**Social media and human relationships:   
A ‘for and against’ essay (p.110 – Student’s book)**

Most people claim that social networking has a huge impact on our interpersonal relationships and has changed the way we communicate with people. Has social networking improved the quality of relationships in society? Discuss the positive as well as the negative aspects giving examples.

Write an essay (about 200 words) to express your view.

1. **Analyse the topic**
2. Read the rubric above and underline the key words.
3. What is the question you have to answer?
4. What are you going to write?
5. What register/style will you use?
6. **Plan your essay**
7. How many paragraphs are you going to write?
8. What are you going to include in each paragraph?

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **PLAN – FOR and AGAINST ESSAY** | | |
| **Introduction** | Par 1 | * introduce the topic – present the facts * refer to controversial aspects |
| **Main Body**  **\*reasons/**  **examples/**  **results** | Par 2 | * topic sentence * advantage 1 * justification \* * advantage 2 * justification |
|  | Par 3 | * topic sentence * advantage 1 * justification * advantage 2 * justification |
| **Conclusion** | Par 4 | * give balanced view of the topic * state your opinion / make a suggestion |

1. **Find arguments ‘for’ and ‘against’**

**a. Match the verbs in column A with the words/phrases in column B.**

1. develop a. addictive
2. facilitate b. your social circle
3. expand c. communication
4. become d. new social skills
5. is linked to e. face-to-face communication skills
6. lose f. cyberbullying

**b. Which of the points in 2a are positive and which are negative aspects of social media? Complete the table below.**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Social media and human relationships | |
| PROS | CONS |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |

1. **Justify your arguments: give reasons / examples / results**
2. **Match the following justifications to each of the arguments in ex. 3b.**
3. offensive comments, hate language, spreading lies, embarrassing photos or videos – serious impact on someone’s mental, emotional and physical state – may lead to suicide
4. make new friends - get to know people from all around the world – share common interests
5. can cause social isolation and mental problems (e.g. anxiety and depression)
6. learn how to adjust one’s behaviour to online communication - protect one’s privacy
7. handling conversation in real time - using facial expressions and body language effectively
8. keep in touch with friends or relatives at any time and place – reconnect with friends you have lost contact with
9. **Connect your ideas**
10. **Complete the following paragraph about the advantages of social media using the following linking words/phrases.**

*Another positive aspect What is more One of the main advantages such as For example To begin with*

1) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of social media is that it facilitates communication. 2) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ social networks make it possible to keep in touch with friends and relatives at any time and place, at a low cost. 3) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, social media platforms give people the chance to reconnect with people they have lost contact with, 4) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ old classmates. 5) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of social networking is that it enables people to expand their social circle. 6) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, by joining a group on Facebook, one can share their hobbies and interests, whether it is music, gaming or cooking, and make new friends from all around the world.

1. **Use the notes from the previous exercises to write a paragraph about the disadvantages of social media. Use appropriate linking words/phrases from the following table.**

* **Useful linking words/phrases**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Listing arguments/ points** | One main advantage/disadvantage is, Another positive/negative aspect of… is,  To start/begin with, First of all, What is more, Moreover, In addition, |
| **Giving examples** | For example/instance, such as, |
| **Presenting results** | As a result, This may lead to, Therefore, In this case, |
| **Expressing contrast** | On the other hand, Although, Despite/In spite of, However, |
| **Concluding** | Taking everything into account, All things considered, To conclude, To sum up, |
| **Expressing opinion** | It seems to me, The way I see it, I think/believe (that) |

1. **Write your essay**
2. Write your essay:
   * Use the plan in section 2.
   * Introduce the topic with a general statement. Present the two opposing sides.
   * Use the ideas in sections 3,4 and/or your own to write the two main body paragraphs.
   * Conclude with a balanced view of the issue and your personal opinion/suggestion.
   * Use appropriate linking words/phrases to connect your ideas (see section 5).
   * Avoid repetition – paraphrase the rubric and use synonyms.