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ENGLISH HOME LANGUAGE

PAPER 1

QUESTION 2: SUMMARIES

2014 - 2016



COMPILED FOR METRO SOUTH EDUCATION DISTRICT'S TUTORIAL PROGRAMME

SECTION B: SUMMARY**QUESTION 2: SUMMARISING IN YOUR OWN WORDS**

Carefully read TEXT C below. It explores the way people experience time.

NOTE: You are required to do the following:

1. Summarise in your own words **what the writer has to say about people's experience of time.**
2. Your summary should include **SEVEN** points and **not exceed 90 words.**
3. Your summary must be in paragraph form.
4. You are **NOT** required to include a title for the summary.
5. Indicate your **word count** at the end of your summary.

TEXT C**SLOW DOWN TIME**

Time is extremely precious. Yet it can often feel as though it is rushing away from us, that there's never quite enough of it. Some of us are intolerant of the idea of 'losing' time. Part of this is to do with our personality (whether we are impatient or competitive), part is to do with our beliefs (in Western cultures, for example, people believe that they are free to shape their own destiny, and so it is up to them to work hard to achieve any goals).

Those people who hate the idea of lost time ensure they fill every last minute of it – a life filled is a life fulfilled, they believe. When they are busy all the time, they are happy, and when they try to relax they get agitated and bored. People like this consider boredom to be something unpleasant that is to be avoided at all costs.

Too much stimulation is not always a good thing. Aside from the stress, which can negatively affect one's health, it suddenly hits some people that they have had no time for themselves, and are disillusioned with life. Such people can become very unhappy.

But the idea that boredom is a waste of time is a misconception. Because filling our time with nothing, allowing ourselves to daydream, can be very constructive – it allows our feelings and thoughts to mature and our creativity to thrive.

That said, it's not just about allowing us to experience more 'empty' time. Our wellbeing can be improved by slowing down how we experience time, and different people can do this in different ways. Yoga and meditation are two of the best remedies – even if you can't manage a class every week, a few seconds at your desk to stop and breathe will relieve the pressure that comes when it feels as if you are running out of time.

There are those who spend their weekends gardening; the way they experience time while engaging in this activity is very different from the way they experience time during the busy working week. But you must find what works for you. The best advice is to take up a hobby.

[Source: Adapted from *Psychologies*, April 2012]

TOTAL SECTION B: 10

SECTION B: SUMMARY**QUESTION 2: SUMMARISING IN YOUR OWN WORDS**

Carefully read TEXT C below, which explores the impact of technology on education.

NOTE: You are required to do the following:

1. Summarise why the writer believes that **technology will not serve as a substitute for a teacher**.
2. You must write a **fluent paragraph**, using your own words.
3. Your summary should include **SEVEN** points and **NOT** exceed 90 words.
4. You are **NOT** required to include a title for the summary.
5. Indicate your **word count** at the end of your summary.

TEXT C**WHY TECHNOLOGY WON'T BE ABLE TO REPLACE TEACHERS**

With South Africa's needing 25 000 new educators annually, it is tempting to try to imagine that technology might be able to plug this gap. According to Masennya Dikotla, CEO of the Molteno Institute of Language and Literacy, this would be not only impossible but also an assumption that would be disastrous for education.

Dikotla claims that technology is a tool that can enable more effective teaching and learning, but in order for it to be used to greatest effect, a competent teacher's role is invaluable. Just as the advent of books many centuries ago was no competition for teachers, technology should be viewed as an enhancer, and never a replacement.

Well-trained teachers are still needed to adapt their lessons to learners' needs and provide more comprehensive feedback to students – a factor that is essential to learning. Dikotla points out that, when we use the products of technology as the only teaching tools, we stop figuring out why a child does not understand. Moreover, it requires a person to appreciate another person's unique characteristics and, therefore, how the learning process might need to be adjusted in order for a child to grasp a particular concept. Dikotla says that a computer program might be excellent at analysing test scores, but it can't take into account the human aspect. 'The Internet can go down and systems can fail; but in my experience it is only a teacher who can properly mark a written essay and talk to the student afterwards about the result.'

It is also important to note that humans actively seek human contact. Children enjoy positive engagement with an adult: the ability to make eye contact and receive the warm encouragement of someone – this is the kind of input that makes all the difference when it comes to motivating a child. In addition, it takes human teachers to impart soft skills such as respect, communication, socialisation, interactive abilities and conflict resolution.

'Computers cannot be passionate,' concludes Dikotla. 'They are merely a tool, and as teachers we show children how to use them to make their lives easier, but we cannot expect them to be the primary teachers themselves.'

[Source: Adapted from *Education Southern Africa*, Volume 7 No. 6, June 2013]

TOTAL SECTION B: 10

SECTION B: SUMMARY**QUESTION 2: SUMMARISING IN YOUR OWN WORDS**

Carefully read TEXT C below. It is an article on the role that parents can play in preparing their children for the 21st century.

NOTE: You are required to do the following:

1. Use the information below to write a summary of **how children should be prepared for the 21st century**.
2. You must write a **fluent paragraph**, using your own words.
3. Your summary should include **SEVEN** points and **NOT** exceed **90 words**.
4. You are **NOT** required to include a title for the summary.
5. Indicate your **word count** at the end of your summary.

TEXT C**21ST CENTURY LIFE: WILL CHILDREN BE READY?**

Today's children are expected to have multiple careers and roughly a dozen jobs before they reach the age of 30. *Forbes* magazine lists some of the jobs that may exist in 15 years' time: for example, gene screener, robot mechanic and quarantine enforcer. What can parents do to prepare children for their 21st century lives?

Parents should help their children to think of learning as a life-long process and not mere acquisition and memorisation of knowledge. Because the Internet allows such easy and rapid dissemination, children will always need to be proficient in the filtering, interpretation and evaluation of information. Parents should encourage their children to embrace opportunities for learning and self-improvement at home, at school, and in the community. Children should be allowed to build analytical, creative, social, emotional, and practical thinking skills.

The importance of effective communication cannot be over-emphasised. Like past generations, today's future adults will need to effectively express their thoughts and questions, but they will need to be effective in more modes of communication and with a larger variety of audiences. The world will continue to shrink and our children's ability to bridge cultural differences will serve them well. Therefore, it is important for children to think globally and learn about other languages and cultures.

Children need to understand that if they work hard, they can learn and improve in any area. It is desirable that they believe that they can utilise resources and with sincere effort learn and do what they care about. These attitudes are indeed 21st century and reflect what scientists understand about how our brains literally change as we learn and grow.

It is advisable that parents themselves become learners. Examples set by parents teach volumes. They could point out, for example, how to enter new situations, set goals, and draw on resources that help create and sustain positive change and learning. Were parents to focus on these principles, 21st century children could grow up to be confident, well-rounded individuals, empowered to learn and change as they need and desire, and ready to embrace or adapt to the inevitable waves of change the 21st century will bring.

[Adapted from <http://www.thinkparenting.com>]

TOTAL SECTION B: 10

SECTION B: SUMMARY**QUESTION 2: SUMMARISING IN YOUR OWN WORDS**

TEXT C addresses the positive outcomes of peer pressure. Summarise in your own words the benefits of being exposed to peer pressure.

- NOTE:**
1. Your summary should include SEVEN points and NOT exceed 90 words.
 2. You must write a fluent paragraph.
 3. You are NOT required to include a title for the summary.
 4. Indicate your word count at the end of your summary.

TEXT C**PEER PRESSURE – AN ALTERNATIVE VIEW**

Ten years ago, Joe Allen began studying a diverse group of seventh grade learners. One of his main concerns was how children deal with peer pressure and how deeply they feel the need to conform to the crowd.

According to every popular theory of adolescence, peer pressure is peril; being able to resist it should be considered a sign of character strength. Yet when Allen followed up on these children for the next ten years, he found that children exposed to more peer pressure early on were turning out better than their counterparts. Notably, they had higher-quality relationships with friends, parents and romantic partners. Their need to fit in, in the early teens, later manifested itself as a willingness to accommodate others – a necessary component of reciprocal relationships.

The self-conscious child who spent seventh grade convinced that everyone was watching her, learned to be attuned to subtle changes in others' moods. That heightened sensitivity later led to empathy and social adeptness. Meanwhile, those children who did not experience much peer pressure to smoke or drink did not turn out to be the independent-minded stars we would imagine. The child who could say no to his peers turned out to be less engaged socially. If he were too detached to care what his peers thought, he probably was not motivated by what society expected of him, either.

Allen found that vulnerability to peers' influence can be as much of an asset as a liability. Many pressures felt by teens pull them in the right direction – to perform well at school and sport and act maturely. Susceptibility to peer pressure is not the only danger. Merely resisting peer pressure could sever relationships, while negotiating with one's peers teaches true negotiation skills. Children who are able to stand up to friends, maintaining their autonomy while doing so in an amicable way, preserve their friendships. In simple terms, if two peers can agree to disagree, that is an excellent sign. Teens who have always backed down to avoid conflict later exhibit many negative outcomes, including depression and anxiety.

The skills a child needs to handle peer pressure come from the home. When parents and children focus on the reasons why they disagree, rather than resorting to personal attacks, a meeting of minds is possible. Children who learn a positive conflict style from interactions with their parents are positioned to use skilful negotiation tactics when dealing with peer pressure.

[Adapted from www.thedailybeast.com]

TOTAL SECTION B: 10

SECTION B: SUMMARY**QUESTION 2: SUMMARISING IN YOUR OWN WORDS**

TEXT C highlights the importance of colour. Summarise in your own words what it says about the effects of colour in our lives.

- NOTE:**
1. Your summary should include 7 points and NOT exceed 90 words.
 2. You must write a fluent paragraph.
 3. You are NOT required to include a title for the summary.
 4. Indicate your word count at the end of your summary.

TEXT C**A RAINBOW OF HUES**

Colour is a universal language and a healing tool that can be used to identify and correct imbalances in our lives. Colour therapy is an alternative treatment. It was used thousands of years ago by ancient Greek and Egyptian civilisations. Today, the use of colour therapy has been revived and is gaining popularity all over the world. The effect of colour on our bodies has a scientific foundation. Scientists discovered that the rays of each colour have different and specific vibrations which we absorb as we come into contact with certain colours.

Like love, colour is all around us. It is around in our food, our clothes, our homes, in nature and even in our speech. At times we all feel 'green with envy' or want to 'paint the town red'! Just like music or fragrances, colour evokes or triggers certain memories and feelings (good and bad) associated with people, places and past events. Quite often, we are not aware of why we suddenly feel happy or sad when we hear a certain song, smell vanilla or enter a room with yellow walls.

Colour is a universal, subconscious language and learning to understand it can help us see ourselves, our lives, our talents and challenges and the world at large in a different light. As we examine our physical, emotional and mental responses to different colours, we can use these observations to help assess our mental and emotional health.

The root cause of an issue or illness could be diagnosed by colour. Various methods of colour healing are used in treatment. Therefore we can make colour and its healing effects part of our everyday lives. Become aware of the colours of your clothes – do you choose them according to your mood? Look at your food and aim to see a rainbow on your plate.

Colour is an enjoyable and accessible way of getting to know ourselves on a deeper level. When we know who we are, what we like and dislike, what our triggers are, and what we need in order to grow, we can change our lives. As we make better decisions and learn to trust our intuition, our relationships and quality of life improve, and we become happier.

[Adapted from *Thrive*, Autumn 2014]

TOTAL SECTION B: 10

SECTION B: SUMMARY**QUESTION 2: SUMMARISING IN YOUR OWN WORDS**

Summarise in your own words the **undesirable effects of modern communication technology**, as presented in **TEXT C**.

- NOTE:**
1. Your summary should include **SEVEN** points and **NOT** exceed **90 words**.
 2. You must write a fluent paragraph, using your own words.
 3. You are **NOT** required to include a title for the summary.
 4. Indicate your word count at the end of your summary.

TEXT C**THE EFFECTS OF DIGITAL BURNOUT**

Each year seems more punishing than the previous one. We feel as if time is moving faster. Say 'hello' to digital burnout.

It's an accelerating build-up of our 'constantly on and connected' virtual lives and because it happens in cyberspace, we don't see it coming. Once someone reaches full digital burnout, a few weeks' leave will not be enough for recovery. Some people are hospitalised while others disappear into a dark hole of despair for months. It's a new, invisible threat to productivity and a company's workforce.

For the past few years, the online/offline conflict has been growing and is the root cause of many domestic disputes. At any given moment of a family's day or evening, including mealtimes, one or more members are inevitably glued to their cellphones.

We live two separate lives: an offline one, in which we are less and less present, and a virtual one, in which we spend most of our time. Research has found that we now spend more time on our communication devices than we do sleeping. The problem is that when we finally exit from the electronic world, we discover that there's still an entire (neglected) physical world with which we have to deal. This double life means that we essentially work the equivalent of 24 months in 12, which is why we feel increasingly tired.

What is more, there are now almost no boundaries between work and play. We no longer know when enough is enough. Our brains have had to become hyperactive and, because we switch seamlessly between the online and the offline worlds, we no longer have transition periods, which are as essential for the brain as pausing for breath is during exercise.

There is a global mindfulness movement on the rise: an attempt to anchor people in the physical world. 'Being present' is the new buzzword in the wellness industry and it is deeply ironic that a thousand-year-old practice has become an essential life skill for the digital age.

The problem runs far more deeply and is only now being recognised, as more and more people succumb to digital burnout. The reaction of most employers is to fire these 'weak' employees, rather than explore digital detoxification¹ programmes as part of their company wellness policies.

[Adapted from *Sawubona*, November 2014]

Glossary:

¹ Detoxification: purification/cleansing

TOTAL SECTION B: 10

SECTION B: SUMMARY**QUESTION 2: SUMMARISING IN YOUR OWN WORDS**

TEXT C provides insight into the importance of self-confidence. Summarise in your own words **the advantages of developing self-confidence**.

- NOTE:**
1. Your summary should include SEVEN points and NOT exceed **90 words**.
 2. You must write a fluent paragraph.
 3. You are NOT required to include a title for the summary.
 4. Indicate your word count at the end of your summary.

TEXT C**THE IMPORTANCE OF SELF-CONFIDENCE**

To achieve even the smallest of goals, and to get through life's daily duties and responsibilities, you have to have some self-confidence. Very importantly, developing a self-confident attitude allows you to wade through the push and pull of different voices and opinions. Relying on other people to guide you and following their opinions robs you of your individuality, makes you unsure of yourself and can lead to depression.

Self-confidence is an attitude that you hold about yourself and that allows you to move forward and achieve your goals. An article on self-confidence from the counselling centre at the University of Illinois defines self-confidence as having a positive attitude, but with realistic views. They note that a self-confident person has a general sense of control of her own life, and can do what she wishes, plans and expects. Self-confidence means that even if things don't go your way, you still believe that eventually, somehow, some way, they will.

Research at the University of Illinois notes that when parents play a significant role in the instilling of self-confidence in children, this encourages self-reliance. If you did not have your parents' help, you could not accomplish this yourself. Mentally visualising yourself in great detail as a confident person, is a great way to start being confident.

In his book, *Unleash the Champion*, Denny Dicke says that visualising is the most effective tool for building confidence and belief. After repeatedly visualising yourself being and acting confident, and achieving what you wish by confidently going after it, Dicke notes that when it does come time to move with confidence, you will act confidently because your mind sees this as familiar ground.

Becoming self-confident does not mean you are unrealistic about yourself and your situation. You understand that you are not Superman, but being confident means still moving forward toward achieving your goals and satisfying your desires, even when things don't seem to be going your way. Jennifer Capriati, the 1992 Olympic gold medal winner in singles tennis, said to herself, 'I can do this! I am the best!' Positive self-talk can really help get you through times of doubt, and help you to maintain that feeling of self-confidence.

[Adapted from <http://www.livestrong.com>]

TOTAL SECTION B: 10