Functional English   47251

Component 1 Reading   Level 2

Insert

The three sources that follow are:

- **Source A:** a news report about cyber-blackmail

- **Source B:** an article about social networking

- **Source C:** a webpage about staying safe online

**Please open the insert fully
to see all three sources**

47251

For this exam you are going to read **three** texts. They are all to do with the internet.

Source A

Cyber-blackmail: How to keep safe and deal with it.
By Emma Brant & Amelia Butterly, Newsbeat reporters

Hundreds of British children are being blackmailed online, the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP) has warned.

Abusers talk victims into sexual acts or sharing images then threaten to send pictures to family and friends. CEOP said in 12 cases over two years, 424 children had been blackmailed in this way, 184 of them in the UK.

Daniel Perry, who died aged 17, is thought to have been blackmailed with online footage before his death. The teenager is thought to have believed he was chatting with an American girl but was told by blackmailers the conversations had been recorded. They then threatened to share the video with friends and family unless he paid money. Daniel, from Dunfermline in Fife, died on 15 July, 2013.

Safety tips on how to avoid and deal with online blackmail

- ✓ Do not send any form of sexual picture. You never know where it may end up, even if you think you know the person really well.
- ✓ If you're being blackmailed or threatened, tell someone you trust. It doesn't matter how embarrassing it is or if you've done something you wish you hadn't.
- ✓ Collect the evidence.
- ✓ Keep the threatening emails and take a screenshot.
- ✓ Report cyber-blackmail to the police.

Cyber-blackmailers can also get to you on your phone so take care of it.

Try not to have your mobile or earphones on show and be aware of what and who is around you. Use codes or passwords to lock your phone and turn off the ringer/enable vibrate.   Download apps that can locate your phone and/or wipe data. Record the phone's unique IMEI number and register your handset on the National Mobile Phone Register.

Source B

# SOCIAL NETWORKING'S GOOD AND BAD IMPACTS ON KIDS

Social media presents risks and benefits to children but parents who try to secretly monitor their kids' activities online are wasting their time, according to Professor of Psychology, Dr Larry Rosen.

"We are just now starting to see research demonstrating the positives and the negatives." Teens who use Facebook more often show more self-important, self-loving tendencies while young adults with a strong Facebook presence show more signs of other psychological disorders, including antisocial behaviours, restlessness and aggressive tendencies.

Daily overuse of media and technology has a negative effect on the health of all children, pre-teens and teenagers by making them more prone to anxiety and depression, and more at risk of future health problems. Facebook can also be distracting to learning. Studies found that students who checked their Facebook at least once during a 15-minute study period achieved lower grades.

Rosen said research had also found positive influences linked to social networking. Young adults who spend more time on Facebook are better at showing "virtual understanding" to their online friends. Social networking can help shy adolescents learn how to socialise behind the safety of various screens. Social networking can also provide tools for teaching in ways that engage young students.
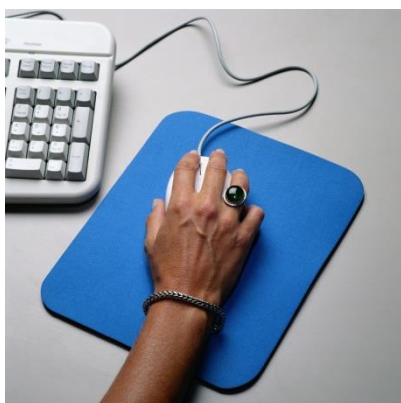
For parents, Rosen offered guidance: "You have to start talking about appropriate technology use early and often and build trust, so that when there is a problem, whether it is being bullied or seeing a disturbing image, your child will talk to you about it." He encouraged parents to assess their child's activities online, and discuss removing inappropriate content or connections to people who appear suspicious. "Parents also need to pay attention to the online trends and the latest technologies, websites and applications children are using," he said.

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Source C

| Protecting yourself | Safeguarding children | Smartphones & Tablets | Social Networking | Businesses |

Search 🔍

GET SAFE ONLINE

Social networking is a global revolution. It enables around a billion people worldwide to stay in touch with their friends, share experiences and photographs and exchange personal content.

The nature of social networking – having such a massive base of users who are unknown to you – means that using it carries a degree of risk, including becoming a target for cyber-criminals. Some of these risks relate to disclosure of private information, which you must never do. Choosing a user name which does not include any personal information is essential: 'jane_liverpool' would be a bad choice! There is also the risk of prosecution from posting offensive or inappropriate comments and the danger of exposure to viruses or spyware contained within message attachments or photographs.

You can avoid these risks and enjoy using social networking sites by avoiding peer pressure – don't let other people convince you to do something you are not comfortable with.

Phishing emails encourage you to visit inappropriate websites, which you should never do. Be careful about clicking on links in such emails and set up a separate email account for your social networking sites. Make sure you use strong passwords to prevent friends or other people from hijacking your account and always log out when you leave the site. What goes online stays online. Remember that many companies routinely view current or prospective employees' social networking pages so be careful about what you say, what pictures you post and your profile. Use the privacy features to restrict strangers' access to your profile.

Social networking is here to stay so minimise your risks and enjoy using it! In many ways, it has replaced the telephone and email. For many users, it has become a way of life.

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**Open out this page to see
Source B and Source C**