night, Hirano will hopefully be able to stay awake long enough to join six other competitors who will try to keep the current champion from winning his record sixth consecutive gold medal. In Thursday night's elimination, the 1.5-metre eighth grader became a fan favorite thanks to his trademark big air jump. His top score of 78.66 placed him sixth. He is quite clear about his goals for Sunday night's finals. "I want to be on that podium," he said through a translator.

Not much is known about Hirano, who has followed in the footsteps of fellow Japanese snowboarder Kazuhiro Kokubo, who also emerged onto the scene in his early teens. Now 24, Kokubo has served as a mentor to Hirano, who spends about 60 per cent of his year in Japan and 40 per cent training in the United States. Kokubo's tips come on and off the hill, covering everything from how to be a good person to how to land a particular trick.

**C** This week, Hirano has been joined by his parents, who are visiting the United States for the first time. Hirano was introduced to action sports through his father, Hidenori, who owns a surf shop and a skate park in a small city on the coast of Japan. When a family friend gave his older brother a snowboard, Ayumu followed along. At the time, he was just 4 years old. Hirano doesn't remember that day. His earliest snowboarding memory is competing in a junior competition when he was 6.

Luckily for Hirano, he has little idea what the U.S. press is saying about him. "He doesn't even realize it," Hirano's manager, Carl Harris, said. "It's probably better that way. There isn't a lot of pressure. He's just the coolest kid in the competition. He goes out there and is like, 'Whatever. I'm just here to ride.' When asked this week what scares him, Hirano struggled to answer, pondering the question for several minutes before finally confessing "Nothing comes to mind."

**D** Hirano's parents have some concerns about the fact their son has missed so much school to chase his snowboarding dreams. Hirano attends classes whenever he is in Japan, but that is only 60 per cent of the year. Friends have questioned why Hirano's parents were letting their son miss such an important part of his life. "Not everyone has the same chance that he has," said Hirano's father, Hidenori. "Because he is doing so well and trying so hard we don't want to take it away from him. Although sometimes people can get duped if they don't have a good education, I feel, if he can try this hard at snowboarding, nothing can stop him."

While Hirano's popularity is growing in the United States, back in Japan he's just another kid. "He's a nobody back home," his dad said. "Just another middle schooler who misses a lot of class." But come Sunday night, that nobody will find himself under the bright lights in the final event of X Games Aspen. If he can keep awake.