

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 Two

Questions 51 to 55 are based on the following passage.

Smartphones have always posed challenges for parents of teens. From social media apps to excessive screen time, the digital world is as threatening as the physical.

A new study shows that about half of parents of teens are worried about their teens being exposed to explicit content online. This is a valid concern, of course. But there are ways to alleviate the spread of explicit content, from changing the settings in their kids' phone to monitoring such content with apps like Bark.

Just as alarming, if not more so, is that the amount of time teens spend on social media can lead to anxiety and depression.

Excessive screen time has detrimental effects, for a lot of obvious reasons. Constant media consumption inhibits healthy activities associated with childhood, like spending time outside, exercising, talking to friends and family. If it interferes with sleep, that's even worse.

Ample research shows too much smartphone use produces significant anxiety, depression, and feelings of isolation in teens. Teens log on to social media or spend time online trying to make connections, but end up feeling more alone and sad than ever. Faceless communication not only produces feelings of isolation and loneliness but increases instances of online bullying and susceptibility to criminal conducts.

Though I've banned most social media, I've still battled smartphone time with my own kids. A lot of the time I wish I could throw my kids' smartphones into the nearest lake. The convenience of communication—when they need a ride home from school after practice, for instance—often feels like it isn't worth the battle to keep their screen time low and productive, and continue to encourage "real-life" activities outside and with friends and family. I understand the addiction and often tell them I'm not sure how I would have handled having a smartphone as a teen. As an adult, I too, struggle with overuse.

In a recent TV interview to promote a new film about a mother and daughter navigating social media use, actress Kate Winslet expressed her view on teens and social media—and her concern mirrors the trends. "I do definitely feel that the world of social media is frightening to parents because we don't really know what's there," she said. "We don't know how our children are using it. We don't know the effects that it's really having on them."

I don't think the U.S. government should regulate social media and teen smartphone use, but it is a vital topic for parents to understand and take seriously. Unfortunately, now, parents don't just have to worry about real-world dangers, but all the ones sneaking online and the effects they have on teenagers and their mental health.

51. What do around half of parents of teens do according to a new study?
- A) They set their kids' phones to filter out obscene information.
 - B) They try to alleviate the spread of explicit scenes on the internet.
 - C) They feel concerned about their kids' viewing indecent content online.
 - D) They strive to prevent their kids from spending excessive screen time.
52. What does a large amount of research show about teens' excessive smartphone use?
- A) It allows them less time for meaningful activities.
 - B) It renders them more lonely and low-spirited.
 - C) It gives them less time for social interactions.
 - D) It makes them more alert to online bullying.
53. What do we learn about the author's feelings regarding smartphones and screen time?
- A) They are deep-seated.
 - B) They are instinctive.
 - C) They are unique.
 - D) They are mixed.
54. What does actress Kate Winslet think about the world of social media?
- A) It poses increasing challenges to parents trying to ensure internet safety.
 - B) It scares parents because they don't really know what is on the screen.
 - C) It is a sphere difficult for parents and their teens to navigate.
 - D) It is full of uncertainties frightful to parents and their teens.
55. What message does the author try to convey in the last paragraph?
- A) Parents have to be concerned about dangers to their teens in both real and virtual worlds.
 - B) Governments have responsibilities in regulating social media and teens' smartphone use.
 - C) Parents should provide guidance to their teens in the use of social media.
 - D) Online dangers are as serious as problems with teenagers' mental health.