

HOËRSKOOL JOHAN JURGENS
ENGLISH HOME LANGUAGE
GRADE 9
TASK 3: MEMORANDUM
FEBRUARY 2026



EXAMINER: A. Boucher

TIME: 2 Hours

MODERATOR: C. Bourbon

TOTAL: 70 Marks

THIS MEMORANDUM CONSISTS OF [9] PAGES.

SECTION A: READING FOR MEANING AND UNDERSTANDING

QUESTION 1 – COMPREHENSION

Refer to Text A:

Q	Level	Question and answer	Mark
1.1	1	Name two social media platforms mentioned in the passage.	(2)
		Any two: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Instagram • TikTok • Snapchat • WhatsApp✓✓ 	
1.2	1	Refer to paragraph 2. How can social media help shy teenagers?	(2)
		Social media helps shy teenagers by giving them a safe space to share opinions✓ and build confidence.✓	
1.3	3	Refer to paragraph 3. Explain why social media can affect teenagers' self-esteem.	(1)
		Social media affects self-esteem because teenagers compare themselves to unrealistic images of others.✓	
1.4	2	Refer to paragraph 4. List two negative effects of excessive screen time mentioned in the passage.	(2)
		Any two: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of sleep • Poor concentration • Reduced physical activity • Less face-to-face interaction✓✓ 	
1.5	3	Why is cyberbullying more difficult to escape than traditional bullying?	(3)
		Cyberbullying is harder to escape because it can happen at any time✓ and follows teenagers online, even when they are at home.✓ It also spreads widely and reaches a larger audience. ✓	
1.6	4	Do you think social media has more positive or negative effects on teenagers? Give a reason for your answer.	(3)
		Learners' own opinion supported by a valid reason from the text. Accept both positive or negative viewpoints. Possible answers: Social media has more negative effects on teenagers because teenagers feel pressure to present a perfect image of their lives. Carefully edited photos and videos can create unrealistic expectations about beauty, success and happiness.✓ As a result, some teenagers	

		<p>compare themselves to others and feel inadequate or excluded.✓ This can affect self-esteem and lead to feelings of anxiety or sadness.✓</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Social media has more positive effects in teenagers because teenagers can stay in touch with friends and family members✓. For shy learners, online platforms can provide a safe space to share opinions and build confidence.✓ Social media also allows teenagers to join groups based on shared interests✓</p>	
1.7	3	Explain what the writer means by “ balance online activity with real-life relationships ”.	(3)
		It means teenagers should not spend all their time online✓ but should also maintain real-life✓ friendships and family relationships to benefit most from it.✓	
1.8	2	Using the information in the passage, summarise TWO negative effects of social media on teenagers.	(2)
		The writer concludes that, ultimately, the impact of social media is characterised by how teens choose to use it daily basis✓✓	
		(2 x 1 point) Deduct a mark for lifting.	
1.9	4	Do you think teenagers should limit the amount of time they spend on social media? Give a reason for your answer.	(2)
		Yes, because limiting social media use can improve sleep, concentration, and real-life relationships.✓✓ OR No, if learners give a valid, well-motivated reason based on responsible use mentioned in the text. (Any reasonable, text-based response.) AWARD 2 MARKS FOR REASON ONLY, NOT FOR YES/NO	

Refer to Text B:

1.9	1	Describe what is happening in the image.	(2)
		Three teenagers are sitting next to each other, each looking down at their smartphones✓ instead of interacting/communicating with one another✓	
1.10	3	What message does the image convey about the influence of social media on teenagers?	(3)
		Text B reveals teenagers overusing social media and not interacting face-to-face. ✓ This supports Text A because paragraph 4 mentions that children limit their interactions face-to-face. ✓ Both texts focus on the idea that social media overuse limits social ability. ✓	

TOTAL SECTION A: [25 MARKS]

SECTION B: VISUAL LITERACY

QUESTION 2 – ADVERTISEMENT

Refer to **Text C** and **Text D** and answer the questions that follow.

TEXT C

2.1	1	How can you report or stop cyber-bullying?	(1)
		You can contact them using their: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Phone number• Email address• Visit the website✓ [Any ONE]	
2.2	1	What is the slogan of this advertisement?	(1)
		Speak up. Get support. Stay safe online.✓	
2.3	3	Why is there a large “X” placed next to “Stop Cyber-bullying”?	(1)
		To emphasise that cyber-bullying should be stopped OR To show that cyber-bullying is wrong. [Any ONE]	
2.4	3	Discuss the intention of this advertisement.	(2)
		The intention of this advertisement is to provide readers with a way to speak out against their bullies✓ and to put a stop to cyber-bullying.✓	
2.5	5	Do you think the slogan “Think Before You Type – Words Can Hurt” is effective for teenagers? Explain your answer.	(2)
		Yes, the slogan is effective because it is short, easy to remember, and directly reminds teenagers that online messages can cause real emotional harm.✓ It encourages responsible behaviour before posting or sending messages online.✓	

TEXT D

2.6.	1	What object is the woman holding in her hands?	(1)
		She is holding a cellphone/smartphone✓	
2.7	1	What alert does the woman say she has received on her phone?	(1)
		She says she received a Facebook alert through her Instagram contacts via her Gmail list that TikTok could be tracking her.✓	

2.8	2	List TWO different social media or digital platforms mentioned in the cartoon.	(2)
		Any TWO of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facebook • Instagram • Gmail • TikTok✓✓ 	
2.9	3	What does the cartoon suggest about people's understanding of how social media and apps track personal information?	(2)
		The cartoon suggests that people are confused or overwhelmed by technology✓ and do not fully understand how different apps share and track personal information.✓	
2.10	1	Where are the two characters sitting in the cartoon?	(2)
		They are sitting on a couch/sofa✓ in a living room✓	

TOTAL SECTION B: [15 MARKS]

SECTION C: SUMMARISING IN YOUR OWN WORDS

QUESTION 3 – SUMMARY

Summarise **Text E** by highlighting **the different reasons cyber-bullying should be stopped**.

NOTE:

1. Your summary should include seven points and NOT exceed 80 words.
2. You must write your summary as ONE FLUENT PARAGRAPH.
3. You are NOT required to include a title for your summary.
4. Indicate your word count at the end of the summary.

TEXT E

The Negative Effects of Social Media on Teenagers

1 Social media has become a big part of teenagers' lives, but it can have many negative effects.

2 It can harm mental health. Constant exposure to perfect images and posts can make teenagers feel anxious, sad, or inadequate. Social media can affect self-esteem. Comparing themselves to others online may make teens feel that they are not good enough.

3 Excessive social media use can lead to poor sleep. Many teenagers stay up late scrolling through feeds, which affects their energy and school performance. It can contribute to cyberbullying. Hurtful messages, mean

comments, or spreading rumours online can damage a teen's emotional wellbeing.

4 Social media can reduce face-to-face social skills. Spending too much time online means less time practising real conversations and building meaningful relationships. It can distract teenagers from their studies. Notifications and constant scrolling can make it hard to focus on homework or school projects

5 Social media can encourage unhealthy habits. Seeing constant images of ideal body types or lifestyles may lead to unhealthy eating, spending too much money, or taking risks to fit in.

6 Social media has several negative effects on teenagers, including mental health issues, low self-esteem, poor sleep, cyberbullying, reduced social skills, study distractions, and unhealthy habits. While it can be useful for staying connected, it is important for teenagers to use it wisely and take breaks when needed. Parents and teachers should guide teens to balance online and offline life to stay safe, healthy, and confident

-Adapted using ChatGPT

[276 words]

TOTAL SECTION C: [10 MARKS]

SECTION C: SUMMARISING IN YOUR OWN WORDS

QUESTION 3 - SUMMARY

	POSSIBLE ANSWER	OWN WORDS
1	<u>It can harm mental health.</u> Constant exposure to perfect images and posts can make teenagers feel anxious, sad, or inadequate	It causes harm to mental health causing anxiety, sadness and feelings of inadequacy.
2	<u>Social media can affect self-esteem.</u> Comparing themselves to others online may make teens feel that they are not good enough.	Teenagers compare themselves to others, which affects their self-esteem.
3	<u>Excessive social media use can lead to poor sleep.</u> Many teenagers stay up late scrolling through feeds, which affects their energy and school performance.	Staying up late, scrolling on social media leads to poor sleep.
4	<u>Hurtful messages, mean comments, or spreading rumours online can damage a teen's emotional wellbeing.</u>	Hurtful messages, mean comments and rumours contribute to cyberbullying.
5	<u>Social media can reduce face-to-face social skills.</u> Spending too much time online means less time practising real conversations and building meaningful relationships.	Social media reduces teenagers' face-to-face social skills.
6	<u>It can distract teenagers from their studies.</u> Notifications and constant scrolling can make it hard to focus on homework or school projects	Notifications and constant scrolling can distract teenagers from their studies.
7	<u>Social media can encourage unhealthy habits.</u> Seeing constant images of ideal body types or lifestyles may lead to unhealthy eating, spending too much money, or taking risks to fit in.	Unhealthy habits can be caused by social media.

[70 words]

Marking the summary:

Marking is on the basis of the inclusion of valid material and the exclusion of invalid material.

The summary should be marked as follows:

Mark allocation:

- 7 marks for 7 points (1 mark per main point)
- 3 marks for language
- Total marks: 10

• Distribution of language marks when candidate has not quoted verbatim:

- 1–3 points correct: award 1 mark
- 4–5 points correct: award 2 marks

- 6–7 points correct: award 3 marks
- **Distribution of language marks when candidate has quoted verbatim:**
 - 6–7 quotations: award no language mark
 - 4–5 quotations: award 1 language mark
 - 2–3 quotations: award 2 language marks

NOTE:

- **Word Count:**
 - Markers are required to verify the number of words used. Do not deduct any marks if the candidate fails to indicate the number of words used or if the number of words used is indicated incorrectly.
 - If the word limit is exceeded, read up to the last sentence above the stipulated upper limit and ignore the rest of the summary.

TOTAL FOR SECTION C: [10 MARKS]

SECTION D: LANGUAGE STRUCTURES AND CONVENTIONS

QUESTION 4: TEXTUAL EDITING

Study **Text F** and answer the questions that follow.

TEXT F

4.1	1	List all of the nouns in the first sentence. Social media, tool, way, teenagers✓✓ [Any 2 for 2 marks]	(2)
4.2	1	Identify TWO verbs in line 1. is✓ Has changed✓ OR has✓ changed✓ [ANY TWO]	(2)
4.3	1	Refer to lines 11 and 12. Provide synonyms for the following words: Essential Diverse Essential – necessary OR important ✓ Diverse – varied OR different ✓	(2)
4.4	3	Explain the effect of using slang and abbreviations on teenagers' writing. It can negatively affect writing skills, create grammatical errors, ✓and lead to incomplete sentences.✓	(2)
4.5	2	Rewrite this sentence in the past tense: "Teenagers often mix text language with standard English."	(1)

		Teenagers often mixed text language with standard English.✓	
4.6	2	Correct the punctuation in this sentence: “Many teenagers enjoy connecting with friends following trends and exploring creative content online.”	(1)
		Many teenagers enjoy connecting with friends,✓ following trends and exploring creative content online.	
4.7	1	Identify one example of an adjective and one example of an adverb from the text.	(2)
		Adjective: informal ✓ Adverb: instantly✓	
		Accept any other relevant response found in the text.	
4.8	1	Find one example of a complex sentence in the text.	(2)
		Accept any of the 4 complex sentences found in the text (An addendum was provided)✓✓	
4.9	2	Account for the capital letter in “English” line 8.	(1)
		English is a proper noun✓	
4.10	4	Do you think teenagers should always use formal language on social media? Support your answer using the text.	(2)
		No, because using informal language is acceptable in casual contexts✓, but they should learn to switch to formal language when necessary to maintain good written communication.✓	
4.11	1	Identify one example of a preposition from the last sentence of the text.	(1)
		between✓	
4.12	2	Correct the punctuation in the following sentence: “Responsible use requires awareness practice and a careful balance between casual and formal expression”	(2)
		Responsible use requires awareness, ✓practice and a careful balance between casual and formal expression. ✓	
4.13	1	Do you think the author’s use of adjectives like informal and creative helps the reader understand the text better? Give one reason.	(1)
		Yes, because the adjectives describe the type of language and content, making it easier for the reader to understand the effects of social media on teenagers’ writing.✓	
		OR any other relevant answer based on the text.	

TOTAL FOR SECTION D: [20 MARKS]

GRAND TOTAL: [70 MARKS]