

**Epreuve du 1<sup>er</sup> groupe****ANGLAIS**

Every day, we're swimming in a sea of electromagnetic radiation (EMR) produced by electrical appliances, power lines, wiring in buildings, and a slew of<sup>1</sup> other technologies that are part of modern life. From the dishwasher and microwave oven in the kitchen and the clock radio next to your bed, to the cellular phone **you** hold to your ear – sometimes for hours each day – exposure to EMR is growing and becoming a serious health threat.

But there's a huge public health crisis looming from one particular threat: EMR from cellular phones –both the radiation from the handsets and from the tower-based antennas carrying the signals- which studies have linked to development of brain tumors, genetic damage, and other exposure-related conditions. Yet the government and a well-funded cell phone industry media machine continue to mislead the unwary public about the dangers of a product used by billions of people. Most recently, a Danish epidemiological study announced to great fanfare the inaccurate conclusion that cell phone use is completely safe.

George Carlo, PhD<sup>2</sup>, JD<sup>3</sup>, is an epidemiologist and medical scientist who, from 1993 to 1999, headed the first telecommunications industry-backed studies into the dangers of cell phone use. That program remains the largest in the history of the issue. But he ran afoul<sup>4</sup> of the very industry that hired him when his work revealed preventable health hazards associated with cell phone use.

The cellular phone industry was born in the early 1980s, when communications technology that had been developed for the Department of Defense was put into commerce by companies focusing on profits. **This group**, with big ideas but limited resources, pressured government regulatory agencies – particularly the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) - to allow cell phones to be sold without pre-market testing.

Today there are more than two billion cell phone users being exposed every day to the dangers of electromagnetic radiation (EMR) - dangers government regulators and the cell phone industry refuse to admit exist. Included are: genetic damage, brain dysfunction, brain tumors, and other conditions such as sleep disorders and headaches. The amount of time spent on the phone is irrelevant, according to Dr. Carlo, as the danger mechanism is triggered within seconds. Researchers say if there is a safe level of exposure to EMR, it's so low that we can't detect it.

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**FOOTNOTES:**

- 1) **a slew of** = a great number of
- 2) **PhD** = highest University degree in the US
- 3) **JD** = Juris Doctor = a professional doctorate degree in Law/in the US
- 4) **ran afoul of** = was angry about / disagreed with

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**I. READING COMPREHENSION (8 Marks)**

**A) 1/ Choose the most appropriate title for the text. (1 mark)**

- a) The Hidden Dangers of New Technologies
- b) The Development of the Cell Phone Industry.
- c) The Power Crisis in Modern Life.

**B) Looking for information (3 marks)**

**Pick out of the text:**

-two (2) pieces of domestic equipment that can cause EMR (1 mark)

-2) -----

-3) -----

- four (4) risks related to EMR: (2 marks)

-4)-----

-5)-----

-6)-----

-7)-----

**C) Referencing (1 mark)**

What and who do the following word and phrase refer to in the text?

-8) **You** (line 4):-----

-9) **This group** (line 20):-----

**D) Vocabulary in context (1 mark)**

Find in the text, words corresponding to the following definitions.

-10) Seeming imminent (paragraph 2) : -----

-11) Someone who is not conscious of something (paragraph 2) : -----

**E) Sentence completion (2 marks)**

Complete the sentences meaningfully, by referring to the text.

-12) An excessive exposure to EMR can-----  
-----

-13) In the cell phone industry, pre-market testing should-----  
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**II- LINGUISTIC COMPETENCE (8 Marks)**

**F) Dialogue completion (3 marks)**

Two teenagers are discussing the risks people run with the excessive use of new technologies. Complete their dialogue by putting the verbs in parentheses into the correct forms or by adding a preposition.

-“Have you noticed that nowadays people (to hold) (14).-----more and more cellular phones to their ears?”

-“Of course, and they have been using them (15)-----years now.”

-“Don’t you think this (to impact) (16) -----on some people’s health in the future?”

-“Oh, you’re right. We should (to take) (17)----- this fact into consideration.”

-“We would like the authorities ( to sensitize) (18)-----people more on the risks.”

-“Yes, if they make the public aware of the dangers, they won’t be exposed (19)----- radiations any more.”

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**G) Notions**

**(2 marks)**

Pick out of the text, phrases expressing notions of:

- 20 frequency (paragraph 1) -----
- 21 superlative (paragraph 3) -----
- 22 permission (paragraph 4) -----
- 23 opinion paragraph 5) -----

**H) Jumbled words**

**(2 marks)**

Reorder the following words to have meaningful sentences.

- 24 expensive / to / Net / connection / how / the / is / a? -----  
-----
- 25 frequently / as / elders / communicate / do / as / do / young people?

**I) Tag questions**

**(1 mark)**

Complete the paragraph with the appropriate tag questions

- 26- Don't overuse new technologies, -----? They can bring about a health crisis (27)  
-----?

**J) WRITING**

**(4 marks)**

**Choose one of these topics**

- 28 Do you think that new technologies can be considered vital to our lives today? State your reasons.
- 29 Two students are discussing 2 scientific inventions: television and the Internet. The first student thinks that television is the most important invention, whereas the second student supports that the Internet is.  
Write down their conversation.

