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BOOK YOUR FUNCTIONAL SKILLS EXAM NOW!

Pearson Edexcel Functional Skills – Level 2

Practice 1

Time: 75 minutes

Paper Reference **PENR2**

English

Component 2: Reading Text Booklet

Do not return this Text Booklet with the Question and Answer booklet.

Instructions

- You should write your answers in the Question and Answer Booklet.
- You must **not** write any responses to questions in this Text Booklet.

Information

- This Text Booklet contains the three texts required for the Level 2 Component 2: Reading exam.
- This Text Booklet must be securely destroyed by the centre immediately after the exam has been completed.

Advice

- Read each text before you answer the questions.

Turn over ►

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Pearson

Text A

Report

Television viewing habits in the UK

Paragraph 1

Teenagers and children are watching far fewer television programmes at the scheduled time of broadcast than they were in 2010. There has been a move to digital viewing. People are watching catch-up TV on a phone, laptop or tablet and using TV and film services such as Amazon and Netflix.

Paragraph 2

There is an escalating gap between the viewing habits of younger and older people. According to Ofcom, 16 to 24 year olds watched 114 minutes of scheduled TV a day last year. This is far less than the average viewer who watched 212 minutes a day. Those most loyal to watching conventional TV are the over 65s who watched 344 minutes per day on average.

Paragraph 3

On-demand and streaming services have transformed the way people watch. Children and young people now expect to watch what they want, when they want. They don't want to hang about for a week to see the next episode of a programme. Expert Dr Mike Agari says: 'Online services mean young people can be up with the latest series. Binge-watching has become the norm.'

Paragraph 4

Traditional TV sets have lost the battle with laptops, tablets, smartphones and other devices. People are glued to their phones, checking them regularly, and many people also use individual devices like phones to watch short programmes and YouTube clips. Some viewers only use traditional sets to watch extended programmes and films.

Paragraph 5

Some parents and carers are unhappy about the impact of these changes on family life. 'The days of the family chilling together in front of a TV show on Saturday evenings are long gone,' says Dr Agari. 'People either go to their own rooms or sit in the same room but watch different shows on individual devices.'



Text B

Webpage

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the address bar containing 'www.debate.web/screentime'. The page title is 'screentime'. The main heading is 'Do we spend too much time in front of screens?'. Below the heading is an image of five young people looking at their phones. The text below the image reads: 'Whether it's for study, work or relaxation, we are spending more time in front of screens. Is it too much, especially for young people? Two experts give their opinions.' The article is presented in two columns. The left column is by Anthony Crowther, an ICT content developer, and the right column is by Anne-Marie Branski, a child psychologist. A footnote at the bottom left of the article area reads: '1 A Decade of Digital Dependency' – a report by Ofcom.

Do we spend too much time in front of screens?



Whether it's for study, work or relaxation, we are spending more time in front of screens. Is it too much, especially for young people? Two experts give their opinions.

Anthony Crowther – ICT content developer	Anne-Marie Branski – child psychologist
<p>Yes, we spend a lot of time in front of screens: this is because they have improved our lives immeasurably. Imagine studying or working without access to the internet. And as for entertainment, there is now limitless choice – music, films, YouTube – all at our fingertips.</p> <p>Social media enables us not only to communicate with people across the world, but to share people's lives from a distance. We can also keep up-to-date with the news as it happens, and e-learning makes education accessible to everyone, everywhere.</p> <p>Recent research by Oxford University suggests that, for teenagers, moderate levels of connectivity (four hours on a computer and two hours on a smartphone per day) enhance creativity. Another study shows that technology doesn't affect young people's sleep, as parents fear, but can improve their communication skills.</p> <p>So let's stop panicking and appreciate the fact that we live in the digital age.</p>	<p>The average person in the UK spends one day a week online and young people spend four hours a day on their phones¹. People are utilising so many devices for work, study and leisure that it amounts to far too much screen time.</p> <p>The research by Oxford University didn't consider the negative impact of screen time on teenagers. Lack of exercise has been linked to health risks, like obesity. Violence on TV can affect children's behaviour in school and too much screen time delays language development.</p> <p>Spending hours in front of a screen, binge-watching box sets, for example, can prevent us from doing other important things like engaging face-to-face with people, pursuing interests and boosting our fitness. Social media reduces the time available for young people to read and can also cause problems with friendships.</p> <p>It's time to take a step back and review our digital lives.</p>

¹ 'A Decade of Digital Dependency' – a report by Ofcom



Text C

Article

Time to dial down digital use?

By Jonathan Wells

Are you completely dependent on your screens? Do you spend so much time in front of them, you don't have time to pursue other hobbies and interests? The average person spends a mind-boggling ten years of their life watching television. Although people, especially young people, are watching less traditional TV, viewing a box set rather than one episode of a show is now commonplace. People check their smartphones up to 200 times a day and most people say they might struggle to go for 24 hours without connecting to the internet.

The availability of different devices means we use them for work and play, to communicate with others and to keep ourselves informed. This can have a negative impact on our relationships: we may be too engrossed in our phones to have a conversation at mealtimes or immersed in doing our own thing on different devices, even when relaxing in the living room with family or friends.

If you think you and your family need to review your screen time, and make some adjustments, follow these guidelines. First of all, list all the gadgets you use and compile a record of how much time you are spending on them – there are apps to help. Then decide what activities you enjoy doing but don't have time to do currently. Finally make a plan: you must be resolute and self-disciplined to reduce your technology use, but here are some strategies to help you succeed. Remember – no pain, no gain.

- ◇ Set yourself realistic targets that you can keep to.
- ◇ Schedule your viewing / social media use and keep to the times you have specified.
- ◇ Remove phones from your bedroom to improve your sleep patterns, and prohibit devices during mealtimes so everyone can focus on enjoying conversation.
- ◇ Put phones and tablets away when you are socialising and give people your full attention.
- ◇ Try leaving your phone at home when you go shopping or to the gym. It's important to keep phones on silent to avoid annoying distractions at other times, and turn off notifications.
- ◇ Change one thing at a time and persevere with it for at least a week.
- ◇ Consider a digital downtime holiday where you leave technology behind and concentrate on living in the present and just appreciating your surroundings.

Source: Adapted from <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/better/technology/9-ways-to-start-and-stick-to-a-digital-detox/>

Text B image – © DisobeyArt. Shutterstock





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