

**English Exemption Exam****SAMPLE****Writing****60 minutes**

You will write between 100 - 500 words on a subject of personal or general significance. You must choose from 3 questions.

To have a chance of being exempted from the Prep. Writing Program you must choose Question A. You must also refer to the short texts on the following page.

Your work will be marked according to your ability to:

- respond to the question with relevant details and ideas;
- use appropriate conventions in language (and discourse) to make your writing resemble the structure that is requested in the question you choose;
- use accurate written language

Choose **ONE** of the following three questions

(To increase your chance of being exempted from the Prep. Program, you must answer Question A. If you choose Question C, you cannot be placed higher than Writing Level 2.)

Question A

Write 400 - 500 words for the question below. In your answer:

- Write an introduction, body paragraphs and a conclusion.
- Express your ideas as clearly as you can.
- Include main ideas and supporting ideas/details.

What are the positive and negative effects of digital technology* on human relationships?

Use the short texts on the following page to support your answer. When you use/take ideas from these texts be sure to write them into your essay in an appropriate way.

OR**Question B**

Answer this question as clearly as you can in more than one paragraph.

Write 200 - 300 words.

How has digital technology* improved your life?

OR**Question C**

In 80 - 150 words, write at least one paragraph.

How do the people in your family use digital technology*?

* Digital technology = Computer technology

USE THESE TEXTS TO SUPPORT YOUR ANSWER TO QUESTION A

My biggest issue with technology and relationships is the inability to detect tone. You can never really know when someone is being sarcastic, funny, not funny, serious or joking sometimes. I can't tell you how many times I've wondered what someone meant by their words – whether on social media, in a text or over email. Unless you see the person's face, hear their voice and understand the environment, you have no idea the context surrounding the written words.

Misunderstandings, miscommunications and assumptions result, which have an impact on how we view others.

Brain Kramer

With the proliferation of technologies that are able to overcome the obstacles of time and space (e.g., airplanes, cars, the Internet), one would think that these tools would be used to gain an understanding of other cultures, meet people all over the world, maintain and strengthen familial relationships, communicate effectively with others, and help people to become more socially adept. However, some technological advances cause people to be distracted, overly stressed, and increasingly isolated. Many people are involved in an abundant number of relationships through technology, but sometimes the quantity of these associations leaves people feeling qualitatively empty. Obviously, technology has had a profound impact on what it means to be social.

Human Kinetics

Technology has opened up a whole new platform for young people to create. They can share content via blogs, animations, videos and photos, all of which help empower individuals to develop their own sense of creativity and identity. They are making new content, reworking old content and coming up with new and more creative ideas to get a message across, express an idea or connect with others. There is much that can be encouraged by allowing our children this freedom to create.

Old Dog, New Tricks

The online world creates places where people can find connections, 'like-minded' people and groups where they feel they are part of a community. The use of hashtags in Twitter and groups and pages on Facebook are examples of ways that kids can find people to connect with whilst their struggles, their endeavours or their interests can be supported by friendship, advice, expert knowledge, camaraderie and empathy.

The Modern Parent

Technology has become an electronic addiction for some, taking them out of the physical world as they cling to the features it offers. And like many addictions, there's an impact on the number and quality of human relationships. Conversations through social media and email take the place of traditional interactions and discussions; eventually, a person doesn't even need to leave the house to communicate with others – and many people won't. The cocooning phenomenon leads to social isolation that can be crippling for some.

Deb Shultz

There's no evidence establishing a connection between technology use and the decrease in the size of our core relationships. In fact, users of the Internet tend to report closer relationships as well as more diversity within these close relationships than non-users. And avid Facebook users reported 10 percent more close ties than average Internet users. Looking beyond the groups of closest confidants, researchers have found that Internet and technology users tend to have more social ties in what they term the "parochial realm" (e.g., relationships like those formed around neighbourhoods, the workplace, churches, volunteer organizations, clubs, etc.) than those who don't engage with the technology. And there's no indication that heavy Internet users participate in fewer traditional, face-to-face social activities—in fact, they seem to do so at a greater rate.

Dr Keith Hampton, University of Pennsylvania

Like any useful tool, to make technology serve us well requires good judgment. For whatever reason, the restraints that stop most of us from blurting out things in public we know we shouldn't seems far weaker when our mode of communication is typing. Unfortunately, typed messages often wound even more gravely, while electronic messages of remorse paradoxically have little power to heal. Perhaps we just don't think such messages have the same power to harm as when we say them in person. Perhaps in the heat of the moment without another's physical presence to hold us back, we just don't care. Whatever the reason, it's clearly far easier for us to be meaner to one another online.

Psychology Today

ID Number _____

Candidate Number _____

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