

REPUBLIQUE TUNISIENNE MINISTRE DE L'EDUCATION ET DE LA FORMATION	SESSION DE CONTROLE	EXAMEN DU BACCALAURÉAT SESSION DE JUIN 2009
SECTION : SCIENCES TECHNIQUES		
EPREUVE : A N G L A I S	DURÉE : 2 Heures	COEFFICIENT : 1

I – READING COMPREHENSION (12 marks)

- Addiction to technical novelties has become a new phenomenon of modern civilization. A lot of people spend too much time walking around the stores that sell electronic goods, carefully examining everything from cell phones and iPods to fridges and washing machines. This addiction may become as strong as gambling – when people aim all their efforts to get hold of new devices, which are usually not cheap at all. The obsessive wish to buy technical novelties may lead to family conflicts. As a rule, wives strongly object to their husbands' wishes to buy a new plasma TV-set, a super slim laptop or a recordable DVD player, for instance. Women would rather enjoy new clothes or a week on holiday somewhere in a warm country.
- The new up-to-date form of psychological dependence has not been studied thoroughly yet. Western scientists call it the "gadget addiction". Psychologists determined that over-indulgence to technical devices may lead to mental disorder. The uncontrollable desire to buy all new appliances without any reasons is the most explicit symptom of this sickness. In addition, some individuals spend hours and days examining a new purchase, trying to sort out all of its functions and buttons. The process makes such people forget about everything else, including food. Gadget addiction can bring a lot of trouble to family couples : a gadget-addicted spouse – usually a man – stops paying enough attention to his wife.
- A European company conducted a market research a year ago. Spokespeople for the company decided to find out how many Europeans were going to acquire a DVD player in the near future. It was just a common market research; although the results of it became quite surprising. As it turned out, the majority of people based their decisions to buy new appliances on fashion and rumours, not on necessity or functionality reasons. In addition, people buy new electronic things in an attempt to look more modern in the eyes of their friends and neighbours.

Adapted from www.english.pravda.ru

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1- Tick the most appropriate option. (1 mark)

The best title for the text is :

- Family conflicts ☐
- Gadget addiction ☐
- Sensible purchase ☐

2) Correct the following false statements with details from the text. (4 marks)

a – People have been used to technical novelties for a long time. (paragraph 1)

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b – Women share their husbands' obsessive wish to purchase technical novelties. (paragraph 1)

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c – Couples enjoy using the new gadgets together. (paragraph 2)

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d – People decide to buy new devices to feel more comfortable at home. (paragraph 3)

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3) Find words / expressions in the text that approximately mean : (4 marks)

a – completely (paragraph 2) :

b – to discover (paragraph 3) :

c – to acquire (paragraph 1) :

c – devices (paragraph 2) :

4) What do the underlined words in the text refer to ? (2 marks)

a – its (paragraph 2) refers to

b – it (paragraph 3) refers to

5) Are new devices a blessing or a curse ? Justify your answer. (1 mark)

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II – WRITING (12 marks)

Writing 1 (4 marks)

Use the notes below to write a four-line paragraph about i-Pods.

iPods : Type of media player – release – 2001

Designer : Apple Macintosh

Price : \$ 150 – \$ 200

Sales : 2008 – over 141 million units - sell.

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Writing 2 (8 marks)

You have just come back from a two-week holiday abroad. You were not satisfied with your stay for several reasons.

Write a letter of complaint to your travel agency about the conditions of your stay.

DO NOT WRITE YOUR NAME OR ADDRESS

Dear Sir / Madam,

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Yours, faithfully
Salim(a)

III – LANGUAGE (6 marks)

1) Fill in the blanks with 6 words from the box. (3 marks)

bigger – drain – lose – financially – cost – to – abroad – from

Professionals fleeing Britain for a new life overseas don't just enjoy an improved quality of life, they are better off , too. The exodus is creating a brain of key workers similar that of the 1970's.

The head of Natwest International Personal Banking said : " People who are willing to move not only benefit from earnings, but also have the advantage of a lower of living".

2) Circle the right option. (3 marks)

Brain Drain can be defined as the emigration of talented individuals to other nations due to conflicts, lack of opportunity, health hazards or other reasons.

Investment in higher education is (**spent / lost / used**) when a trained individual leaves and does not return. In fact, Brain Drain can occur (**when / while / why**) individuals who study abroad do not return to their (**birth / house / home**) country.

The phenomenon is perhaps (**most / much / many**) problematic for developing countries where it is widespread. In these countries higher education and professional certification are (**rarely / often / never**) viewed as the surest path to escape from a (**prosperous / troubled / stable**) economy or a difficult political situation.