Name _____ Class _____ Date _____

SKILLS TEST 5 & 6

READING

1 Read the article quickly. Match the numbers to the information.

Do we spend too much time in front of screens?

In the UK, 71% of people own a smartphone, and many believe that this helps bring people together. Nevertheless, many are now starting to complain that technology can interfere badly with our work and social lives.

According to a recent survey, around 59% said that they felt they were addicted to using laptops, phones or other devices for accessing the Internet. Furthermore, another 30% said they found it difficult to stop themselves from going online.

Although the Internet makes it a whole lot easier to get information, keep in touch with friends, and browse for entertainment, it can also become a huge problem if people are using it too much. Nearly 20% of teenagers in the survey confessed that this had made them late for school. However, far more teenagers – 60% – said that they were forgetting to do their homework because they were too busy doing something else online.

It isn't just teenagers who are finding screen addiction a problem. Surprisingly, adults are spending around 25 hours a week online. In total, people are going online to post updates, check emails, use apps and so on more than 50 times each day.

It is not surprising, then, that many of us feel that the Internet has a negative effect on our lives. Around 40% believe that their friends are a lot more interested in using their smartphone or tablet in social situations than interacting with the real people around them. It is increasingly common for people to text messages to their family or friends, despite these people actually being in the same house or room.

Perhaps all of this explains why more of us are deliberately looking for ways to escape being online. Many people in the survey said that they tried to spend one day each week not using the Internet at all and some said that they regularly managed to do this for a whole week. Around 16% said that they tried to plan holidays where they wouldn't have any Internet access at all (for example, farms in the countryside, or remote mountain villages). One of the main reasons for this, according to 38% of people, was to spend a lot more time face-to-face with their friends and family.

Interestingly, younger people are more likely to succeed in giving up the Internet than older adults. 'Phone stacking' is become a new fashion among friends – going to cafés or restaurants, and promising to put their smartphones in the middle of the table and not touch them until everyone leaves. And in some places, internet-free cafés and bars are becoming more popular with young people who just want to enjoy time together without feeling the need to go online.

1	71	a	the percentage of teenagers who have missed the start of school because of technology
2	59	b	the percentage of people who think their friends are ignoring them
3	20	c	the percentage of British people who have a smartphone
4	60	d	the percentage of people who wanted to spend more time with other people
5	50	e	the percentage of teenagers who don't study at home properly
6	40	f	the percentage of people who choose internet-free breaks
7	16	g	the percentage of people who felt they use technology too much
8	38	h	the number of times a day people check something online

☐ 8

2 Read the article again. Mark these sentences T (true) or F (false), or DS (the article doesn't say).

1 Many people who own smartphones can identify problems with using them. ☐
2 Most people use the Internet for work. ☐
3 Most teenagers in the survey feel that the Internet helps them concentrate on homework. ☐
4 Some people send messages to each other when they could easily speak to them. ☐
5 There are very few places where there is no Internet access. ☐
6 People want internet-free places so that they needn't communicate with other people. ☐
7 Young people are finding new ways to limit the amount of time they spend online. ☐

☐ 7

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Name _____ Class _____ Date _____

SKILLS TEST 5 & 6

LISTENING

3 **Listen to the story of a romance that began online. Tick [✓] the seven things that are mentioned in the story.**

1 Justin and Amy met after not being together for 30 years. ☐
2 Justin and Amy didn't like their school. ☐
3 They appeared together in old school photos. ☐
4 They were really good friends at school. ☐
5 They wanted to find each other again on the Internet. ☐
6 When they met 30 years later, they both fell in love. ☐
7 They didn't realise at first that they had been at the same school. ☐
8 They decided that they would get married in the future. ☐
9 Justin's mother didn't like Amy. ☐
10 Justin's mother had a photo of the two people together. ☐

☐ 7

4 **Listen again. Complete the summary with one word in each gap.**

1 Amy and Justin hadn't met for _____ years.
2 They had been to the same _____ school when they were little children.
3 They had appeared together in _____ .
4 They moved home, and went to different _____ in Florida.
5 Many years later, they were using _____ websites to find love.
6 They liked each other and _____ every day.
7 When they met in a _____ , they fell in love immediately.
8 It was Justin's _____ who helped them realise they already knew each other, by finding an old photo.

☐ 8

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SKILLS TEST 5 & 6

WRITING

5 Write instructions to a friend (190–220 words) explaining how to do one of the things (1–4) below. Use the tips to help you.

1 How to use your favourite app.
2 How to take a good photo of yourself with a smartphone.
3 How to play your favourite online game.
4 How to download music or films.

- Decide who you are writing to (a beginner, or someone more experienced)
- Give your instructions in a logical order (use words and phrases like *the first thing, then, finally …*)
- Explain why you need to do things (use words and phrases like *this means, to …*)

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

20

SPEAKING

6 Work in pairs. Look at the photos below. They show people in front of screens. Take turns to describe your photo, and say what you think the people are doing. Then, decide together which use of screens is more useful. Use comparative adjectives where possible.

It's easily the … *It's even …*

It's a whole lot … *… by far*

It's far and away …

A



B



7 Now take turns to discuss these questions.

1 Do you think people spend too much time in front of screens? (Why? / Why not?)
2 Why do you think screens are so common in our society?
3 What advice would you give to someone who wants to spend less time online?
4 Do you think people will use screens more or less in the future? (Why?)

20

TOTAL SCORE 70

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