



Writing Skills Test

Instructions to examinees:

- (i) Answer all **THREE** questions.
(ii) Answer in **black** pen only.
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Q.1 Write an essay of approximately 300 words on any one of the following topics:

- (i) Effect of media on creating public opinion
(ii) Can political instability hurt economic growth?
(iii) Zero investment start-up businesses
(iv) Mental health is equally important as physical health

Your essay will be assessed on the following criteria:

- Introduction and conclusion.
- Quality of text, use of idioms and phrases.
- Language, vocabulary, organization and logical presentation of ideas.

(15)

(Word count also carries mark)

Q.2 Write a précis of 125-135 words of the following passage. (Word count carries mark)

Pandemic has fundamentally altered every part of our lives, not least the time we spend on digital devices. For young people in particular, the blurred line between recreational and educational screen time presents new challenges.

Even before COVID-19, there were concerns about screen time for children. An international survey found four in five children were exceeding the current health recommendation of two hours' recreational screen time a day. This was on top of screen time linked to learning.

With lockdowns and social restrictions being the new normal, it is increasingly difficult to disengage from screens. Children are growing up in a digital society, surrounded by a multitude of devices used for everything from social connection to learning and entertainment.

The boundaries between recreation, communication and learning are becoming less distinct. Screen time that may seem on the surface to be purely recreational can in reality be important for learning, supporting mental health and driving awareness of important issues. YouTube, for example, can be both entertaining and educational. It is increasingly used in classes to supplement teaching. Likewise, the popular online game Minecraft has been shown to provide rich educational and social benefits.

This all presents an interesting dilemma: can we really fit screen time into discrete categories, and should we apply limits to some but not others? This blurring of boundaries has led researchers to call for clearer and more detailed official screen time recommendations.

While research indicates a broad association between excessive screen time and a range of behavioural, learning and other problems, the results are far from conclusive and can generally be attributed to other factors. The research also found the type of screen time is important: in many cases, negative effects were driven by passive screen use, whereas interactive use didn't have the same impacts. In fact, the latter can have positive influences, such as better learning achievement and enhanced cognitive skills.

This suggests we need to reorient our views of screen time away from a rounded measure of time spent on screens and towards better understanding what children are really doing on those screens. This should also guide the adoption of technology in schools. Some principles can be applied to the use of digital devices limiting passive consumption among students. This will open up new learning opportunities and provide students with authentic experiences.

(10)

- Q.3 A massive fire in B-town's Cloth Market has reduced almost 100 shops to ashes. The market's traders said that 90% of the shops and warehouses were destroyed and a loss worth Rs. 5-10 billion has been incurred. The owners of the shops are trying to remove leftover stock from the market.

Talking to the news media, some traders alleged that chemical was used to set the market on fire as there was some dispute between the builder and shop owners.

B-Town Commissioner and law enforcement agencies' personnel visited the site and ordered investigation of the situation. Government is facing strong resistance from victims of the incident.

As the spokesperson of Commissioner House, the Commissioner has asked you to write a letter to the editor of "Dawn" and "The News" to clarify the situation and also inform the public regarding the ongoing investigation. You may assume any details to make the case persuasive. Assume your name as Ridwan Bari.

(15)

(THE END)