

Reading passage 1

More likely to have a mobile, use the net, listen to radio and read papers: it's the girl

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- A) They mature more quickly, are said to be more responsible and do better at school. Now media-savvy girls are putting another one over the boys by leading the digital communications revolution. According to one of the most comprehensive studies of the effect on children of the explosion in media choices of the past 15 years, girls aged 12 to 15 are more likely than boys to have a mobile phone, use the internet, listen to the radio and read newspapers or magazines. Only when it comes to playing computer and console games do boys overtake girls.
- B) Given the historic domination of the home telephone by teenage girls, perhaps it is not surprising they are using the internet to communicate with friends for hours on end. Almost all children between 12 and 15 with the internet at home said they were "confident" surfing the web and did so on average for eight hours a week. But girls are more likely than boys to use the web as a communication tool.
- C) The study, focusing on children aged between eight and 15, also showed the extent to which mobile phones and the internet are taken for granted by primary school children. Their 11th birthday appears to be the tipping point, with eight of out of 10 children having their own handset by that age. One in six questioned reported coming across "worrying" material on the internet, while more than seven out of 10 parents of children aged 12-15 worried about their offspring seeing inappropriate material. Four in 10 children aged between eight and 11 and more than seven in 10 aged 12-15 used the internet by themselves at home. Parents were more inclined to say they had rules about internet access and mobile phone use than children were to say they were subject to them.
- D) The embracing new forms of technology, children still report watching almost 14 hours of television a week. Children in Scotland, Northern Ireland, those from ethnic minority groups and those in low-income households were found to watch substantially above average. More than a third of eight to 11-year-olds said they mainly watched television on their own. phenomenon of children setting the timer on the video recorder while their parents struggle with the instruction manual also appears to have translated to the internet age: two-thirds of those parents also admitted that their children knew more about the medium than they did.
- E) Despite Pay-TV operators point out that sophisticated systems allow parents to control access to channels. But more than seven in 10 parents in households with cable or satellite TV admitted they had not set any controls. Four in 10 parents of 12 to 15-year-olds said there were no house rules about watching television.

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Questions 1 – 5

Read the following statements and say how they reflect the information in the reading passage, by writing:

- TRUE** if it accurately reflects the information given.
FALSE if it does not reflect the information in the passage.
NOT GIVEN if the information is not clearly given in the passage.

Write your answers in boxes 1 – 5 on your answer sheet.

1. Girls are ahead of boys in the digital communications revolution.
2. Girls have more expensive tastes in mobile telephones.
3. Girls do better at school than boys because they read more newspapers.
4. Girls play computer games more than boys.
5. Girls use the Internet as a means of communicating more than boys.

Questions 6-10

Complete the following sentences using the information given in the text and **USING NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS OR A NUMBER**.

Write your answers in boxes 6-10 on your answer sheet.

6. The study found that use the internet mainly for chatting with friends.
7. The children surveyed said they were, and did so for 8 hours a week.
8. Eight out of 10 children have their own mobile telephone before
9. One in six of the children questioned said they “worrying” material on the Internet.
10. Many of the children aged between eight and 15 said they used the Internet in their home.

Questions 11 – 15

The paragraph below is a summary of part of the reading text. Complete the summary by choosing **UP TO THREE WORDS OR A NUMBER** from the reading passage to fill the spaces numbered 11-15.

Write the words in boxes 11-15 on your answer sheet.

The study gives the picture of technology-savvy children who know more about the medium ...**11**.... However, the children still reported watching ...**12**... a week of television with those coming ...**13**... and poorer families watching more than the average. In addition many children said that they watched television ...**14**.... Although there exists sophisticated systems to control access to various channels, many parents admitted that they had not ...**15**.... Some parents even said that there were not any rules at all about watching television at home.

Reading passage 2

British teams compete for cash to unlock mysteries of the cursed planet

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- A) From the first two failed Soviet missions in October 1960 to Britain's ill-fated Beagle 2 that crash-landed on Christmas Day 2003, Mars has a history of devouring space missions for breakfast. But despite its cursed reputation, British scientists are vying for funding to unlock the secrets of the red planet. This summer three British projects will compete for money from the European Space Agency to send an unmanned mission into space to garner data on the planet that has fascinated astronomers for decades because of its potential to harbour rudimentary life.
- B) The first enterprise is designed to tackle Mars' mysterious moons Deimos and Phobos - named after the sons of Mars, the Greek god of war. Phobos is also Greek for fear. The mission's 310kg pool table-sized probe would take 20 months to reach Deimos before orbiting the moon for a further month while analysing its structure and mapping the surface. It would then switch orbit to Phobos and could send down a lander to carry out more detailed measurements.
- C) The second option is to send four satellites launched by the same rocket to spy on the Martian climate. The 120kg probes would make the journey to Mars together but then split up and orbit separately 1,000km from the surface. The probes would compare temperature, atmospheric composition and wind speed at different points in the atmosphere.
- D) The final scheme is aimed at answering the question of whether Mars supports life now or has done so in the past. To get close to this, scientists want to know the extent of water on Mars. Today Mars' surface is bitterly cold and dry, but in its younger days the planet was warmer and wetter. Previous missions have identified channels and sedimentary deposits left by running water and there is evidence for ice at the poles. There is a slim chance that Martian microbes might still live underground. The proposed mission would investigate the extent of ice under the surface by firing four penetrators into the rock - two near the poles and two near the equator. These would beam results to the orbiter. The 800kg cone-shaped probe is designed to fit neatly into the nose of an Ariane 5 rocket - ESA's favourite launch vehicle.
- E) If one of the three projects wins European favour, a British team could have it up and running as early as 2008. Each of the spacecraft has been described as "off the wall" by Prof Zarnecki, who led the development team. He also was part of the ill-fated Beagle 2 mission in 2003. They all use an exotic propulsion system and are designed to be lightweight.

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Questions 16 – 19

Choose the most suitable heading for paragraphs A-E from the list of heading below.

Write the appropriate letter A-E in boxes 16-19 on your answer sheet.

- 16. The conditions to be found on Mars.
- 17. The difficulties to be encountered in sending missions into space.
- 18. The conditions to be found at various places in Mars' atmosphere.
- 19. The origin of the names of Mars' moons.

Questions 20 – 23

Read the following statements and say how they reflect the information in the reading passage, by writing:

- TRUE** if it accurately reflects the information given.
- FALSE** if it does not reflect the information in the passage.
- NOT GIVEN** if the information is not clearly given in the passage.

Write your answers in boxes 20 – 23 on your answer sheet.

- 20. Britain has successfully managed to land a mission on Mars.
- 21. This summer three British missions will be launched to unlock the secrets of the red planet.
- 22. It would take between a year and a half and 2 years for a mission to reach one of Mars' moons.
- 23. Deimos is the larger of Mars' two mysterious moons.

Questions 24 – 26

We learn from the reading passage that there are three projects to send an unmanned mission into space.

Read the information below and say whether it corresponds to the first, second or third project as described in the text.

In boxes 24-26 on your answer sheet write:

- 1 if it relates to the first enterprise.
- 2 if it relates to the second option.
- 3 if it relates to the final scheme.

- 24. Satellites would separately study various aspects of Mars' atmosphere.
- 25. Studies would be undertaken to verify the possibility of life on the red planet.
- 26. An examination would be undertaken of the surfaces of Mars' moons.

Questions 27 – 30

*We are given a lot of information about Mars in the text. Complete the following summary by choosing **UP TO THREE WORDS** from the reading passage to fill the spaces numbered 27 – 30.*

Write your answers in boxes 27 – 30 on your answer sheet.

We know that the surface of the red planet used to be much **...27...** than it is today. At some stage in its history water existed on Mars, because sedimentary deposits that were almost certainly left **...28...** have been discovered. In addition there is evidence for the **...29...** at the planet's poles. Finally there is just **...30...** that microbes might still live under the Martian surface.

Writing Task

The graph below shows the evolution of the number of working women as a percentage of the total labour force.

Summarize the information by selecting and reporting the main features making comparisons where relevant.

Task

Write a report for a university lecturer, describing the information in the graph.
You should write about 150 words.

