READING INTO SPEAKING PAPER - TEST SAMPLE

This part of the exams consists of **3 parts.**

PART 1 - Presentation

The candidate is asked to give an **8–10-minute** presentation on a given topic for the other members of an English language discussion group, which the candidate attends regularly.

Using the reading materials and graphics provided for this purpose, the candidate has **30 minutes to prepare this presentation**. During this time, the candidate may take notes and organize their ideas.

Sample task Part 1

The candidate has been asked to give an 8–10-minute presentation on the topic of **technology** for the other members of an English language discussion group, which the candidate attends regularly.

Using the reading materials and graphics provided for this purpose, the candidate has 30 minutes to prepare this presentation. During this time, the candidate may take notes and organize their ideas.
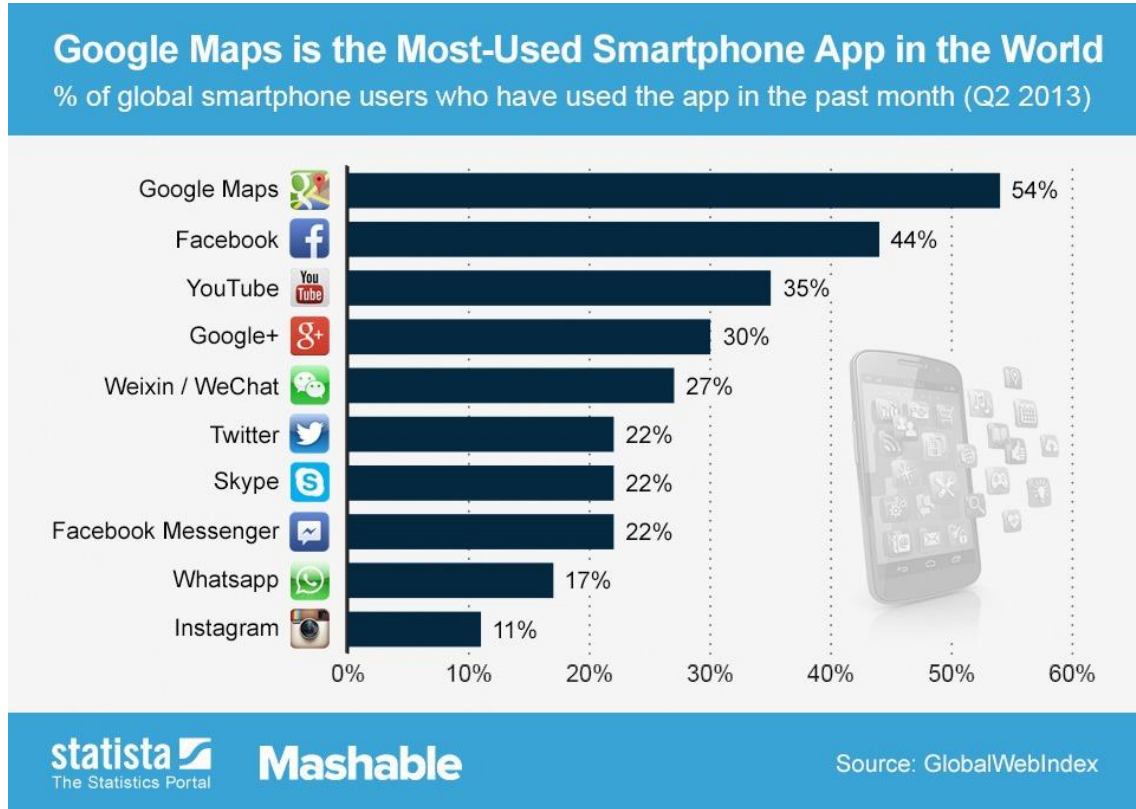
Remember that the candidate will be expected to use your own words in the presentation. They may refer to their notes, but they should not read them aloud.

In their presentation on the topic of **technology** the candidate should:

- **describe** some of the most popular social media sites and apps that people use nowadays
- **highlight** the positive and negative aspects of social media
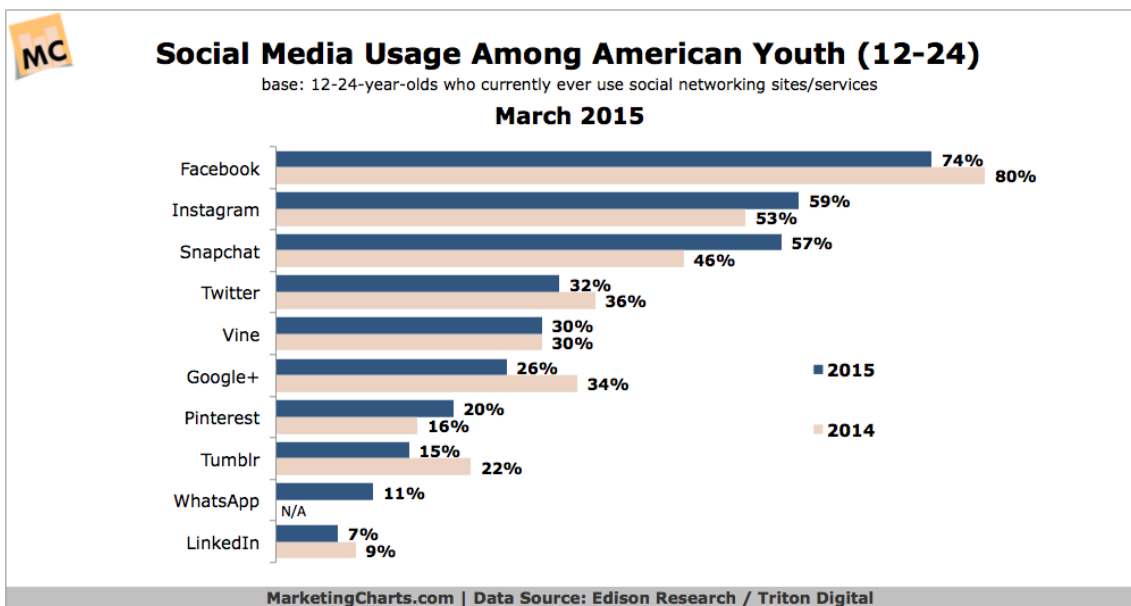- **propose** possible courses of action to minimise these problems

Sample reading materials and graphics given at the Preparation Room

GRAPHIC 1

Google Maps is the Most-Used Smartphone App in the World
% of global smartphone users who have used the app in the past month (Q2 2013)

App	%
Google Maps	54%
Facebook	44%
YouTube	35%
Google+	30%
Weixin / WeChat	27%
Twitter	22%
Skype	22%
Facebook Messenger	22%
Whatsapp	17%
Instagram	11%

statista
The Statistics Portal
Mashable
Source: GlobalWebIndex

www.statista.com

GRAPHIC 2

Social Media Usage Among American Youth (12-24)
base: 12-24-year-olds who currently ever use social networking sites/services
March 2015

Platform	2015	2014
Facebook	74%	80%
Instagram	59%	53%
Snapchat	57%	46%
Twitter	32%	36%
Vine	30%	30%
Google+	26%	34%
Pinterest	20%	16%
Tumblr	15%	22%
WhatsApp	11%	N/A
LinkedIn	7%	9%

MarketingCharts.com | Data Source: Edison Research / Triton Digital

TEXT 1

Finding a Valentine

ALL the cute red hearts, chocolates, flowers and poetry can get irritating this time of year if you're searching for someone special. It doesn't have to be that way. Technology continues to make it easier to find a romantic match, and many of the best tools are mobile apps.

Tinder is good to start with because it has over 50 million users worldwide. You have to hope that somewhere in that throng will be someone you can connect with.

If you've never tried Tinder, which is a free iOS and Android app, then it's worth a shot. Its mechanics are simple. You sign up for a free account, enter a few details about yourself and add some good photos. The photos are crucial because Tinder is very image-driven.

You define the type of person you're looking for and how far from you the app can search, as well as gender and age preferences. Tinder then presents a list of people who match your criteria, each with photos. You can tap on a photo to see more images and a little more information about the person.

Swiping left on a photo means you're not interested; swiping right means you are. If both parties swipe right, you're connected and can text within the app. From there, the romance is up to you.

Using Tinder sounds easy, and it is, although the selection process can feel strangely impersonal. Once you're chatting with other users, though, this sensation does fade.

nytimes.com

TEXT 2

Is Facebook making us unhappy?

Researchers from the ridiculous-sounding Happiness Research Institute in Copenhagen recruited 1,095 daily Facebook users to look at the impact of the social network on happiness. They first looked at everyone's usual Facebook behavior and found 94% visited Facebook as part of a daily routine. They split the participants into two groups; one was allowed to access Facebook and use it as normal, while the other group was forced to quit.

After a single week, the group forced to quit Facebook reported feeling more satisfied with their life. Researchers found that 88% of those who were forced to give up Facebook felt "happy," compared with 81% of those who were still on the site.

The group not on Facebook enjoyed life more, was less angry, and more enthusiastic. The group also saw an increase in their social activity and their satisfaction with their social life. The group that still regularly used Facebook was 55% more likely to feel stressed. Researchers suggest that as Facebook highlights the best of everyone's life, people on the site end up focusing on what other people have, which may explain why users felt less happy after regularly using the site.

That said, the results are based on self-reported answers; while researchers found a link between happiness and quitting Facebook, it's not a causal relationship. Researchers hope to further investigate whether the positive feeling participants felt after quitting Facebook could last more than a week.

But there could be something to it. Earlier this month, an Australian teenager with more than half a million followers on Instagram quit social media, describing it as "contrived perfection made to get attention" in an emotional video. She condemned the "unhealthy" ideals she and other celebrities were promoting on social media.

qz.com

Technology can ruin your holiday

Whether eating dinner in the Sahara with a wandering Tuareg nomad, or cruising by boat into the stunning harbour of the tiny Greek island of Symi, every moment of my journeys has gifted me with incredible experiences.

My travels have taken me to more than 120 countries and around the globe three times. I have hunted with the Bushmen of the Kalahari, tracked lions on foot, and eaten some spectacularly weird food. I know that travel and holidays can leave us with memories that will last a lifetime.

But for many of us, holidays are becoming a missed opportunity. We spend ages planning our trips and waiting for them to start, only to fail to make the most of them. Increasingly, I see other travellers immersed in phones and tablets, too busy catching-up with work emails or distracted by social media to enjoy properly and engage with their surroundings.

Don't get me wrong, technology can be a wonderful thing. But because we can be constantly connected we're having trouble switching off abroad, and we risk missing out on fantastic travel experiences. Too many travellers are telling me they spend most of their holiday trying to unwind, and then by the time they have, it's time to head home.

While filming in Israel for a television series about pilgrimages I was told about a donkey ride. It takes less than an hour, but the organisers found there was such a demand from tourists to remain connected to the internet that they had to install battery powered wi-fi routers on the donkeys. It's bonkers, because clearly if you find it difficult to switch off for a short donkey ride you might struggle to get the most from the rest of your holiday.

So, if you struggle to switch off on holiday I have a few suggestions. First of all, set yourself some targets. They can be as simple or challenging as you like: eat in five local restaurants or ski a black run. Talk about them in advance and savour the options. When planning your next trip, remember the further you stray from the tourist trail the more authentic and memorable the experience will be. If you can, aim for extreme, whether it's very exhilarating, exciting, beautiful, or thrilling. Do something really unusual and different, and you'll have less time to worry about home. Before you go, set rules. Tell work you will only be contactable from 9am to 10am, and get your companion to enforce this. Finally, once you've arrived, get out of the hotel and immerse yourself in the culture. Find local haunts and eat in neighbourhood restaurants. Get out of your comfort zone - you want to come back with tales, after all. Remember, don't be a hamster on a wheel, switch off and enjoy the moment.

PART 2 - Interaction (5 minutes)

The candidate will be asked a series of questions related to the topic of their presentation.

Technology

1. How do you use social media in your private life?
2. How do you use it in your professional or academic life?
3. In what ways do you think social media can be a social problem among young people?
4. How do you see social media developing in the future?
5. How have social media changed the way people relate to each other?
6. To what extent is overdependence on social media a real problem or is it exaggerated?
7. How does your use of technology change when you're on holiday? Why?
8. How would you feel if you had no access to technology for a week?

PART 3 - Discussion (5 minutes)

You will be asked to discuss a topic with the interlocutor.

The importance of music in our daily lives.

Some people say they couldn't live without music. Others say they can't stand it. Why do you think this is so?