



Delhi Public School, Howrah

PERIODIC ASSESSMENT I (2024-25)

CLASS- VIII

SUBJECT- ENGLISH

TIME- 1hr 30mins

F.M- 40

General Instructions:

The paper consists of 3 sections: Section A (Reading and Writing), Section B (Grammar) and Section C (Literature).

All questions are compulsory.

SECTION A- Reading & Writing (5+5=10 marks)

I. Read the following passage:

(5)

Media device use is increasing year by year in Italy as well as in many other countries. An ISTAT report reported that in 2019, 85.8% of Italian adolescents aged 11–17 years regularly used smartphones, and over 72% accessed the Internet via smartphones. Almost 95% of Italian families with a child had a broadband internet connection. Internet connection was mostly used to communicate with friends and to use social networks. In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic represented one of the greatest disruptions for everybody's everyday life, in Italy as well as all around the world. From the beginning of the pandemic period, media devices and Internet access rapidly increased. In line, a 2021 CENSIS report revealed an even progressive increment in smartphone use by adolescents, which reached 95%. In particular, the majority of adolescents (59%) admitted they use smartphones even more frequently than in the past with a daily use of more than 3 hours in 46% of cases. Adolescents connected Internet alone (59%), consulting social media, mostly Instagram (72%), TikTok (62%), and YouTube (58%). In this context, social interaction over the Internet or simply social network consulting may play an important part in the lives of many young people, influencing them and their relationship with self-esteem and well-being. Not being guided and monitored in Internet fruition, the young may be exposed to several risks, including cyberbullying which affects 7% of children aged 11–13 years and 5.2% of 14–17 years old adolescents or stalking which affects more than 600 minors in Italy. On social media, the young are more vulnerable and may display risky behaviour, including pertaining substance abuse, sexual behaviours, or violence.

On the other hand, media and social networks are, actually, present in almost any house and are considered a great resource for anybody, including children and adolescents. Especially during the "lockdown", Internet usage allowed communication with peers and continuity activities such as school teaching. Social media services enable various forms of communication verbally or visually by internet-based networking, bringing people together, and facilitating instant connection and interaction, such as a like or a comment on something. There was also a "school" use of smartphones and social media during lockdown which represented a tool for information and education.

In line, websites and applications that enable users to create and share content or to participate in social networking may be currently used as a definition of social media. Facebook launched in 2004 and Twitter in 2006 were the first social media introduced, rapidly followed by many others. Facebook with 2.9 billion monthly active users, YouTube with 2 billion, Instagram with 1.5 billion, and TikTok with 1 billion are the most

accessed social media in the world. As social media are spreading in everyday life, regulatory models are required to address a broad range of challenges social media pose to the community, including privacy and protection of sensitive data.

Media usage is related to some adverse consequences, especially in the most vulnerable people. The health emergency had a strong impact on the mental and psychological health of adolescents causing changes in their routine and daily activities. Forced isolation increased anxiety and stress especially in the most fragile individuals, such as children and adolescents, leading to a change in habitual lifestyles. The greatest risk was that of taking refuge in excessive use of smartphones, electronic devices, and social networks, running into a "digital overdose".

A recent survey conducted by the Italian Society of Pediatrics in collaboration with State Police and Skuola.net investigated the relationship with media devices in times of pandemic, investigating the habits of adolescents on the use of media and social networks, underlined that 15% of them declared they "cannot stay without" their own media device.

The aim of the review is to focus on risks correlated to social media use by the young, identifying spies of rising problems, and engaging in preventive recommendations.

Answer the questions based on the given passage:

(1.5+1+0.5+0.5+0.5+0.5+0.5)

- i. What are some of the risks associated with unguided internet usage by young people, as mentioned in the passage, and how can these risks be mitigated?
- ii. In what ways have media devices and social networks become integral parts of adolescents' lives, especially during times of isolation and lockdowns?
- iii. What percentage of Italian adolescents aged 11–17 years regularly used smartphones in 2019?
 - A) 72%
 - B) 85.8%
 - C) 95%
 - D) 59%
- iv. According to the passage, what is one of the risks associated with excessive social media use by young people?
 - A) Increased mental and psychological health
 - B) Enhanced self-esteem
 - C) Protection from cyberbullying
 - D) Vulnerability to cyberbullying and stalking
- v. Which organization collaborated with the Italian Society of Pediatrics and State Police in conducting a survey on adolescents' media device usage during the pandemic?
 - A) Italian Ministry of Education

B) World Health Organization

C) Skuola.net

D) Italian Red Cross

vi. Which regulatory challenge is mentioned in the passage concerning social media?

A) Promotion of data sharing

B) Protection of sensitive data and privacy

C) Facilitation of online anonymity

D) Encouragement of unrestricted content sharing

vii. Find a word from the passage that means:

a. exposed to the possibility of being harmed: Vulnerable

b. conversation: interaction

II. **Writing:**

(5)

Write a letter to the Municipal Commissioner, highlighting the issue of improper waste disposal in your locality and suggesting solutions

OR

Write a letter to the Minister of Education, highlighting the need for better infrastructure and resources in government schools.

SECTION B: GRAMMAR (10)

III. **Choose the correct options:**

(1X3=3)

1. Tina and Tyson have been preparing themselves for the entire semester. The underlined word is :

- a. Emphatic Pronoun
- b. Reflexive Pronoun
- c. Possessive Pronoun
- d. None of the above

2. The boys distributed the chocolate among one another. The underlined word is :

- a. Indefinite Pronoun
- b. Reciprocal Pronoun
- c. Personal Pronoun
- d. Possessive Pronoun

3. My friend and I spoke for the longest time in years. Identify the degree of the sentence:

- a. Positive Degree
- b. Comparative Degree
- c. Superlative Degree

IV. Transform the given sentences as directed:

(1X7=7)

- a. Netaji was one of the most supreme leaders of India. (Change to a comparative degree)
- b. Vietnam is not as populous as Sri Lanka. (Change to a comparative degree)
- c. The strikers of Afghanistan are more powerful than those of Bangladesh. (Change to a positive degree)
- d. If you do not practice well, you will not be able to perform well. (Change to a simple sentence)
- e. As there was a lack of financial resources, the construction work will not be completed within the said time. (Change to a compound sentence)
- f. He is so calm that no one can irritate him. (Change to a simple sentence)
- g. He is my brother. He loves to play cricket. (Use a relative pronoun to join the sentences)

SECTION C: LITERATURE

V. Read the extracts given below and answer the following questions:

1. The address read: "Mrs Jim Macpherson, 12 Copper Beeches, Bridport, Dorset." I took out the letter and unfolded it. It was written in pencil and dated at the top — "December 26, 1914" (1+1+1)

- a. Where did the narrator get the letter from?
- b. What is the significance of the date mentioned in the extract?
- c. What exactly did the writer of the letter want to convey to the receiver through his letter?

2. "O! Father and Mother, if buds are nip'd,
And blossoms blown away,
And if the tender plants are strip'd
Of their joy in the springing day,
By sorrow and cares dismay,
How shall the summer arise in joy,
Or the summer fruits appear?"

(0.5+0.5+1+1)

i. What is the rhyming word of 'away'?

(a) Day (b) Joy (c) Appear (d) Strip'd

ii. What are the two seasons that the boy refers to?

(a) Spring and summer (b) Summer and winter (c) Spring and autumn (d) Autumn and summer

iii. How does the boy attempt to explain his plight to his parents?

iv. What are the last two lines of the poem called?

VI. **Answer the following questions within 30-40 words:**

(6X2=12)

- a. How does the discovery of the Christmas letter impact the narrator's life?
- b. How does the story 'The best Christmas Gift in the World' emphasize the enduring impact of war on individuals and families?
- c. How does the poem 'The school Boy' portray the contrast between nature and the restrictions of school?
- d. What is the significance of the line "But to go to school in a summer morn, / O! It drives all joy away!"?
- e. How does the fable 'The Ant and The Cricket' illustrate the consequences of the cricket's actions?
- f. What does the poem 'The Ant and The Cricket' suggest about the relationship between work and reward?

VII. **Complete the given sentences:**

(2X1=2)

- a. The veneer had lifted almost everywhere —
- b. Not a crumb to be found -