

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



**EXAMINER:** A. Boucher

**TIME:** 2 Hours

**MODERATOR:** C. Bourbon

**TOTAL:** 70 Marks

THIS QUESTION PAPER CONSISTS OF [10] PAGES.

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

1. Read this page carefully before attempting to answer the questions set.

2. This question paper consists of FOUR sections:

<b>SECTION A:</b> Literary/Non-literary text	(25 marks)
<b>SECTION B:</b> Visual Text	(15 marks)
<b>SECTION C:</b> Summary	(10 marks)
<b>SECTION D:</b> Language Structures and Conventions	(20 marks)

3. Answer ALL the questions.

4. Start EACH SECTION on a NEW page.

5. Rule off after EACH SECTION.

6. Number the answers correctly according to the given numbering system.

7. Leave a line open after each answer.

8. Pay special attention to spelling and sentence construction.

9. Write neatly and legibly.

**GOOD LUCK!**

## SECTION A: READING FOR MEANING AND UNDERSTANDING

### QUESTION 1 – COMPREHENSION

Study both **Text A** and **Text B** below and answer the questions that follow.

#### TEXT A

### ***Connected but alone*** — by *Matthew Sperling*

Over the past decade, social media has become an important part of teenagers' daily lives. Platforms such as Instagram, TikTok, Snapchat and  
1 WhatsApp allow young people to communicate instantly, share experiences and express their identities. While social media offers many opportunities, it also raises serious concerns about its influence on teenagers.

One of the main benefits of social media is connection. Teenagers can stay in touch with friends and family members, even if they live far away. For shy  
2 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, such as music, sport or gaming, helping them feel less isolated.

However, constant online activity can have negative effects. Many teenagers feel pressure to present a perfect image of their lives. Carefully edited photos  
3 and videos can create unrealistic expectations about beauty, success and happiness. As a result, some teenagers compare themselves to others and feel inadequate or excluded. This can affect self-esteem and lead to feelings of anxiety or sadness.

Another concern is the amount of time teenagers spend on social media. Scrolling through feeds late at night can interfere with sleep, which is essential  
4 for concentration and emotional health. Excessive screen time may also reduce physical activity and limit face-to-face interaction. Instead of talking openly with family or friends, teenagers may turn to their phones for comfort.

Social media can also expose teenagers to cyberbullying. Hurtful comments, rumours and online harassment can spread quickly and reach a wide  
5 audience. Unlike traditional bullying, cyberbullying often follows teenagers home, making it difficult to escape. Although many platforms allow users to report abuse, the emotional damage can still be long-lasting.

Despite these challenges, social media is not entirely harmful. When used responsibly, it can be a powerful tool for learning and self-expression.  
6 Teenagers who balance online activity with real-life relationships are more likely to benefit from social media without being overwhelmed by it. Ultimately, the influence of social media depends on how it is used and the choices teenagers make every day.

Adapted from: <https://mg.co.za/tuesday/2025-12-16-social-media-the-influence-on-teenagers/>

Words [472]

## TEXT B



## QUESTIONS

Refer to Text A:

1.1	Name <b>two</b> social media platforms mentioned in the passage.	(2)
1.2	<b>Refer to paragraph 2.</b> How can social media help shy teenagers?	(2)
1.3	<b>Refer to paragraph 3.</b> Explain why social media can affect teenagers' self-esteem.	(1)
1.4	<b>Refer to paragraph 4.</b> List two negative effects of excessive screen time mentioned in the passage.	(2)
1.5	<b>Refer to paragraph 5.</b> Why is cyberbullying more difficult to escape than traditional bullying?	(3)
1.6	Do you think social media has more positive or negative effects on teenagers? Give a reason for your answer.	(3)

1.7	<b>Refer to paragraph 6.</b> Explain what the writer means by “ <b>balance online activity with real-life relationships</b> ”.	(3)
1.8	<b>Refer to paragraph 6.</b> In your own words, state the conclusion that the writer comes to.	(2)
1.9	Do you think teenagers should limit the amount of time they spend on social media? Give a reason for your answer.	(2)

**Refer to Text B:**

1.10		Describe what is happening in the image.	(2)
1.11		Critically discuss to what extent Text B supports paragraph 4 of Text A. Refer to BOTH Text A and B in your answer.	(3)

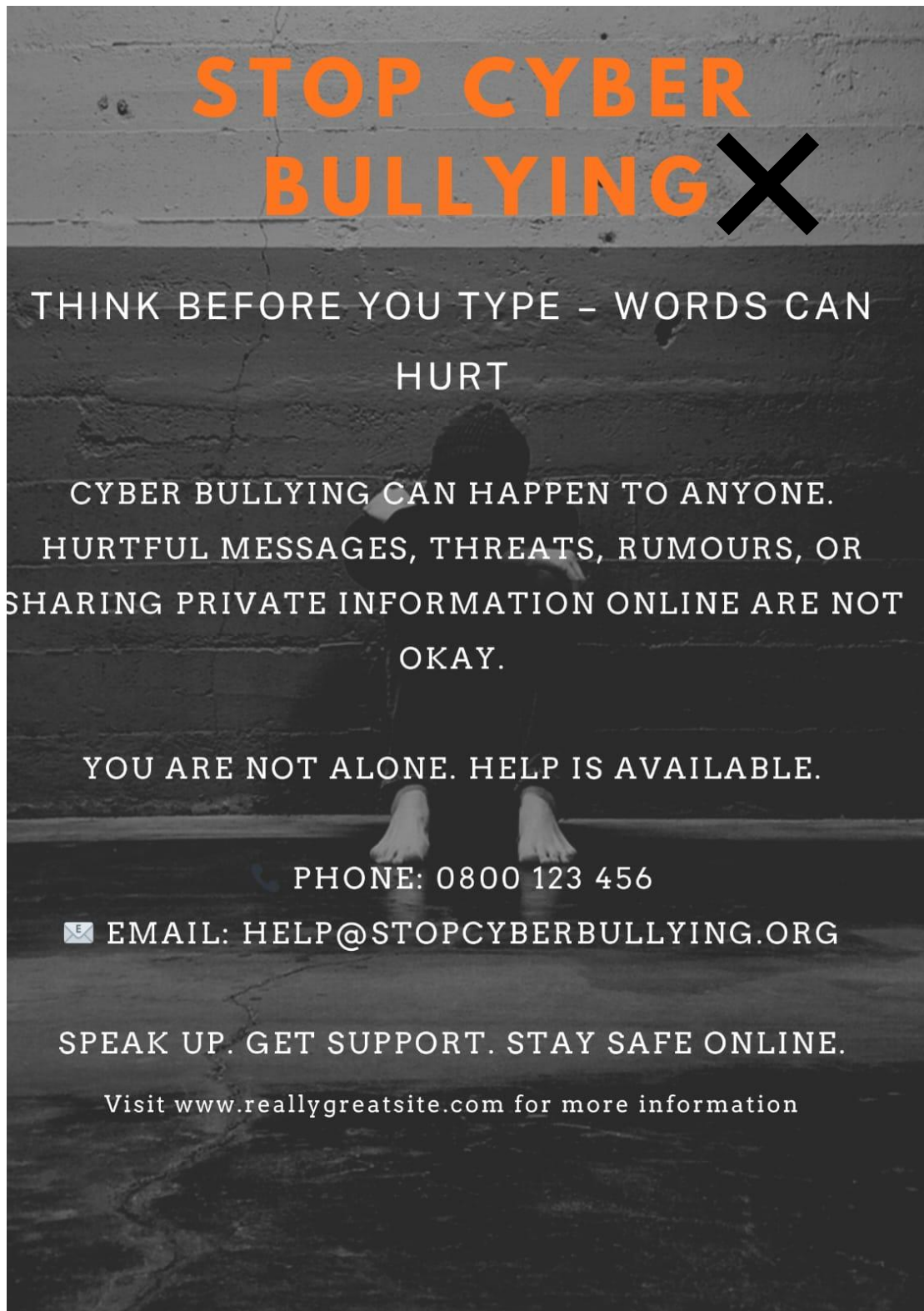
**TOTAL SECTION A: [25 MARKS]**

**SECTION B: VISUAL LITERACY**

**QUESTION 2**

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

**TEXT C**



## QUESTIONS

2.1	How can you contact or stop cyber-bullying?	(1)
2.2	What is the slogan of this advertisement?	(1)
2.3	Why is there a large “X” placed next to “Stop Cyber-bullying”?	(1)
2.4	Discuss the intention of this advertisement.	(2)
2.5	Do you think the slogan “Think Before You Type – Words Can Hurt” is effective for teenagers? Explain your answer.	(2)

## TEXT D



## QUESTIONS

2.6	What object is the woman holding in her hands?	(1)
2.7	What alert does the woman say she has received on her phone?	(1)
2.8	List TWO different social media or digital platforms mentioned in the cartoon.	(2)
2.9	What does the cartoon suggest about people’s understanding of how social media and apps track personal information?	(2)
2.10	Where are the two characters sitting in the cartoon?	(2)

**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*

**TOTAL 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

1	Social media is a powerful tool that has changed the way teenagers
2	communicate and interact. Platforms such as Instagram, TikTok, and Facebook
3	allow users to share ideas, photos, and videos instantly.
4	Many teenagers enjoy connecting with friends, following trends, and exploring
5	creative content online. However, social media also has several language-
6	related challenges. For instance, informal language, slang, and abbreviations
7	are widely used, which can influence writing skills and academic performance.
8	Teenagers often mix text language with standard English, creating grammatical
9	errors and incomplete sentences. Punctuation is sometimes ignored, leading to
10	confusion in meaning. On the positive side, social media can expand
11	vocabulary, improve reading skills, and expose users to diverse writing styles.
12	Understanding when to use formal and informal language is essential. By
13	learning to adapt their language for different audiences and purposes,
14	teenagers can benefit from social media without letting it negatively affect their
15	written communication. Responsible use requires awareness, practice, and a
16	careful balance between casual and formal expression.

#### QUESTIONS

4.1	List all of the nouns in the first sentence.	(1)
4.2	Identify TWO verbs in line 1.	(2)
4.3	<b>Refer to lines 11 and 12.</b> Provide synonyms for the following words: Essential Diverse	(2)
4.4	Explain the effect of using slang and abbreviations on teenagers' writing.	(2)
4.5	Rewrite this sentence in the past tense: "Teenagers often mix text language with standard English."	(1)
4.6	Correct the punctuation in this sentence: "Many teenagers enjoy connecting with friends following trends and exploring creative content online."	(1)
4.7	Identify one example of an adjective and one example of an adverb from the text.	(2)
4.8	Find one example of a complex sentence in the text.	(2)
4.9	Account for the capital letter in "English" <b>line 8</b> .	(1)
4.10	Do you think teenagers should always use formal language on social media? Support your answer using the text.	(2)

4.11	Identify one example of a preposition from the last sentence of the text.	(1)
4.12	Correct the punctuation in the following sentence: “Responsible use requires awareness practice and a careful balance between casual and formal expression”	(2)
4.13	Do you think the author’s use of adjectives like informal and creative helps the reader understand the text better? Give one reason.	(1)

**TOTAL FOR SECTION D: [20 MARKS]**

**GRAND TOTAL: [70 MARKS]**