Conselleria d'Educació
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Direcció General de Formació Professional
i Ordenació Educativa

Prova lliure per a l'obtenció del títol de batxillerat per a majors de vint anys

Convocatòria 2026

LLENGUA ESTRANGERA ANGLÈS

A. READING COMPREHENSION

Australia's Social Media Ban: Protecting the Next Generation

Australia has recently introduced a new law that bans children under the age of 16 from using major social media platforms. The government says the ban is necessary to protect young people from harmful online content. As one official explained, "We cannot allow platforms to expose children to material that damages their health and wellbeing.

Before the ban, almost all Australian children aged 10 to 15 used social media. Studies ordered by the government showed that many of them had seen dangerous material online. This included violent images, sexist or hateful messages, and content encouraging unhealthy behaviours. In addition, some children reported being contacted by adults pretending to be teenagers, and more than half said they had experienced cyberbullying.

The new rules cover well-known platforms such as Instagram, TikTok, Snapchat, X, Facebook, YouTube and others. Children under 16 cannot create new accounts, and any existing accounts have been deactivated. However, some platforms, like YouTube Kids or messaging services such as WhatsApp, are not included in the ban because the government does not consider them "social media" under its definition.

To enforce the law, the government does not punish children or their parents. Instead, the responsibility lies with the companies. If a platform allows under-16s to use its services, it can receive heavy fines. Therefore, companies must use different methods to check users' ages. These methods may include government IDs, video selfies, or systems that estimate age based on a person's online behaviour. The government stressed, "Companies cannot simply trust users to be honest. They must prove that they are keeping children out."

The ban has caused mixed reactions across the country. Some teenagers feel the decision is unfair. One 15-year-old told reporters, "It's insulting that they think we can't handle the internet." Other teens, however, say the ban has helped them. A girl interviewed by local media said, "I actually feel free now. I don't miss social media as much as I expected."

Despite these criticisms, the government insists the new law is an important step towards creating a safer online environment for young people.

1. True / False. Read the statements and write True (T) or False (F). Justify your answer when the statement is false. (0.25 x 2 = 0.5 points)

___ The Australian government punishes parents if their children use social media under the age of 16.

Justify ONLY when the statement is false.

___ Some teenagers think the ban has had a positive effect on their lives.

Justify ONLY when the statement is false.

2. Multiple Choice Activity. Choose A, B, C, or D. (0.125 x 4 = 0.5 points)

a) Why did the government introduce the ban?
A. To reduce internet access for all citizens
B. To protect young people from harmful online content
C. To help social media companies develop new apps
D. To punish teenagers for spending too much time online

b) Which platforms are not affected by the ban?
A. Instagram
B. YouTube Kids
C. TikTok
D. Facebook

c) What must social media companies do to follow the new law?
A. Block all users in Australia
B. Close their services for a few hours every day
C. Use methods to verify users' ages
D. Ask parents to confirm their children's ages

d) According to the text, what percentage of children said they had experienced cyberbullying?
A. Less than 10%
B. Around one quarter
C. More than 50%
D. Almost none

3. Open Questions. Answer in complete sentences using your own words. (2 points)

a) What kinds of harmful content had many children seen online before the ban?

b) How have teenagers reacted to the ban? Mention two different opinions.

4. Vocabulary task. Find a word or expression from the text that means the same as the following definitions. (0.25 x 4 = 1 point)

Popular:		To prohibit, forbid:	
As a result:		To harm, injure	

B. LANGUAGE USE

5. Choose the best option (A, B, C, or D) to complete the dialogues. (0.1 x 5 = 0.5 points)

Dialogue 1

Mary: Did you see the news about the TikTok ban?

John: Yes! _____ I was watching TV last night, the government announced the new law.

A) During	B) While	C) Since	D) Before

Dialogue 2

Student A: Did you hear that Instagram is now banned for us?

Student B: Yes, we _____ that we are too young to have accounts anymore.

Student A: It's frustrating! I used that app every single day.

A) have told	B) were told	C) are telling	D) told

Dialogue 3

Parent: I think this law is a great idea for your mental health.

Teenager: But there are many things online _____ are actually helpful and positive!

Parent: That's true, but the government wants to avoid the harmful content first.

A) who	B) whose	C) what	D) which

Dialogue 4

Teacher: How has your routine changed since the ban started?

Student: Well, I _____ spend three hours a day on TikTok, but now I read books instead.

Teacher: That sounds like a much healthier habit for your wellbeing.

A) used to	B) am used to	C) use to	D) get used to

Dialogue 5

Expert: Platforms _____ use sophisticated AI to estimate a user's age.

Moderator: Yes, that would be much better than just trusting what people type.

A) ought to	B) shoulding	C) could	D) must to

6. Use some of the following words to complete the following dialogues. (0.2 x 5 = 1 point)

worse	for	since	worst	were
in	out	much	am	too

Dialogue 6: The Frustrated Student

Leo: I tried to log _____ to my account, but it has been desactivated by the platform.

Mia: That makes sense; the government says you are _____ young to use it now.

Leo: It's so unfair! I have had that account _____ I was twelve years old.

Dialogue 7: Different Perspectives

Ben: Many teenagers think the ban is the _____ decision the country has ever made.

Sara: However, some girls interviewed by the media say they actually feel more free now.

Ben: If I _____ the Prime Minister, I would give teenagers more freedom to choose for themselves.

7. Answer the following questions using the word or phrases given. (0.5 x 3 = 1.5 points)

Example: **Describe an app that you think is useful for teenagers. (WHICH or THAT)** Duolingo is an app **that** helps students to learn a foreign language.

a) Have you ever won a prize or a competition? Tell me about it. (NEVER or EVER)

b) Have you used Facebook recently? (FOR A LONG TIME or SINCE)

c) Imagine that you live in Australia. What would you do for fun? (IF)

C. WRITING

8. Write a composition (120–150 words) discussing the topic: Is the Internet a Dangerous Place? Include arguments for and against. (3 points)