

Pearson Edexcel Functional Skills – Level 2

Past Paper 7

Time: 75 minutes

Paper Reference **PENR2/S07**

English

Component 2: Reading Text Booklet

Do not return this Text Booklet with the Question and Answer Booklet.

Instructions

- You should write your answers in the Question and Answer Booklet.
- You must **not** write any responses to questions in this Text Booklet.

Information

- This Text Booklet contains the three texts required for the Level 2 Component 2: Reading exam.
- This Text Booklet must be securely destroyed by the centre immediately after the exam has been completed.

Advice

- Read each text before you answer the questions.

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Turn over ►



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DO NOT USE FOR LIVE EXAMS

*****PRACTICE PAPER*****

Text A

Article

Social media

Paragraph 1

Many young people are on social media to feel part of the crowd. 'They love the fact that social media links them with their friends and family,' says Pauline Robson, from MediaCom UK. Others use social media to keep up to speed with what is happening in the world, and to help them with their homework.

Paragraph 2

According to research, however, some young people are beginning to realise that social media can have a negative impact on their lives. A survey of 1,200 eight to nineteen-year-olds found that 32% are concerned about the number of 'likes' they receive on their posts. Nearly half compare themselves to others on social media. A third are worried about spiteful online comments.

Paragraph 3

According to this survey, 48% also feel they are spending too much time on social media. As a result, some young people have deleted social media apps from their devices. Some have reduced their use of social media sites while others have cut down on how long they spend staring at a screen overall.

Paragraph 4

Although many people are using Instagram, Snapchat and YouTube in positive ways, including to complete coursework, platforms like these can cause problems. Mental health issues are on the rise among young people, according to the NHS. The evidence suggests that social media can contribute to these problems and create issues with well-being.

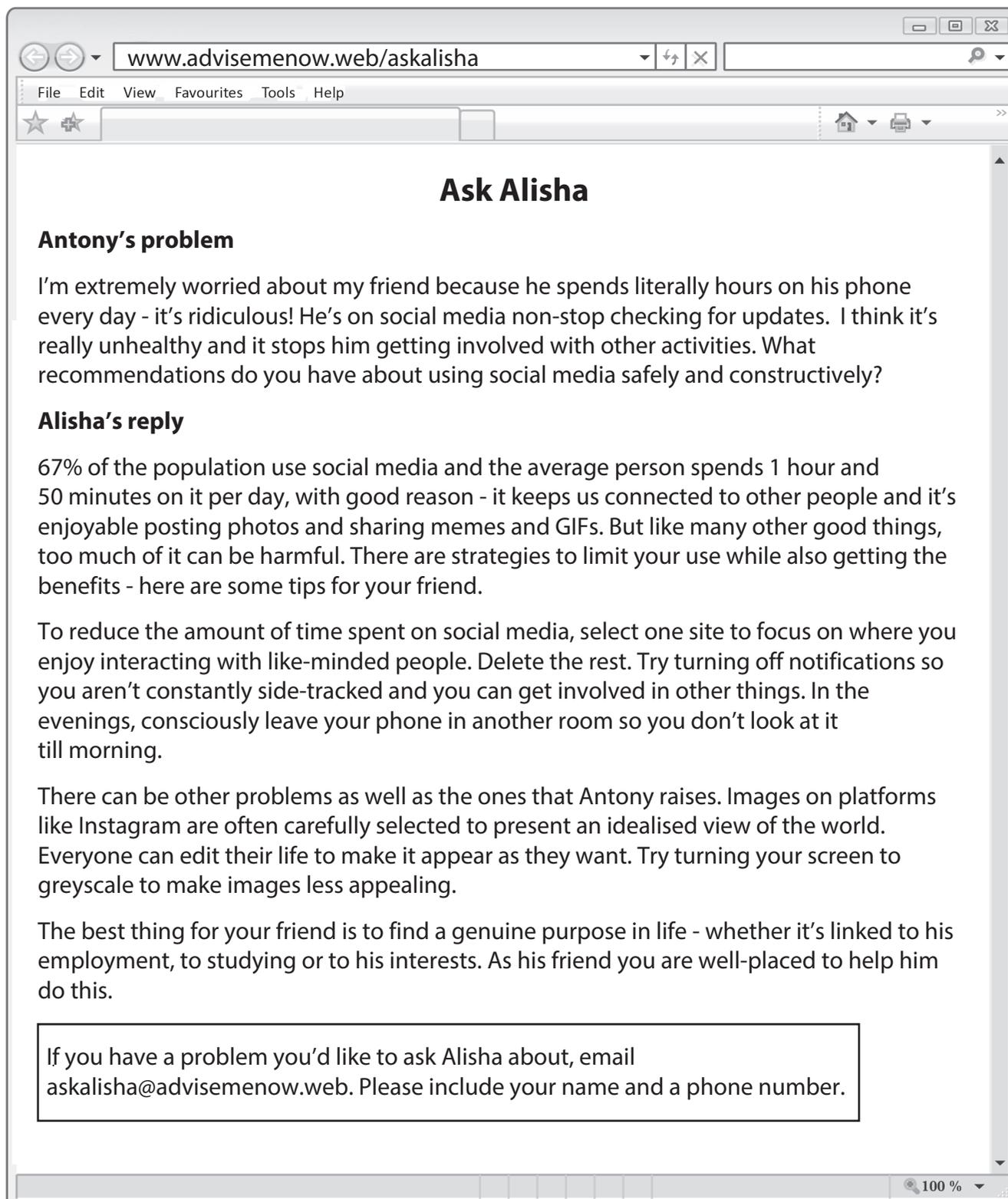
Paragraph 5

It is important that social media works for everyone. Companies like Facebook have to ensure this happens. If they don't, more young people will switch off. The bottom line is people will delete social media platforms that are not giving them a positive online experience.

Adapted from: <https://mobilemarketingmagazine.com/uk-young-people-social-media-negatives-connected-kids-mediacom>

Text B

Webpage



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the address bar containing www.advisemenow.web/askalisha. The browser's menu bar includes File, Edit, View, Favourites, Tools, and Help. The webpage content is as follows:

Ask Alisha

Antony's problem

I'm extremely worried about my friend because he spends literally hours on his phone every day - it's ridiculous! He's on social media non-stop checking for updates. I think it's really unhealthy and it stops him getting involved with other activities. What recommendations do you have about using social media safely and constructively?

Alisha's reply

67% of the population use social media and the average person spends 1 hour and 50 minutes on it per day, with good reason - it keeps us connected to other people and it's enjoyable posting photos and sharing memes and GIFs. But like many other good things, too much of it can be harmful. There are strategies to limit your use while also getting the benefits - here are some tips for your friend.

To reduce the amount of time spent on social media, select one site to focus on where you enjoy interacting with like-minded people. Delete the rest. Try turning off notifications so you aren't constantly side-tracked and you can get involved in other things. In the evenings, consciously leave your phone in another room so you don't look at it till morning.

There can be other problems as well as the ones that Antony raises. Images on platforms like Instagram are often carefully selected to present an idealised view of the world. Everyone can edit their life to make it appear as they want. Try turning your screen to greyscale to make images less appealing.

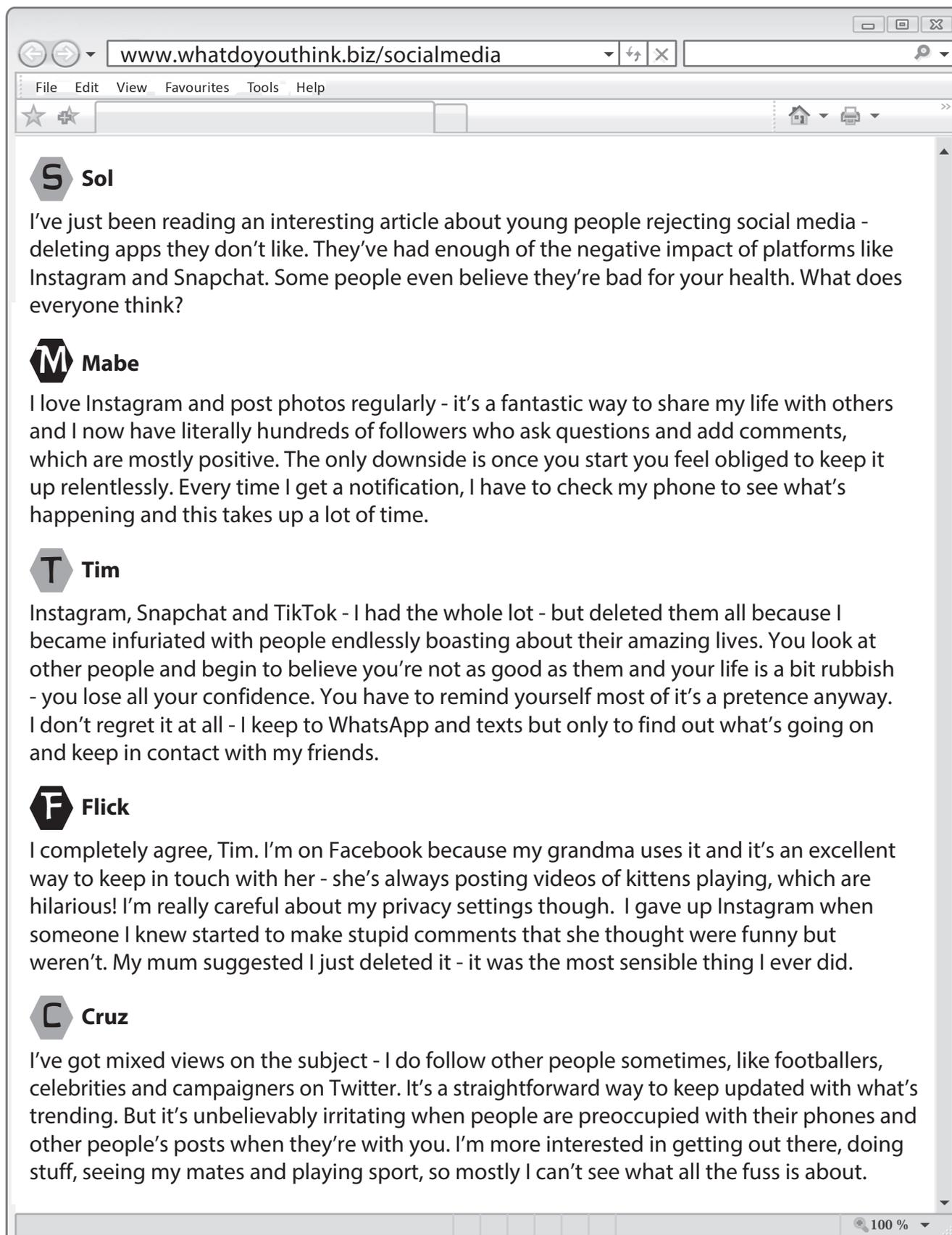
The best thing for your friend is to find a genuine purpose in life - whether it's linked to his employment, to studying or to his interests. As his friend you are well-placed to help him do this.

If you have a problem you'd like to ask Alisha about, email askalisha@advisemenow.web. Please include your name and a phone number.

The browser's status bar at the bottom right shows a magnifying glass icon and '100 %'.

Text C

Discussion forum



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the address bar containing www.whatdoyouthink.biz/socialmedia. The browser has a menu bar with 'File', 'Edit', 'View', 'Favourites', 'Tools', and 'Help'. The main content area displays a discussion forum with five posts, each starting with a user's name and a profile picture icon.

S Sol
I've just been reading an interesting article about young people rejecting social media - deleting apps they don't like. They've had enough of the negative impact of platforms like Instagram and Snapchat. Some people even believe they're bad for your health. What does everyone think?

M Mabe
I love Instagram and post photos regularly - it's a fantastic way to share my life with others and I now have literally hundreds of followers who ask questions and add comments, which are mostly positive. The only downside is once you start you feel obliged to keep it up relentlessly. Every time I get a notification, I have to check my phone to see what's happening and this takes up a lot of time.

T Tim
Instagram, Snapchat and TikTok - I had the whole lot - but deleted them all because I became infuriated with people endlessly boasting about their amazing lives. You look at other people and begin to believe you're not as good as them and your life is a bit rubbish - you lose all your confidence. You have to remind yourself most of it's a pretence anyway. I don't regret it at all - I keep to WhatsApp and texts but only to find out what's going on and keep in contact with my friends.

F Flick
I completely agree, Tim. I'm on Facebook because my grandma uses it and it's an excellent way to keep in touch with her - she's always posting videos of kittens playing, which are hilarious! I'm really careful about my privacy settings though. I gave up Instagram when someone I knew started to make stupid comments that she thought were funny but weren't. My mum suggested I just deleted it - it was the most sensible thing I ever did.

C Cruz
I've got mixed views on the subject - I do follow other people sometimes, like footballers, celebrities and campaigners on Twitter. It's a straightforward way to keep updated with what's trending. But it's unbelievably irritating when people are preoccupied with their phones and other people's posts when they're with you. I'm more interested in getting out there, doing stuff, seeing my mates and playing sport, so mostly I can't see what all the fuss is about.