

# TQUK Functional Skills Qualification in English at Level 1

## Reading Document Booklet Past Paper 4

### Instructions

- Read each question **carefully**
- Answer **all** questions
- Write your answers **clearly** in the spaces provided
- **Check** your answers.

### Information

- There are **2** documents to read
- The maximum mark for this exam is **20**
- The marks available for each question are shown in **bold** beneath each question
- You do **not** need to write in complete sentences
- You will **not** be assessed on spelling, punctuation and grammar.

### Items

- You **will** need the Examination Paper provided
- You **will** need a pen with black or blue ink
- You **are** allowed to use a dictionary
- You will **not need** any other stationery or equipment.

**Time allowed:** 60 minutes

**Do not open this booklet until you are told to do so.**

## Document 1 Article

# The Impact of Social Media on Society

In today's fast-paced digital age, the influence of social media on our lives cannot be ignored. From connecting with friends and family to staying updated on current events, social media platforms have become integral to our daily routines. However, it's crucial to examine the impact of this phenomenon on society. Research\* indicates that people spend an average of 2 hours and 25 minutes on social media daily.

### Connecting the world

Social media has undoubtedly transformed the way we communicate. It has made global connections possible and provided a perfect platform for voices that were previously unheard. Yet, it is not without its drawbacks. The constant stream of information can be overwhelming, leading to increased stress and anxiety for some individuals.

### Challenges

Moreover, the addictive nature of social media is a cause for serious concern. Studies have shown that excessive screen time can affect our mental health and productivity. The never-ending scroll of content can be a major time sink, diverting our attention from more meaningful pursuits.

Privacy is another issue that cannot be ignored. While social media platforms promise to protect our personal information, data breaches have become all too common. Our private lives are increasingly exposed to advertisers and third parties, raising concerns about the security of our personal information. A recent survey\* found that 60% of social media users worry about the security of their personal information.

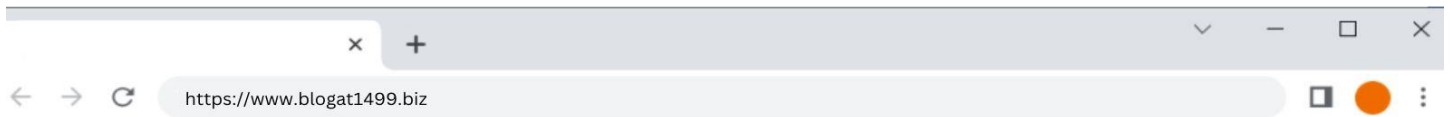
### A balancing act

Despite these challenges, social media can be a valuable tool when used mindfully. It enables us to connect with distant friends and family, share our experiences, and access a wealth of information. However, it's essential to strike a balance between our online and offline lives.

In conclusion, the impact of social media on society is undeniable. It has revolutionised communication and brought the world closer together. However, it also comes with its share of challenges, including privacy concerns and addictive tendencies. To make the most of social media, we should use it wisely and be mindful of its effects on our well-being.

**\*data correct as of December 2023**

## Document 2    Blog



Hey there friends

I've got something important to share with you today. After much thought and reflection, I've decided to bid farewell to social media. It's true that social media has made it easy to be in touch with friends across the world, but that's still not enough to change my mind. Yep, you heard me right. I'm giving up all social media (apart from the essential platforms I use for work and study). Here's why.



First and foremost, social media has been an epic waste of my time. I can't even begin to count the hours I've spent mindlessly scrolling through my feeds. It's like a never-ending black hole that sucks me in, and before I know it, an hour has passed, and I've accomplished nothing. I've had enough of this unproductive cycle. I'm going to try to forget about anything that's trending. My real life is more important!

Besides being a time-drain, social media has also made me feel inadequate. Seeing everyone's carefully selected highlight reels has led me to compare my life to theirs. I've felt the pressure to have a picture-perfect life, and that's just not healthy. It's time to embrace my imperfections and live life on my own terms.

Another reason I'm quitting social media is the toxic drama. It seems like every day there's a new controversy, argument, or drama unfolding on these platforms. I'm tired of the pessimism and the constant need to defend my opinions. I'd rather surround myself with positivity and focus on things that truly matter.

Lastly, I want to regain my privacy. Social media knows more about me than I'm comfortable with. It's time to take back control of my personal information and live a more private life.

### What will I be doing instead?

- Playing footy
- Going to the cinema
- Chilling out with friends (no phones allowed)
- Just relaxing!

Here's to a social media-free life filled with more meaningful connections, personal growth, and genuine happiness. I hope you'll consider joining me on this journey of liberation from the digital world's grip. Cheers to a brighter, more present future!

Amir

**This is the end of the booklet.**