



LANGUE VIVANTE II

Epreuve du 2^{ème} groupe

ANGLAIS

TV : A Thief of Time ?

5 If someone offered you a million dollars to give up television for the rest of your life, would you do so ? Some years ago, 1 in 4 Americans surveyed said that they would not. Another survey asked men what they wanted most. The majority said that they desired peace and happiness. But this came second on their wish list. What they wanted first in life was a big-season television.

10 Television is immensely popular throughout the world. Back in 1931 when television was in its infancy, the chairman of the Radio Corporation of America said : "The potential audience of television in its ultimate development may reasonably be expected to be limited only by the population of the earth itself". Those words may have sounded far-fetched at the time but they do not today. The number of televisions worldwide is estimated to stand at 1.5 billion, with many more viewers. Love it or hate it, television plays a major role in peoples' lives.

15 The time that many people devote to television is astonishing. Recently, a global study showed that, on average, people watch TV for just over three hours each day. North Americans watch four and a half hours daily, while the Japanese top the list at five hours per day. Those hours add up. If we watch four hours daily, by age 60 we will have spent ten years in front of the screen. Yet, none of us would want inscribed on our tombstone : "Here lies our beloved friend who devoted one sixth of his or her life to watching TV".

20 Do people watch hours of television because they enjoy it ? Not necessarily. Many believe that they spend too much time watching TV and feel guilty that they haven't used their time more productively. Some say they are "TV-addicts". Of course, you cannot become addicted to TV in the same way that a person becomes addicted to narcotics, though there are similarities. Addicts devote much time to the drug they use.

25 Though they want to reduce that time or quit the habit, they can't. They sacrifice important social and family activities to use drugs, and they suffer withdrawal symptoms when they abstain. All these symptoms can occur in people who watch a lot of television. "The eating of too much honey is not good", wrote wise King Solomon. (Proverbs 25:27) The same principle applies to TV viewing. Though television offers much that is worthwhile, heavy viewing can cut into family time, hinder reading and academic performance in children, and contribute to obesity.

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Awake! October 2006.

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I. COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

(08 points)

A. Find in the text words similar in meaning to the following ones (02 points)

- a) Beginnings = (paragraph 2)
- b) Surprising = (paragraph 3)
- c) Obstruct = (paragraph 5)
- d) Renounce = (paragraph 5)

B. Complete the chart below with information taken from the text (01,5 point)

Results of the global study on TV viewing hours
a) On average :
b) In America :
c) In Asia :

C. Which of the following fields may be affected by heavy viewing ? Choose the three that are mentioned in the text. (01,5 point)

Culture – education – history – Health – leisure – family unit – beliefs.

D. Say whether the following statements are true or false. Justify by quoting a relevant passage from the text (02 points)

- 1) Watching too much TV is a waste of time.
- 2) Watching TV is not beneficial at all.

E. Referencing : What or who do the following underlined words refer to ?

- a) ...but this came second on their wish list. (line 4)
- b) ...yet, none of us would want inscribed on our tombstone. (line 17)

II. LINGUISTIC COMMUNICATIVE COMPETENCE

(06 points)

A. Rewrite the following sentences by using the prompts given (don't change the meaning of the initial sentences) (03 points)

- 1) You will wear glasses if you don't stop watching TV for long hours.
Unless.....
- 2) Why don't we go to the concert ?
What about.....?
- 3) I advise you to replace TV viewing with more meaningful activities.
You
- 4) He failed his exam because he hadn't worked seriously.
He would.....

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- 5) "Did you attend yesterday's seminar" ? My colleague asked me.
My colleague wanted to know.....
- 6) Authorities must take strict measures against violent programmes on TV
Strict measures.....

B. Fill in the blanks with the correct form of the words in brackets (01,5 point)

- 1) (despair) Nafy was so.....after her failure at the exam.
- 2) (Harm) Everybody must be aware of the.....effects of heavy TV viewing.
- 3) (reduction) One way to.....TV viewing is to move the television out of the bedroom.

C. Match sentences in column I with the ideas they express in column II (01,5 point)

COLUMN I	COLUMN II	ANSWERS
1) He gives up television for a while in order to improve his academic performance	a) preference b) goal c) regret	1.... 2.... 3....
2) I should have attended the meeting	d) contrast	
3) Awa is fond of TV programmes whereas her sister prefers reading novels		

III. ESSAY (06 points)

Choose one topic and write an essay of about 150 words.

- 1) Do you agree with the following statement ? "Watching TV is not creative".
- 2) Imagine a debate between Amdy and Moctar about television. Amdy thinks that television is a powerful teaching tool whereas Moctar points out the consequences of television on pupils' studies, particularly on their reading skills.

ANSWER KEY

I. COMPREHENSION

- A. a = infancy
b = astonishing
c = hinder
d = quit

- B. a = over three hours each day
b = four and a half hours / day
c = five hours / day

C. Education – Health – family unit

- D. 1. True : “Many believe that they spend too much time watching TV and feel guilty that they haven’t used their time more productively.
2. False : “though television offers much that is worthwhile,

- E. A) To desire peace and happiness
b) people (human beings)

II. LINGUISTIC COMPETENCE

A) Rewriting

- 1) Unless you stop watching TV for long hours you will wear glasses.
- 2) What about going to the concert ?
- 3) You should : had better / ought to replace TV viewing with more meaningful activities.
- 4) He wouldn’t have failed his exam if he had worked seriously (or : he would have passed).
He would have succeeded in his exam if he had worked seriously.
- 5) My colleague wanted to know if I had attended the previous day’s seminar.
- 6) Strict measures against violent programmes on TV must be taken by authorities.

B) Gap filling (word building)

- 1) desperate
- 2) harmful
- 3) reduce

C) Matching

- 1) goal
- 2) regret
- 3) contrast