

TEXT 1 SECTION A: COMPREHENSION

QUESTION 1: READING FOR MEANING AND UNDERSTANDING

Read **TEXTS A** and **TEXT B** below and answer the set questions

TEXT A

THE IMPACT OF TECHNOLOGY ON THE DEVELOPING CHILD

- 1 Reminiscing about the good old days when we were growing up is a memory trip well worth taking when trying to understand the issues facing the children of today. A mere 20 years ago, children used to play outside all day, riding bikes, playing sports and building forts. Masters of imaginary games, children of the past created their own form of play that didn't require costly equipment or parental supervision. Children of the past moved... a lot, and their sensory world was nature based and simple. In the past, family time was often spent doing chores, and children had expectations to meet on a daily basis. The dining room table was a central place where families came together to eat and talk about their day, and after dinner became the centre for baking, crafts and homework. 5 10
- 2 Today's families are different. Technology's impact on the 21st century family is fracturing its very foundation, and causing a disintegration of core values that long ago were the fabric that held families together. Juggling school, work, home, and community lives, parents now rely heavily on communication, information, and transportation technology to make their lives faster and more efficient. Entertainment technology (TV, Internet, video games, iPads, cell phones) has advanced so rapidly, that families have scarcely noticed the significant impact and changes to their family structure and lifestyles. A 2010 Kaiser Foundation study showed that elementary aged children use on average 7.5 hours per day on entertainment technology, 75 percent of these children have TVs in their bedrooms, and 50 percent of North American homes have the TV on all day. Gone is dining room table conversation, replaced by the "big screen" and take-aways. 15 20
- 3 Children now rely on technology for the majority of their play, grossly limiting challenges to their creativity and imaginations, as well as limiting necessary challenges to their bodies to achieve optimal sensory and motor development. Sedentary bodies bombarded with chaotic sensory stimulation are resulting in delays in attaining child developmental milestones, with subsequent negative impact on basic foundation skills for achieving literacy. Hard-wired for high speed, today's young are entering school struggling with self-regulation and the attention skills necessary for learning, eventually becoming significant behaviour- management problems for teachers in the classroom. 25 30
- 4 So what is the impact of technology on the developing child? Children's developing sensory, motor, and attachment systems have biologically not evolved to accommodate this sedentary, yet frenzied and chaotic nature of today's technology. The impact of rapidly advancing technology on the developing child has seen an increase of physical, psychological and behaviour disorders that the health and education systems are just beginning to detect, much less understand. Child obesity and diabetes are now national epidemics in both Canada and the U.S., causally related to technology overuse. Diagnoses of ADHD, autism, co-ordination disorder, 35

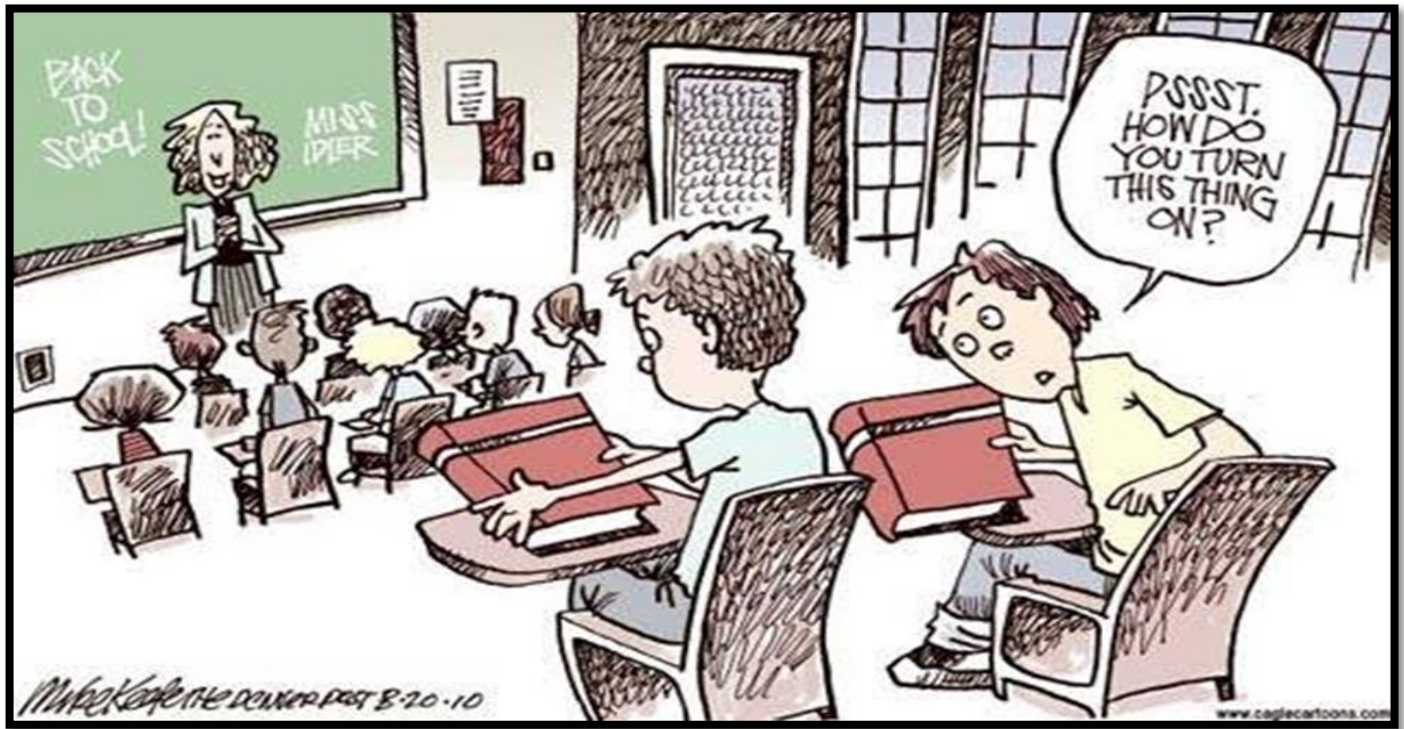
developmental delays, unintelligible speech, learning difficulties, sensory processing disorder, anxiety, depression, and sleep disorders are associated with technology overuse, and are increasing at an alarming rate. 40

5 Four critical factors necessary to achieve healthy child development are: movement, touch, human connection, and exposure to nature. These types of sensory input ensure normal development of posture, bilateral co-ordination, optimal arousal states and self-regulation necessary for achieving foundation skills for eventual school entry. Young children require 2-3 hours per day of active rough-and-tumble play to achieve adequate sensory stimulation to their vestibular, proprioceptive and tactile systems. Tactile stimulation received through touching, hugging and play is critical for the development of praxis, or planned movement patterns. Touch also activates the parasympathetic system, lowering cortisol, adrenalin and anxiety. Nature and “green space” has not only a calming influence on children, but also is attention-restorative and promotes learning. 45 50 6

It’s important to come together as parents, teachers and therapists to help society “wake up” and see the devastating effects technology is having not only on our child’s physical, psychological and behavioural health, but also on their ability to learn and sustain personal and family relationships. While technology is a train that will continually move forward, knowledge regarding its detrimental effects, and action taken toward balancing the use of technology with critical factors for development, will work toward sustaining our children. While no one can argue the benefits of advanced technology in today’s world, connection to these devices may have resulted in a disconnection from what society should value most, children. Rather than hugging, playing, rough-housing, and conversing with children, parents are increasingly resorting to providing their children with more TV, video games, and the latest iPads and cell phone devices, creating a deep and irreversible chasm between parent and child. 55 60

[Adapted from <https://www.huffingtonpost.com/.../technology-children-negative-impact/>]

TEXT B



QUESTIONS: TEXT A

- 1.1 How does the writer, in paragraph 1, consider her childhood, compared with those of children today? (2)
- 1.2 Explain what the writer means by 'their sensory world was nature based and simple' (line 6). (2)
- 1.3 Refer to line 11: 'Today's families are different.'
Account for the change of tense. (2)
- 1.4 Refer to paragraph 2 (lines 13 – 15): 'Juggling school, work ... more efficient.'
Comment on the implication of this sentence in the context of the passage. (2)
- 1.5 Discuss the writer's intention in using statistics in paragraph 2. (2)
- 1.6 Discuss how the diction in paragraph 3 reveals the writer's attitude towards the impact of modern technologies on children. (3)
- 1.7 Refer to lines 36 – 37: 'Child obesity and diabetes ... both Canada and the U.S.'
Comment critically on the writer's reference to U.S. and Canada. (3)
- 1.8 Critically assess the writer's use of medical jargon in paragraph 5. (3)
- 1.9 In your opinion, is the final paragraph an effective conclusion to the article?
Justify your response with reference to the text as a whole. (3)

QUESTIONS: TEXT B

1.10 Complete the statement below. Choose the answer and write only the letter (A–D) next to the question number (1.10) in the foolscap.

The attitude of the speaker can be defined as...

- A indignant.
- B resigned.
- C bewildered.
- D nonchalant. (1)

1.10 Critically discuss the impact this cartoon is intended to have on the reader. (3)

QUESTION: TEXTS A AND B

1.11 In your view, does TEXT B support or contradict the writer of TEXT A's view on the impact of technology on the youth? Refer to paragraph 6 of TEXT A in your response. (4)

TOTAL SECTION A: 30