SCREEN ADDICTS: CHILDREN, COMPUTERS AND TELEVISION

Children in Britain sit in front of a TV or computer screen for four-and-a-half hours a day, alarming research reveals. Youngsters now spend an average of one hour and 50 minutes online and two hours 40 minutes in front of the television every day. A report released by research firm ChildWise found that children spend more time in front of a screen in one day than they spend exercising in the entire week.

The report suggests that screens are increasingly turning into electronic babysitters and children in the UK are spending more time plugged in than ever. It found that 97 per cent of 11 to 16-year-olds own a mobile phone – eight per cent more than the percentage of adults who own one. And it showed that young girls have a voracious appetite for celebrity magazines such as OK! and Heat rather than more traditional teenage magazines such as Jackie. The report also found that two in three children aged between five and 16, and 77 per cent of children aged 11 to 16, have their own television or personal computer and, despite fears about online safety, almost half have internet access in their own room.

The study warns that many youngsters are using mobile phones to learn about each others’ bodies and access X-rated porn. Dr Emma Bond, an expert in childhood and youth studies, said adults “need to take our heads out of the sand” about what is happening to young, impressionable children.

But despite the popularity of the internet and mobile phones, the next generation is still likely to be one of telly addicts. Around 63 per cent of children have a television set in their room but as the popularity of laptops increases and programmes are increasingly available online this is likely to drop.

Adapted from Mail Online <http://dailymail.co.uk>

QUESTIONS

I. READING COMPREHENSION. (2 POINTS) (0.5 points for each correct answer)
Add TRUE or FALSE and copy the evidence from the text to support your answer.
NO marks are given for only true or false. NO marks are given for “V”.

1. Children in the UK spend most of the day in front of a TV or a computer screen.
2. Never before have British children spent more time in front of a screen.
3. Young girls prefer reading teenage publications to celebrity magazines.
4. The next generation will possibly be very fond of TV.
II. LEXICON / PHONETICS (2 POINTS):

A. LEXICON. (1 POINT) (0.25 points for each correct answer)
Find words or phrases in the text that mean the same as these given.
1. shocking.
2. proportion.
3. greedy.
4. decrease.

B. PHONETICS. (1 POINT) (0.25 points for each correct answer)
1. Write a word from the text that includes the same sound as “screen” /i:/ (0.25)
2. Is the “ch” in “research” pronounced as /ʃ/ or as /tʃ/? (0.25)
3. How is the “th” pronounced in “rather”, /θ/ or /ð/? (0.25)
4. How is the “‐s” pronounced in “heads”, /s/, /z/ or /ɪz/? (0.25)

III. USE OF ENGLISH. (3 POINTS) (0.5 points for each correct answer)
Rewrite the following sentences starting with the words given:

1. John didn’t attend Paula’s wedding party because he was abroad.
   If John …………………………………………………………………………………………….

2. They are building a new school near the church.
   A new school …………………………………………………………………………………………….

3. I met a British girl yesterday. She was really nice.
   The British girl …………………………………………………………………………………………….

4. People think that the Internet is very dangerous for children.
   The Internet …………………………………………………………………………………………….

5. It’s three years since my sister started to learn German.
   My sister …………………………………………………………………………………………….

6. Write the correct question for the underlined words.
   …………………………………………………………………………………………………….?
   The report was released more than twenty years ago.

IV. COMPOSITION. (3 POINTS)
Write a composition of between 100 and 125 words on the following topic:

How important is the Internet in your life?
THE CITY OF NORWICH

Norwich, the capital of the part of Britain known as East Anglia, has existed as a place to live for more than two thousand years. Today, in comparison with places like London or Manchester, Norwich is quite small, with a population of around 150,000, but in the 16th century Norwich was the second city of England. It continued to grow for the next 300 years and got richer and richer, becoming famous for having as many churches as there are weeks in the year and as many pubs as there are days in the year.

In 1964 the University of East Anglia was built in Norwich. With its fast growing student population and its success as a modern commercial centre (Norwich is the biggest centre for insurance services outside London), the city now has a wide choice of entertainment: theatres, cinemas, nightclubs, busy cafes, excellent restaurants, and a number of arts and leisure centres. There is also a football team, whose colours are green and yellow. The team is known as 'The Canaries', though nobody can be sure why.

Now the city's attractions include another important development, a modern shopping centre called 'The Castle Mall'. The people of Norwich lived with a very large hole in the middle of their city for over two years, as builders dug up the main car park. Lorries moved nearly a million tons of earth so that the roof of the Mall could become a city centre park, with attractive water pools and hundreds of trees. The local people are really pleased that the old open market remains next to the Mall. Both areas continue to do good business, proving that Norwich has managed to mix the best of the old and the new.

Adapted from <http://esl-its.net/interact/sets/detailed/detailed8/detailed8.htm>

QUESTIONS

I. READING COMPREHENSION. (2 POINTS) (0.5 points for each correct answer)
Add TRUE or FALSE and copy the evidence from the text to support your answer.
NO marks are given for only true or false. NO marks are given for “V”.

1. Norwich has always been one of the smallest English cities of England.
2. The number of students in Norwich is increasing.
3. The Norwich City football team is called 'The Canaries' because of the colours the players wear.
4. The old market is far from The Castle Mall.
II. LEXICON / PHONETICS (2 POINTS):

A. LEXICON. (1 POINT) (0.25 points for each correct answer)
Find words or phrases in the text that mean the same as these given.
   1. well-known.
   2. erected.
   3. almost.
   4. combine.

B. PHONETICS. (1 POINT) (0.25 points for each correct answer)
   1. Write a word from the text that includes the same diphthong sound as “thousand” /aʊ/.
   2. How is the “th” pronounced in “though”, /θ/ or /ð/?
   3. How is the “-s” pronounced in “hundreds”, /s/, /z/ or /ɪz/?
   4. Write a word from the text that includes the same sound as “good” /ʊ/.

III. USE OF ENGLISH. (3 POINTS) (0.5 points for each correct answer)
Rewrite the following sentences starting with the words given:

   1. Although they made an effort, they failed.
   Despite ..................................................................................................................

   2. People in Norwich are not as busy as people in Manchester.
   People in Manchester ..........................................................................................

   3. You should take your dog to the vet.
   You had .............................................................................................................

   4. Norwich is so lively that everybody has fun.
   Norwich is ........................................................................................................

   5. The Nazis killed her father during the war.
   Her father ........................................................................................................

   6. You don’t have to copy the text word for word.
   You .....................................................................................................................

IV. COMPOSITION. (3 POINTS)
Write a composition of between 100 and 125 words on the following topic:

   Advantages and disadvantages of living in a small city like Norwich