A ## Predicting the vocabulary in a passage

1 Look at the images and answer the following questions.
  a What are these images about?
  b Write down all the words you associate with the images.
  c Classify these words into nouns, verbs, adjectives and adverbs.

Skills

Identifying word forms

Developing your vocabulary is one way of improving your reading comprehension. You can read faster and with more understanding if you know how words are constructed, particularly if you can identify prefixes and suffixes.

Prefixes are added at the beginning of words and change their meaning. For example: *act* = to do something, but re + *act* → **react** = act in response to something else.

Suffixes are added at the end of words and change their form. For example: *act* = verb, but act + **ion** → *action* = a noun.

B

> Hey, have you heard what's trending on Twitter?

> No. What's going on?

> Go to #thelatenews and find out.

2 Combine the words below with prefixes and suffixes to form new words. Some can be combined with more than one prefix or suffix. Others can be combined with a prefix and a suffix.
Example: inter + nation + al.

A create **B** nation **C** communicate **D** act **E** organize
F entertain **G** relate **H** friend **I** media **J** social
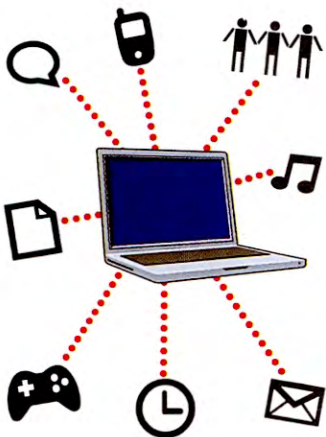
Prefixes: inter- re- multi- anti- dis-

Suffixes: -al -ive -tivity -ion/-tion/-ation -ment -ship

3 Complete the following text with the correct form of the words in Exercise 2. For some questions there may be two possible words with a similar meaning.

> The vast majority of people use social networking sites to
> **1** _____ with friends and **2** _____ , in other
> words people with whom they already have a **3** _____ . It is
> not at all uncommon to find school children chatting online in the evening
> to classmates they have spent all day with. In some ways, it could be said
> that online chats have replaced the personal contact or face-to-face
> **4** _____ that children used to enjoy after school. In addition to
> chat, young people share music and **5** _____ with their friends
> through **6** _____ links on their social websites.

Exam skills

Identifying information questions

In questions that require you to decide if a statement is true or false according to information in the passage, it is useful to recognize prefixes that express negatives and to be aware of words with opposite meanings (antonyms).

4 Use your knowledge of prefixes and antonyms to change the following words from positive to negative.

a likely **b** agree **c** accessible **d** understand **e** logical **f** normal **g** justified **h** regulate

5 Look up the following verbs in the dictionary and find their opposites. There may be more than one possible answer.

a allow **b** accept **c** include **d** provide **e** expand **f** contact (v) **g** show **h** maintain

6 Choose the sentence (A–C) that has the same meaning as the statement in questions 1–5.

1 The uses people make of social networking websites are unlikely to increase in the future.
  A In the future, people will probably use social networks on the Internet in a wider variety of ways.
  B It is probable that the different ways people use online social networks will not increase any further.
  C A future increase in the ways people use online social networking is very possible.

2 About 60% of people who use online networking sites are concerned that their personal details may be accessible to people they do not know.
  A Most online social network users do not worry that strangers might be able to see details of their private lives.
  B Only a minority of users of social networking sites are anxious about sharing personal information with people they have not met.
  C Over half the people who use social networking sites are worried that strangers might have access to details of their personal lives.

3 Since 2011 there has been an increase in the number of people who mistrust what they read on social networking websites.
  A More people trust the information they see on social networking sites than in 2011.
  B Fewer users are suspicious of the details they find on social networks than in 2011.
  C A smaller number of social network users trust the information they see online than in 2011.

4 The majority of online social network users control the privacy settings on their profiles to prevent strangers from seeing their details.
  A Older users of online social networking sites are more likely to share personal details with strangers.
  B Most users of social networking sites do not allow people they do not know to access their personal information.
  C Not many people who use online networking sites know how to control who sees their private information.

5 More online users of social networking sites over the age of 45 allow strangers to see their photos than other groups.
  A People over the age of 45 only give access to their photos to people they do not know.
  B Adults in the over-45 age group are more likely to show their photos online to people they have not met in person.
  C Younger users of social networking sites are more likely than older age groups to share their pictures with strangers.
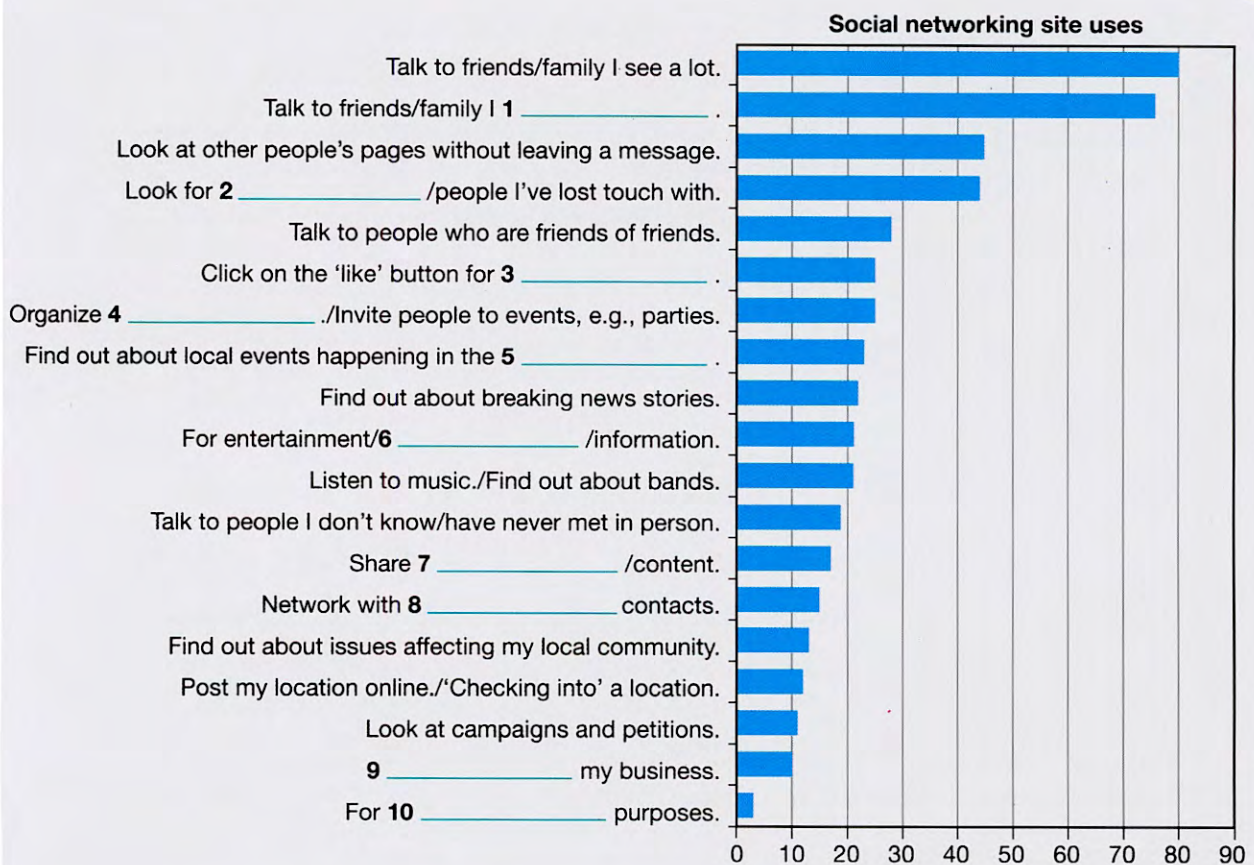
Exam skills

Labelling a diagram

In this type of question you will be asked to complete the labels on a graph or diagram with information from a reading passage. Scan the text for numbers and comparisons to find key information.

7 Read the passage and complete the graph. Write NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS OR A NUMBER from the passage.

A recent survey into the use of social networking websites has found that a large majority (80%) of adult members use the sites to chat online to friends or family they see a lot. A slightly lower percentage (76%) talk to members of the family they rarely see. Looking for old friends is only 1% less popular than looking at other people's pages (45%). The same percentage of users of social networking sites (25%) 'like' products and services and invite people to social events, while 23% of users go online to find out about events in the neighbourhood. 21% of online users log on to social networking sites to find out about bands and to read the sporting news. A slightly smaller percentage (17%) use social networks to share video clips. It is surprising that only 15% of social network users take advantage of the medium to extend their business or professional networks, and even fewer (10%) use social networks to advertise or promote their business. Finally, it is interesting to note that, contrary to popular belief, fewer than 4% of adults use social networking sites for dating.

Social networking site uses

- Talk to friends/family I see a lot.
- Talk to friends/family I **1** _____ .
- Look at other people's pages without leaving a message.
- Look for **2** _____ /people I've lost touch with.
- Talk to people who are friends of friends.
- Click on the 'like' button for **3** _____ .
- Organize **4** _____ ./Invite people to events, e.g., parties.
- Find out about local events happening in the **5** _____ .
- Find out about breaking news stories.
- For entertainment/**6** _____ /information.
- Listen to music./Find out about bands.
- Talk to people I don't know/have never met in person.
- Share **7** _____ /content.
- Network with **8** _____ contacts.
- Find out about issues affecting my local community.
- Post my location online./'Checking into' a location.
- Look at campaigns and petitions.
- **9** _____ my business.
- For **10** _____ purposes.

0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90

Exam skills

Summary questions

In this type of question you are asked to complete a summary of part of a passage, usually with only one word, using words from a list of options. As the information in the passage will not necessarily be in the same order as the summary, you may need to scan the section several times for the correct information. Remember the words in the list may not be the same as in the passage. You will need to look for words which have a similar meaning.

8 Read the following passage and complete the summary with words from the list in the box.

> **Could Facebook help predict obesity hotspots? Areas where people who 'like' TV more than sport are less healthy**
>
> Emma Innes
>
> – People with television-related Facebook 'interests' are more likely to be obese.
>
> – Those related to a healthy lifestyle are less likely to have weight issues.
>
> – People's online 'interests' could help predict and map obesity rates by area.
>
> Facebook could be a key tool in mapping which geographical areas have the most overweight and obese people. American researchers have found that the higher the percentage of people in a city or town with Facebook 'interests' suggesting a healthy lifestyle, the lower that area's obesity rate. At the same time, areas with a large percentage of Facebook users with television-related 'interests' tend to have higher rates of obesity.
>
> Researchers at Boston Children's Hospital, in the US, drew these conclusions after comparing Facebook user data with data from national and New York City-focused health surveys. They looked at what Facebook users posted to their timeline, 'liked' and shared with others. They then compared the percentage of users interested in healthy activities or television with details of Body Mass Index in the same area. The comparison revealed close geographic relationships between Facebook 'interests' and obesity rates.
>
> For instance, the obesity rate was 12 per cent lower in the location in the United States where the highest percentage of Facebook users expressed activity-related 'interests', compared with that in the location with the lowest percentage.
>
> Similarly, the obesity rate in the location with the highest percentage of users with television-related interests nationally was 3.9 per cent higher than the location with the lowest percentage.
>
> The same correlation was reflected in the New York City neighbourhood data as well, showing that the approach can scale from national to local-level data.
>
> The obesity rate on Coney Island, which had the highest percentage of activity-related 'interests' in the city, was 7.2 per cent lower than Southwest Queens, the neighbourhood with the lowest percentage. At the same time, the obesity rate in Northeast Bronx, the neighbourhood with the highest percentage of television-related 'interests', was 27.5 per cent higher than that in the neighbourhood with the lowest percentage – Greenpoint.

They now believe that people's online 'interests' could help public health researchers predict, track and map obesity rates by area. The amount of data available from social networks like Facebook makes it possible to efficiently carry out research with cohorts of a size that was previously impossible. Dr John Brownstein, from Boston Children's Hospital, explained: 'Online social networks like Facebook represent a new high-value, low-cost data stream for looking at health at a population level. 'The tight correlation between Facebook users' "interests" and obesity data suggest that this kind of social network analysis could help generate real-time estimates of obesity levels in an area, help target public health campaigns that would promote healthy behaviour change, and assess the success of those campaigns.'

Summary

Recent research in a number of cities and neighbourhoods in the US has discovered a significant relationship between official figures for the number of people who are

1 _____ and the type of 2 _____ interests registered by users of Facebook in that area. In 3 _____ where Facebook users expressed a preference for 4 _____ activities, lower levels of obesity were recorded than cities where users had more 5 _____ interests like watching television. This close correlation between official public health data and information collected from Facebook promises to facilitate research into 6 _____ health patterns, and will, in turn, assist local 7 _____ in targeting their public health programmes more 8 _____ .

strategically ■ authorities ■ sporting ■ overweight ■ regional ■ leisure ■ districts ■ passive

Reading Passage 7

You should spend 20 minutes on questions 1–13, which are based on Reading Passage 7.

Their social life online: a parents' guide

Rachel Carlyle

Worried parents take heart – a growing body of research shows that teens who use social media are not reclusive geeks: they actually have a wider circle of real-life friends, a better sense of identity and belonging and are developing the essential technical skills they need to be citizens of a digital age.

'Social networking has become an embedded part of modern childhood,' says e-safety pioneer Stephen Carrick-Davies, who advises parents and schools on technology.

'Children do not consume media – dipping in and out to buy airline tickets or check emails as adults do – they inhabit it. That's neither good nor bad – it's what you do with it that counts.'

What teenagers mainly do with it is socialize with friends they already know. 'It's the modern equivalent of hanging around at the bus stop to share the in-jokes and catch up on the gossip: a kind of virtual bus stop,' says Tim Mungeam, a parenting consultant who runs social networking seminars for teens and their parents.

And it performs a similar function: helping teenagers develop a sense of identity away from their parents and learning to get on with their peers. Professor Kevin Durkin, a psychologist at Strathclyde University, says: 'Adolescence is a time when you are asking, who am I? Who do I want to become? Social networking can help you develop that self-identity: you can post notices about your favourite music or sports, discover what you enjoy, and you are constantly reminded that other people have different ways of looking at things and have different tastes. Research actually shows that keen social networkers are not as self-absorbed as others who don't.'

He says that embracing social media can also help shy teens blossom: 'They tend to find computer-mediated communication more comfortable than face-to-face, and there may be benefits from practising social skills in a less-threatening environment.'

Professor Andy Phippen, of Plymouth University, who is researching the use of social networking sites by teenagers, feels that these sites can also boost the confidence of children traditionally on the edge of friendship groups. 'Unlike in our day, when there were the Alpha* kids and those very much on the periphery of friendship groups, social networking can bring in the ones on the periphery so there's not so much difference between them,' he says.

It can be a life-saver for the quiet, geeky child who has a specialized interest because it can allow them to connect with others with similar interests. 'If you are one of only three kids in your school in Cornwall who is into Emo* culture, traditionally you would have felt quite isolated. But if you discover a social networking group of like-minded teenagers, there's suddenly a necessary critical mass and you can still be popular, just in a different context,' Professor Phippen adds.

Experts always used to advise monitoring your children's social networking activities, but there is a growing consensus that once they reach 13 or 14, and parents are happy they know the ground rules (stay civil, be kind, don't give out personal details to those you don't know in real life) they should trust them to get on with it.

It's the teenagers who are able to find new interests online, join networks of likeminded individuals – and then create their own content – who are really harnessing the potential of social networks, says Pamela Whitby, the digital education expert and author of *Is Your Child Safe Online?*

'Social networking is becoming a creative force: teenagers are making videos, joining YouTube groups, podcasting and blogging about the things that interest them. Sites like Pinterest, which is like a digital look-book, and Instagram, a photosharing network, are transforming creativity, and I think niche networks are going to become more and more common.

'I recently went into a school and thought I would be telling all these teenagers about how to use Instagram – but many were already using it. The keen photographers were networking with each other, learning skills, swapping images and deepening their own interest. This all adds to their employability and will undoubtedly benefit them in the workplace.

'Every single business is using social media to sell and to increase brand-awareness – and you need to understand how it works and how it can create customers. For example, if you develop a product and you have 700 friends on Facebook and 300 on other networks, they are all potential customers for that product. If you link all those networks together there's your customer base right there.'

Teenagers who use social networking as a creative force will reap the benefits in the world of work, agrees Mungeam. 'One of the fantastic aspects of Facebook and YouTube is the opportunity for collaborating with others to create content, then sharing it with others. Collaboration is a real 21st-century skill, and an essential part of being employable in a digital age.

'Social networking helps them find out what they are passionate about. They can be in touch with people all over the world sharing ideas and gradually they can build their online reputation: signing up to campaigns or joining groups to make their voice heard.

'Social networks amplify one person's voice, and no one appreciates this more than a teenager.'

Teenagers who use social networks will reap the benefits in the world of work.

* **Alpha kids** – most dominant children in a group
* **Emo** – a style of music/a community of emotionally sensitive people

---

Questions 1–5

*Do the following statements agree with the information in the text? Write **TRUE**, **FALSE** or **NOT GIVEN**.*

1 Social media discourages adolescents from developing real friends.

2 Young people use the Internet to book tickets for concerts.

3 The majority of teenagers use online networking sites to meet new people.

4 Socializing online helps teenagers to collaborate with people of their own age.

5 Teenagers who socialize online tend to be more introverted than others.

Questions 6–7

Label the diagram with words taken from the passage. Write **NO MORE THAN ONE WORD**.

Skills that improve employability

Social networking

6 ....

7 ....

Enhanced employability
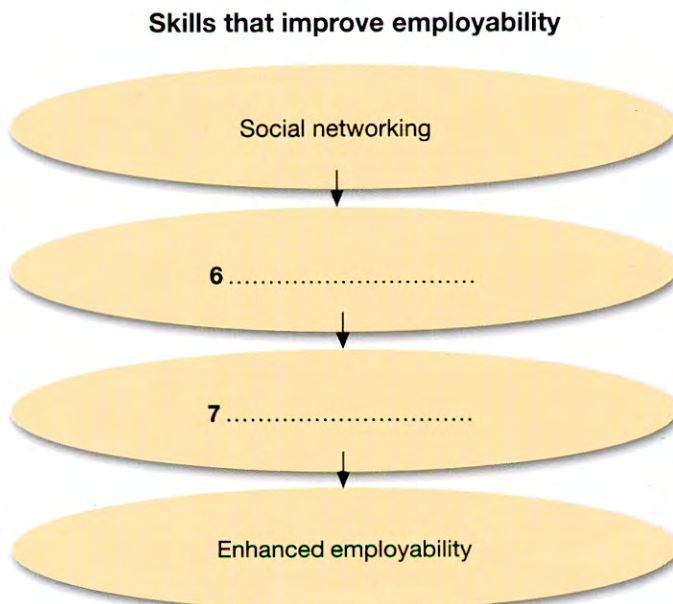
Questions 8–13

*Complete the summary with letters (**A–H**) from the list in the box.*

NB *There are two extra words on the list.*

Early research into **8** .... and social media suggested that teenagers who socialized online might be afraid of mixing with their **9** .... in real life. However, recent research has shown that adolescents who 'meet up' with their friends on social networking sites are actually less **10** .... , have a stronger sense of their own **11** .... and have more real friends than those who do not. Furthermore, online networking sites can offer less- **12** .... adolescents a safe platform from which to interact with their social circle, potentially reducing the distance between more assertive, popular group members and **13** .... individuals, who traditionally hover on the edges of their social group.

A quieter

B adolescence

C identity

D intelligence

E peers

F isolated

G confident

H parents