

LEVEL B (B1 & B2) 2017 B

MODULE 1 Reading comprehension and language awareness

PART A - CHOICE ITEMS

ACTIVITY 1

Read the text below and choose the best answers (A, B, or C) for items 1a-7a that follow.

what are teenagers really like?



Too often when writing about what teenagers like or dislike, we neglect to talk to the most important group of all: the teens themselves. So, in order to find out what American teenagers in 2017 are really like and what their tastes are, we polled about 60 of them from across the country. We spoke with teenagers of various socio-economic classes, ages 13 to 19, in middle school, high school, and college. We asked them about their lives and habits, what things or services they use, what they enjoy, etc. Their answers offer a glimpse into what it's like being a teenager in 2017 in the US.

Every teen we spoke with owned a smartphone, and most of them owned or regularly used a variety of devices, like gaming consoles, tablets, and desktop computers. Most of them received smartphones from their parents when they were about 11 years old. When asked about how much time they spend on their phones, they were too shy to tell us but we presume that it's a lot. We also asked them about how much time they spend in front of television sets and gaming consoles (PlayStation 4 and Wii were popular answers). Some also used desktop computers. On average, they said that they spent 11 hours in front of screens every day, which sounds as if it would be literally every waking moment!

What are teens' favorite apps? It's no surprise that teenagers love Snapchat. What one 17-year old told us is that "With Snapchat you can let your friends know exactly what you're doing and where you are in a fast and easy way. I also like being able to make stories, for all of my friends to read and see, and enjoy seeing stories that my friends make and know what they're up to."

Teenagers almost universally named Spotify as their preferred music-streaming service and some teenagers said it was the best app on their phone overall. Instagram was another favourite and one more app that you might not expect: Twitter. A lot of teenagers we talked to really liked the Twitter platform. Absent from the list of favorites was Facebook. Here's why, as a 16-year old explained: "I use Facebook, but I feel like I can't be myself on it because my parents and my friends' parents are my Facebook friends."

ATTENTION

- Try to answer all the questions.
- Mark your answers on Answer Sheet 1 [ΑΠΑΝΤΗΤΙΚΟ ΕΝΤΥΠΟ 1].
- Provide ONE answer for each item.
- You have **85 minutes** to complete this part of the exam.

- 1a. This article gives an account of teenagers'
- A. lives. B. preferences. C. feelings.
- 2a. The group of teenagers that was part of the survey was
- A. from a specific region. B. a varied sample. C. still in school.
- 3a. Most teens start using a smartphone when they
- A. are very young. B. need it. C. have friends.
- 4a. On the whole, American teenagers use lots of
- A. internet space. B. gaming gadgets. C. devices.
- 5a. It seems that they use their phones a lot
- A. for different things. B. to talk to friends. C. to take photos.
- 6a. Teenagers are in front of a screen for
- A. eighteen hours a day. B. as long as they can. C. an enormous amount of time.
- 7a. In the survey, it became obvious that some apps are more popular
- A. among young people. B. than mobile phones. C. among all Americans.

ACTIVITY 2

Read the short texts below and choose the best word (A-F) to fill in items 8a-12a. Use each word only once. There is one word you do not need.

A. Food	B. Geography	C. History
D. Language	E. Traditions & customs	F. Entertainment

GREECE FOREVER

Greece is a country influenced by its location, at the junction between the East and the West, and by its many occupations throughout history. The Greeks are particularly proud of their culture and heritage and speak of their country with an intense passion, feeling that the culture in Greece is a definition of their national and ethnic belonging. Here are some facts for the people wishing to visit.



8a. _____

A descendant of Ancient Greek, it is affiliated to the part of the Greek or Hellenic branch of Indo-European. The first written Greek was found on baked mud tablets, in the remains of the Knossos Palace of Crete island. Linear A and Linear B are the two most ancient types of writing in Greece.

9a. _____

If you want to study Greece you start from the Bronze age and go on to the classical period, to the Byzantine period and more. It is of course known worldwide for many famous people and their actions throughout centuries. This section proposes information about all this but also a list with most famous archaeological sites, monuments and UNESCO Sites.

10a. _____

Greece is a mountainous peninsula surrounded by water. Due to the 13,676 km of coastline and the 2,000 Greek islands, of which 168 are inhabited, the Greeks developed since the ancient times a strong connection with the sea, which is why the Greeks have a long tradition in navigation, ship building and marine trade.

11a. _____

Celebrations in Greece either have a religious character or come from paganism. 'Panygria', for example, are religious celebrations followed by traditional music and dance. Music, of course, is an integral aspect of Greece and dates to ancient times, during which poetry, dancing and music were inseparable and played an important part in the ancient Greek everyday life.

12a. _____

The Greek cuisine is famous for its good quality products and the amazing taste. Many of the products are characteristically 'Greek' –including various types of cheese, virgin olive oil, citrus fruits, honey, wine, spices, nuts and more. These fresh culinary products are widely used in cooking and constitute strong elements of the local culture.

ACTIVITY 3

3.1 Read the text and fill in gaps 13a-18 with the best option (A-H). Use each option only once. There are two options you do not need.

A. quickly	B. less	C. too	D. especially
E. with	F. how	G. where	H. why

Device Allows You to Track Your Car Using Your Smartphone



Have you ever lost your car on a parking lot? It happens. You park and go shopping. When you get back, you don't have a clue **(13a)** _____ your car is. Then you start roaming around clicking on the panic button on your car keys so the alarm goes off. It can be frustrating, especially on a hot, sunny day.

Well... you don't need to install an expensive GPS system to keep track of your car. That's **(14a)** _____ expensive. You would need to pay a monthly subscription fee just to use it. Don't we have enough bills to pay already?

The device "TrackR" has the size of a coin and can be placed everywhere!

But is there a way to track your vehicle without spending a fortune?

Yes, now there is!

A California-based startup company was able to make this a reality. They created a tiny device that works **(15a)** _____ your smartphone, and it could be exactly what you're looking for!

What is it?

It's called TrackR. It is a state-of-the-art tracking device the size of a quarter. It's changing the way we keep track of the important things in our lives. With TrackR you'll gain peace of mind, knowing you can find your car **(16a)** _____.

How Does it Work?

It's easy! Install the free TrackR app on your smartphone, connect the app to your device and you're ready to go! Simply attach TrackR to whatever you want to keep tabs on. The entire process of setting it up only takes 5 minutes or **(17a)** _____.

You can attach it to your keys, briefcase, wallet, your latest tech gadgets and anything else you don't want to lose. Then use the TrackR app to locate your missing item in seconds.

Forget expensive GPS systems or tracking services. Nobody wants to pay expensive monthly subscription fees. We understand **(18a)** _____ stressful these things can be, and this is the reason why TrackR was created. This device is your VIP when you need to take care of more important things in life.

3.2 Choose the best answers (A, B, or C) for items 19a-20a.

19a. The purpose of this text is to

- A.** advertise a product. **B.** promote smartphones. **C.** explain what TrackR does.

20a. What is the most important piece of information missing in this part of the text?

- A.** Basic uses of TrackR. **B.** Where TrackR is manufactured. **C.** How much TrackR costs.

ACTIVITY 4

From: AsymptoteBlog
June 23, 2017

“Icelanders” by Vanda Rozenbergová

by Julia Sherwood and Peter Sherwood

Shortlisted for Slovakia’s most prestigious literary prize, the ‘Anasoft Litera’, it will not be unfair to say that Vanda Rozenbergová is a master of the short story form. In this story, she explores domestic tensions and dashed dreams through the skillful use of a child narrator.

I was in my room playing with my toy cars but Becko kept taking my black sports car away so I had to give him a slap on the hand, Stop it, Becko! I said. I’d been working on a racetrack for my lorries but because it was a Sunday I had to listen to my mum cursing ‘cause the kitchen is next to my room. “Bloody Sundays,” she said, then I heard a pot lid bang on the floor and a knife strike a chopping board. I used to think she was crying but she was just moaning aloud about having to cook. “I’m as lonely as little orphan Annie,” she kept shouting but Daddy and I had no idea who little orphan Annie was. And there’s another thing I don’t get: why does my mum keep doing stuff she hates, why does she keep roasting meat, peeling potatoes, grating carrots, baking and frying, and why does she always clean up afterwards but never sit down with us to eat and instead say she’s had her fill, having breathed in all the cooking smells. And then in the morning she pulls my trousers up to my ears, bundles me into the car and starts doing her hair as we’re driving and tells me with hairpins in her mouth to eat all my sandwiches at school ‘cause she made them for me even though she didn’t feel like it, she hates making sandwiches, as if I didn’t know she hates making them. I’m sure by next year I’ll be making my own sandwiches. But why does she keep on doing stuff she hates? Why doesn’t she just stay in bed and rest and receive visitors, why doesn’t she give me, Daddy, and Becko a hug and ask us to bring her a cup of tea?

When I ask her about it she blames it all on Daddy, but he’s totally not like her, he loves to lounge around and crack jokes, never in a hurry to go anywhere, not even to work. All my friends like him, and sometimes they go to see him for a chat ‘cause he works in the kebab shop next to our school. He doesn’t serve people at the counter, he’s at the back prepping vegetables. He brings home kebabs and doughnuts but Mum doesn’t eat that kind of stuff so it never makes her happy. Becko is not my real brother, I’ve made him up. I told Dad about him and he said that it was OK, that there was this other world and Becko does exist there. When he said that he was lying on a rug under the window looking at the sky, and then he told me a secret, which is that sometimes on his way home from work he stops by the hospital to see his friend who’s sick. I didn’t know what to say so I asked if at least his friend had a nice room, if it had a TV and stuff like that. Of course there’s a TV, said Daddy, and went over to the next room to put some Icelanders on the stereo. Because my Dad loves Icelanders. He loves Icelandic music and Icelandic people.

[...] His son’s question took him by surprise, what could a room where people are dying be like? The hospital isn’t far, not much further than the place he works or the supermarket. And yet, whenever he goes to see Boris, it feels as if he’s going to some place far away, and what’s even worse is that Boris also feels the same, like he’s at the edge of the world. He lies in bed, stretched taut as a piece of rope because his legs are stiff with pain. The boy’s father keeps reminding himself that this is the same Boris he knew back when they were sixteen but he’s probably wrong. Pain does things to you, especially when it’s been going on this long.

Read the text below and do the task that follows.

Choose the best answers (A, B, or C) for items 21a-25a.

- 21a. The narrator of this short story is probably a
 A. toddler. B. college boy. C. primary school child.
- 22a. This part of the story presents the relationship between the boy's parents as
 A. somewhat problematic. B. really mean. C. almost idyllic.
- 23a. The boy's mother seems to be
 A. a frustrated person. B. a very polite person. C. thoughtless person.
- 24a. The boy's father
 A. does whatever he likes. B. is more relaxed about things. C. wants to go to Iceland.
- 25a. Becko is the child narrator's imaginary
 A. toy. B. friend. C. brother.

ACTIVITY 5

Match the parts of texts in COLUMN A (items 26a-31a) with the parts in COLUMN B (options A-G). There is one option you do not need.

26a	A <input type="checkbox"/>	B <input type="checkbox"/>	C <input type="checkbox"/>	D <input type="checkbox"/>	E <input type="checkbox"/>	F <input type="checkbox"/>	G <input type="checkbox"/>
27a	A <input type="checkbox"/>	B <input type="checkbox"/>	C <input type="checkbox"/>	D <input type="checkbox"/>	E <input type="checkbox"/>	F <input type="checkbox"/>	G <input type="checkbox"/>
28a	A <input type="checkbox"/>	B <input type="checkbox"/>	C <input type="checkbox"/>	D <input type="checkbox"/>	E <input type="checkbox"/>	F <input type="checkbox"/>	G <input type="checkbox"/>
29a	A <input type="checkbox"/>	B <input type="checkbox"/>	C <input type="checkbox"/>	D <input type="checkbox"/>	E <input type="checkbox"/>	F <input type="checkbox"/>	G <input type="checkbox"/>
30a	A <input type="checkbox"/>	B <input type="checkbox"/>	C <input type="checkbox"/>	D <input type="checkbox"/>	E <input type="checkbox"/>	F <input type="checkbox"/>	G <input type="checkbox"/>
31a	A <input type="checkbox"/>	B <input type="checkbox"/>	C <input type="checkbox"/>	D <input type="checkbox"/>	E <input type="checkbox"/>	F <input type="checkbox"/>	G <input type="checkbox"/>

COLUMN A			COLUMN B
26a	The seminar addressed issues of	A	joining the Royal Air Force, and stationed in Iraq, where he became convinced that the war there is immoral and illegal.
27a	Visitors of Nymphéo can admire the homes of local cotton and tobacco merchants built	B	we still have a long way to do. Even in Germany, only 17% of electricity comes from them.
28a	Dr Malcolm Kendall-Smith was a university tutor before	C	of financial disaster when he worries about the 'faint tremors in the stock market'.
29a	Today the anarchist movement is a mature global network of activist collectives who are	D	by a local resident is even greater.
30a	I welcome the rapid growth of renewable energy sources, like everyone I know, but	E	social and political education.
31a	Travelling to first-timer destinations is swell, but travelling with first-hand insider tips...	F	involved in any number of struggles and constructive projects.
		G	with a real hankering for beauty by skilled craftsmen, so that schools, churches and bridges are absolute works of art.

ACTIVITY 6

Read the text below and do the task that follows.



Young Runaways and Missing Migrant Children in Europe: Towards Improved Cross-Border Cooperation



At least 250,000 children are reported missing every year in the European Union. The cases include runaways, unaccompanied missing, abduction, injured and lost migrant children. About 80% of the cases are reported to State authorities and specialised services and the vast majority of children return home or are found after a short period.

Missing unaccompanied migrant children represent the highest number of unreported cases. Migrant children are considered missing when they disappear from state care, from the reception or accommodation provided for them. The reasons vary: inadequate reception conditions, the fear of deportation or detention, or the desire to join family members elsewhere. Missing migrant children are extremely vulnerable, as they are exposed to high risks of trafficking, exploitation, or violence along their way, resulting in mental health issues and trauma for a 10-20% of these children.

The European Union protects and promotes the rights of the child, as outlined by the fact that all of the EU Member States have ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Further, the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights, as well as the EU Treaty of Lisbon Article 3(3) ensure that the EU institutions act towards the objective of promoting the rights of the child. For these reasons, the EU has put several measures in place to decrease the number of missing children, in partnership with international organisations. The “116 000” hotline, which is operational in all Member States, was launched in 2007 by the Commission as a tool to report missing children, as well as to provide social services for children and families. Additionally, child alert mechanisms have been set up in suspicion of a criminal abduction or a worrying disappearance to alert the public by all possible electronic means. As a response to the increasing number of migrant children, the Commission has outlined priority actions for the protection of all children in migration—including swift identification and protection upon arrival, provision of adequate reception conditions, effective guardianship, faster family tracing and family reunification processes.

Despite these efforts, much more remains to be done for missing migrant children. Cross-border cooperation between the Member States needs to be improved, as well as the cooperation between police services, care agencies, national and local authorities, justice professionals and social workers. Better training for staff at registration and first reception is needed, there is scarce data collected, and many reception facilities do not meet child protection standards.

“The number of children arriving in the EU with or without their families has increased dramatically. We need to make sure that children who need protection actually receive it. And we need to do it now. This is our moral duty as well as our legal responsibility.”

Choose the best answer (A, B, or C) for items 32a-38a.

- 32a. This article gives us
 A factual information. B survey results. C detailed evidence.
- 33a. According to the text, if missing children are reported,
 A they are then punished. B they face the consequences. C they can then be located.
- 34a. Missing children are sometimes not accounted for
 A out of fear. B so they can escape. C so they can turn up.
- 35a. To protect the rights of children, the EU
 A has been taking measures. B is collaborating with parents. C is measuring losses.
- 36a. The European Commission makes efforts to provide refugee children with
 A language classes. B adequate conditions. C surrogate families.
- 37a. Decreasing the vulnerability of children in migration is
 A an unfeasible aim. B unviable. C our obligation.
- 38a. This article suggests that, in order to protect the rights of children,
 A the refugee crisis must end. B the EU must do much more C political corruption must stop.

ACTIVITY 7

Read the text and fill in gaps 39a-44a with the best option (A-H). Use each option only once. There are two options you do not need.

A. fail	B. attain	C. offer	D. dislike
E. mistrust	F. prepare	G. agree	H. work

Global Competencies for a Brave New World

Many of us believe that the job of public schools today is to (39a) _____ students for the challenge of living and working in a diverse and rapidly changing world. And, most of us (40a) _____ that schools are not doing their job. But is this the fault of individual schools, of individual headmasters, and of individual teachers? Perhaps it is a little bit. Maybe some of the responsibility is theirs. They should think harder about their teaching programmes and the teaching strategies they use. But, the main responsibility lies with our politicians.

The kind of education we (41a) _____ in schools largely depends on public policy, national educational strategies and money spent on retraining teachers and school staff, on allowing them to be autonomous and rewarding for their achievements – providing that we know about what they do in schools. This requires monitoring and evaluation.



Schools, headmasters and teachers should be assessed – not so as to be punished for what they (42a) _____ to achieve, but what they manage to achieve. Of course, this means that some standards and criteria must be set with regard to what public education should offer young people today.

An increasing number of worldwide educational policy makers today believe that public education is the only avenue through which today's students and tomorrow's workers can (43a) _____ global competence. What is global competence?

Global competence refers to the acquisition of knowledge and understanding of international issues. It also involves an appreciation of and ability to (44a) _____ with people from diverse linguistic and cultural backgrounds, as well as proficiency in at least one foreign language. Finally, it entails skills to function productively in an interdependent world community.

ACTIVITY 8

Read the text below and choose the best answer (A, B, or C) for items 45a-50a.

Social **NETWORKING** JULY 17, 2017

Problems with your relationships?

Unless we live alone in a cave with no access to the outside world, we're always having some sort of relationship with others. Our relationships range from casual ones to those we have with our co-workers, close friends, family, partners, etc. And, as adults, we develop a particular way of dealing with each of these types of relationships, based on who we believe we are, as well as who we perceive others to be. In other words, we deal with people based on beliefs and perceptions that we make up in our heads.

Yet, who we think we are and who we believe others to be is not written in stone! Our beliefs most certainly change. Why? Well, we usually form an idea about who we are based on a whole lot of different things like, for example, on what people have said about us, how they characterised us, while we were growing up. Characterisations like super smart, obedient, polite, inconsiderate, lazy, disrespectful tend to follow us into our adulthood. We also form ideas about who we are based on what comes easy or hard to us and what we like and dislike in life. The bottom line is that we think these aspects of ourselves are fixed. But they're not.

The same thing is true with what we think about others such as our co-workers, bosses, fellow students – even parents and siblings! Our opinion of them is just our made-up belief of who we *think* they are. This is not the 'real' them, but an image we have created in our head about them. In fact, all our relationships are based on a series of made up images.

Realizing this opens up a whole new world for us and the way we relate to others. If we are not necessarily who we have been told that we are, we can see ourselves for what we can actually do, what we really think and like. When we realize that others aren't necessarily who we thought they were, we can see them in a new and different light. And when we do, our relationship with them may be transformed. We may understand that what they did was not because they are 'spiteful people' who wanted to insult or hurt us, but for other reasons that have nothing to do with us. And when we're no longer simply acting or reacting in patterned ways, the others in our lives will start to notice at some point and this will facilitate entirely new relationships to develop at work, in college, at home and beyond.

45a. The purpose of this article is to alert us to the fact that

- A. our relationships may go sour because of preconceptions. B. bad relationships may be the result of mistrust. C. good relationships require a lot of work.

46a. The article says that the image we have created of ourselves depends on many things including

- A. what we feel is right or wrong. B. our cognitive capacity. C. what we can and cannot do.

47a. According to the article, our beliefs

- A. are changeable. B. may be unpredictable. C. should be stable.

48a. The article implies that in order to change our relationships, we must

- A. idealize them. B. appreciate ourselves. C. think differently.

49a. Relationships can be ruined if we

- A. are unwilling to reconsider our beliefs. B. don't nourish them. C. gossip behind people's back.

50a. This appears to be

- A. an educational article. B. a scientific article. C. a popular psychology article.

PART B - SHORT ANSWERS

ACTIVITY 1

Use the correct form of the underlined words in the blog text to complete items 1b-5b.

Tips to help stop cyberbullying



What people call “bullying” is sometimes an argument between two people. But if someone is **1b. _____(repeat)** cruel things to you, that’s bullying and you mustn’t blame yourself. No one deserves to be treated **2b. _____(cruel)**.

Don’t respond or retaliate. Sometimes a reaction is exactly what **3b. _____(provoke)** are looking for. They think it gives them power over you, and you don’t want to empower a bully. Besides, getting back at a bully turns you into one – and can turn one mean act into a chain **4b. _____(react)**. If you can, remove yourself

from the situation. If you can’t, sometimes humor distracts a person from bullying.

Save the evidence. The only good news about bullying online or on phones is that it can usually be captured, saved, and shown to someone who can help. Tell the person to stop. This is completely up to you – don’t do it if you don’t feel totally **5b. _____(comfort)** doing it, because you need to make your position completely clear that you will not stand for this treatment any more. You may need to practice beforehand with someone you trust, like a parent or good friend.

Other pieces of advice? Reach out for help, use available tech tools –most social media apps and services allow you to block the person and protect your accounts. Don’t share your passwords with anyone – not even with your closest friends, who... may not be close forever.

ACTIVITY 2

Fill in the gaps with a word suitable for both sentences in each of the items below (6b-10b).

6b.	a. We all want our friends to r _ _ _ _ _ our good qualities. b. I hadn’t seen him for so many years that I was barely able to r _ _ _ _ _ him.
7b.	a. He was very active in student politics. Now, he’s preparing to r _ _ for political office in the upcoming elections. b. After installation, click on <i>Start</i> to r _ _ the programme.
8b.	a. The m _ _ _ _ _ of the dancers was spectacular, especially in the second half, when there was no music. Imagine, they made music with their bodies! b. Baroque was an art m _ _ _ _ _ that emerged in Europe around 1600.
9b.	a. Sam and Jennifer have been seeing each other for a year now. I think they’re a good m _ _ _ _ b. It’s so dark in here. Does anyone have a m _ _ _ _ for me to light a candle?
10b.	a. The events that followed l _ _ him to reconsider his position on the issue. b. She l _ _ him on for a long time and then, suddenly, she broke off the engagement.

ΣΑΣΥΠΕΝΘΥΜΙΖΟΥΜΕΟΤΙΠΡΕΠΕΙΝΑΜΕΤΑΦΕΡΕΤΕΟΛΕΣΤΙΣΑΠΑΝΤΗΣΕΙΣΣΤΟΕΝΤΥΠΟ 1
ΤΕΛΟΣΜΗΝΥΜΑΤΟΣ