Functional Skills English Level 1

Mock Test 2

Total marks: 56

Pass mark: 34 out of 56

Time allowed: 2 hours

Reading 20 marks | Writing 36 marks | Time: 2 hours. Spend roughly 45 minutes on reading and 75 minutes on writing.

You will need: pen, pencil, ruler, rubber. Dictionary allowed for Reading section.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Text 1: Article from a parenting website

Screen Time: How Much Is Too Much for Children?

A new report by the Children's Health Foundation has revealed that the average child in the UK spends over four hours a day looking at screens — more than double the recommended amount. The report, based on a survey of 5,000 families, found that screen use had increased by 40% since 2019, with the sharpest rise among children aged 8-12.

"We're not saying screens are evil," said Dr Amira Khan, the report's lead author. "Technology can be a brilliant educational tool. But there's a growing body of evidence linking excessive screen time to poor sleep, reduced physical activity, and difficulties with concentration in school."

The report recommends that children aged 5-12 should have no more than two hours of recreational screen time per day, and that screens should be switched off at least one hour before bedtime. It also urges parents to model healthy screen habits themselves.

However, not everyone agrees with the findings. Technology commentator Jake Ellis argues that the focus on screen "time" is outdated. "What matters is what children are doing on screens, not how long they spend," he wrote in a response piece. "A child creating digital art or learning to code is having a completely different experience from one mindlessly scrolling social media."

The charity is launching a free "Screen Smart" toolkit for parents, which includes tips on setting boundaries, age-appropriate app suggestions, and conversation starters for talking to children about their online habits. The toolkit is available at www.childrenhealth.org.uk/screensmart.

Text 2: Extract from a tenancy agreement

Assured Shorthold Tenancy Agreement

Parties: The Landlord (Mr James Whitfield) and The Tenant (as named on the signature page)

Property: 14 Meadow Lane, Bristol, BS4 3TQ

Term: Fixed term of 12 months commencing 1st November 2024

Rent: £850 per calendar month, payable in advance on the 1st of each month by standing order

Deposit: £1,275 (protected under the Tenancy Deposit Scheme)

Tenant obligations:
- Pay rent on time. Late payment (more than 14 days overdue) may incur a charge of 3% above the Bank of England base rate.
- Keep the property clean and in reasonable condition.
- Report any damage or maintenance issues to the landlord within 7 days.
- Not sublet, assign, or share the property without written consent from the landlord.
- Not make structural alterations or major decorative changes without prior agreement.

Landlord obligations:
- Maintain the structure and exterior of the property.
- Ensure gas, electricity, and water systems are safe and in working order.
- Give at least 24 hours' written notice before entering the property, except in emergencies.
- Protect the tenant's deposit in an approved scheme within 30 days of receipt.

Termination: Either party may end the tenancy by giving at least two months' written notice, to expire no earlier than the end of the fixed term. Early termination by the tenant may result in liability for rent until the end of the fixed term or until a replacement tenant is found.

Disputes: Any disputes will be referred to an independent mediation service before legal action is taken.

Section A — Reading

11 questions • 20 marks

Question 1 (1 mark)

How many hours per day does the average UK child spend on screens?

- A) Two hours
- B) Three hours
- C) Over four hours
- D) Six hours

Question 2 (2 marks)

Name TWO negative effects of excessive screen time mentioned in the report.

- A) Poor sleep and reduced physical activity (also: difficulties with concentration)
- B) Headaches and nausea
- C) Weight gain and tooth decay
- D) Eye damage and hearing loss

Question 3 (2 marks)

Dr Khan says "We're not saying screens are evil." What does this suggest about the report's position?

- A) The report takes a balanced view — recognising educational value but warning against excessive use, trying to avoid sounding anti-technology
- B) The report thinks screens are completely harmless
- C) The report wants all screens banned
- D) Dr Khan disagrees with the report

Question 4 (3 marks)

Jake Ellis argues that "what matters is what children are doing on screens, not how long they spend." How effective is his argument against the report's findings?

- A) It raises a valid point about screen quality vs quantity (creative use vs passive scrolling), but doesn't directly address the health evidence on sleep and concentration. The report's data is based on 5,000 families, making it harder to dismiss entirely.
- B) It completely destroys the report's argument
- C) It is irrelevant to the discussion
- D) He agrees with everything in the report

Question 5 (2 marks)

What is the purpose of the "Screen Smart" toolkit, and who is it aimed at?

- A) It aims to help parents set healthy screen boundaries by providing practical tips, app suggestions, and conversation starters. It targets parents/carers of children.
- B) It is a game for children to play
- C) It is software that blocks all screen time
- D) It is aimed at teachers only

Question 6 (1 mark)

How much is the monthly rent, and how must it be paid?

- A) £850 per month, by standing order
- B) £750 per month, by cash
- C) £1,275 per month, by bank transfer
- D) £850 per month, by cheque

Question 7 (1 mark)

What happens if rent is more than 14 days late?

- A) A charge of 3% above the Bank of England base rate may be applied
- B) The tenant is immediately evicted
- C) The deposit is taken as payment
- D) Nothing — there are no penalties

Question 8 (2 marks)

Why does the agreement require disputes to go through mediation before legal action?

- A) Mediation is a faster, cheaper, and less confrontational way to resolve disagreements. It encourages both sides to reach a solution without the cost and stress of going to court.
- B) Because courts do not handle tenancy disputes
- C) To delay the landlord from taking any action
- D) Because mediation always sides with the tenant

Question 9 (2 marks)

A tenant wants to leave after 6 months because they got a job in another city. Can they end the agreement early? Explain using the agreement.

- A) They can give notice, but may be liable for rent until the end of the 12-month fixed term or until a replacement tenant is found. Early termination doesn't automatically release them from the financial obligation.
- B) Yes, they can leave at any time with no consequences
- C) No, they must stay for the full 12 months with no exceptions
- D) Yes, but only if they give 2 weeks' notice

Question 10 (1 mark)

How much notice must the landlord give before entering the property?

- A) At least 24 hours' written notice (except in emergencies)
- B) No notice required
- C) 48 hours verbal notice
- D) 7 days written notice

Question 11 (3 marks)

Compare the language and purpose of Text 1 and Text 2. How does each text use language to suit its audience?

- A) Text 1 is a parenting article using accessible, persuasive language with expert quotes and statistics to inform and influence parents. Text 2 is a legal document using precise, formal language with specific terms and conditions to set out binding obligations for landlord and tenant.
- B) Both texts use the same style of language

■ C) Text 1 is more formal than Text 2

■ D) Text 2 is designed to persuade readers like Text 1

Section B — Writing

Complete both writing tasks.

Task 1 — Formal Letter to a Landlord (21 marks)

You are the tenant at 14 Meadow Lane (Text 2). The boiler broke down two weeks ago and you reported it, but the landlord has not arranged a repair.

Write a formal letter to the landlord explaining the problem and requesting urgent action.

In your letter you should: state what the problem is and when you first reported it; explain the impact on you (no hot water or heating); refer to the landlord's obligations in the agreement; state clearly what you expect to happen and by when.

Write 150–200 words. Use formal language and correct letter format.

Marking: Content & purpose (7) | Organisation & format (7) | SPaG (7)

Task 2 — Blog Post Giving Your Opinion (15 marks)

Write a blog post for a parenting website giving your views on children's screen time (related to Text 1).

In your post you should: say whether you think screen time limits are a good idea; use evidence or examples to support your opinion; consider the opposing view.

Write 100–150 words. Give your post a title.

Marking: Content & purpose (5) | Organisation (5) | SPaG (5)