

Directions: *There are 2 passages in this section. Each passage is followed by some questions or unfinished statements. For each of them there are four choices marked A) , B) , C) and D) . You should decide on the best choice and mark the corresponding letter on **Answer Sheet 2** with a single line through the centre.*

Passage One

Questions 46 to 50 are based on the following passage.

Children's use of social media is a problem. That doesn't mean it should be stopped. While younger children should not be on platforms where 13 is the minimum age, it is neither practical nor desirable to imagine a world in which teenagers are prevented from accessing the platforms and messaging systems that the adults around them use to organise their lives.

But the pleasure and stimulation that people of all ages find on their screens and smartphones must not blind us to the harm that spending time in this way can cause. The finding that the alarmingly high rate of depression in British teenage girls is closely correlated to time spent on social media is extremely concerning. Research found that two in five girls are on social media for at least three hours a day—with half as many boys engaged to the same extent. More than a third of depressed girls have experienced online harassment. About half of affected girls suffered disrupted sleep, compared with 20% of depressed boys.

Although the research does not prove that social media causes depression, the importance of the finding that there is a connection should not be underestimated. Schools have done important work in communicating key messages about the risks of online abuse. But when it comes to broader questions about "screen time", many professionals as well as parents are confused and uncertain.

The health secretary, Matt Hancock, wants official guidelines on time and age limits. This idea has the virtue of simplicity, though some experts question its effects and call for a greater degree of differentiation, arguing that time online by itself is not a bad thing and it all depends on what you are doing. Also due this year is information commissioner Elizabeth Denham's Age Appropriate Design Code, covering the use of children's personal data. Both initiatives are welcome. But the government is playing catch-up. Statutory regulation of the digital media giants is long overdue. The failure to protect children from data harvesting and targeted advertising thus far is as shocking as the lack of concern shown by the companies themselves with regard to children's psychological health.

Of course, social media companies are not the source of all our ills, and can offer a too-easy target for politicians keen to divert attention from inadequately resourced schools and health services. There are other reasons for the rising incidence of depression in young people, with increasing pressure to succeed in education and in life more broadly—to be famous, beautiful, rich—often cited as a source of unhappiness or anxiety which can, if aggravated by other factors and not managed, tip into ill health. Safeguarding means more than the avoidance of physical threat.

46. What does the author believe regarding social media?

- A) To stop children using it is unrealistic and inadvisable.
- B) It helps both adults and children to organise their lives.
- C) It poses problems to both parents and children.
- D) A world without it is really hard to imagine.

47. What do we learn from the passage about British teenage girls?
- A) The more frequently they interact on social media, the more they experience harassment.
 - B) The more time they spend on social media, the more likely they suffer from depression.
 - C) Most of them are engaged on social media for at least three hours a day.
 - D) They spend half as many hours on social media as British teenage boys.
48. What is the author's view on the research finding about British teenage girls?
- A) Its implications about online abuse are obvious.
 - B) Its key message calls for immediate attention.
 - C) Its importance should not be undervalued.
 - D) Its uncertainty should not go unnoticed.
49. What do experts think of health secretary Matt Hancock's idea?
- A) Its implementation requires prompt action.
 - B) It is a welcome initiative but is long overdue.
 - C) Its success depends on how it is implemented.
 - D) It is too simplistic to produce the desired effect.
50. Besides social media companies, what factors contribute to young people's psychological health problems?
- A) Poorly financed schools and health services.
 - B) Politicians' eagerness to divert public attention.
 - C) Bad statutory regulation of digital media giants.
 - D) Their parents' educational background and life.