

**BACCALAURÉAT
SESSION 2012**

**SÉRIE A1 - Coefficient : 4
SÉRIE A2 - Coefficient : 2
Durée : 3 h**

LANGUE VIVANTE 1: ANGLAIS

SERIES : A1 - A2

Cette épreuve comporte quatre (04) pages numérotées 1/4, 2/4, 3/4 et 4/4.

PART ONE: READING (40%)

A Cell phone? Never for me.

Some day soon, I may be the last man in America without a cell phone. To those who see cell phones as progress, I say: they aggravate noise pollution and threaten our solitude. The central idea of cell phones is that you should be connected to almost everyone and everything at all times. The trouble is that cell phones assault your peace of mind no matter what you do.

I'm a dropout and aim to stay that way. I admit this will be increasingly difficult, because cell phones are now passing a historic milestone. As with other triumphs of the mass market, they've reached a point when people forget what it was like before they existed. No one remembers life before cars, TVs, air conditioners, jets, credit cards and microwave ovens. So, too, now with cell phones. Anyone without one will soon be classified as a crank or member of the deep underclass.

Look at the numbers. In 1985 there were 340,213 cell phone users. By year-end 2003 there were 159 million. [...] Among those 60 to 69, cell phone ownership (60 percent) is almost as high as among 18 to 24-year-olds (66 percent), though lower than among 30 to 49-year-olds (76 percent), according to a recent survey from the Pew Research Centre. Even among those 80 and older, ownership is 32 percent.

Of course, cell phones have productive uses. For those constantly on the road (salesmen, real-estate agents, repair technicians, some managers and reporters), they're a godsend. The same is true for critical workers (doctors, oil-rig firefighters) needed at a moment's notice. Otherwise, benefits seem murky.

They make driving more dangerous. The Harvard Centre for Risk Analysis blamed cell phones for 6 percent of auto accidents each year, involving 2,600 deaths (but admitted that estimates are difficult).

Then, there's sales sheer nuisance. Private conversations have gone public. We've all been subjected to someone else's sales meeting, dinner reservation, family feud and dating problem. In 2003 cell phone conversations totalled 830 billion minutes. Surely many could be postponed or forgotten.

It's true that lots of people like to gab. Cell phones keep them company. Count that as a plus. But it's also true that lots of people dislike being bothered. These are folks who have cell phones but often wish they didn't. A recent poll asked which invention people hated most but couldn't live without. Cell phones won, chosen by 30 percent of respondents.

Some benefits may be overstated. Cell phones for teens were sold as a way for parents to keep tabs on children. That works – up to a point. The point is when your kids switch off the phones. Two of my teens have cell phones (that was Mom's idea; she has one too). Whenever I want them most, their phones are off. Humm. Similar advantages are claimed for older people.

Cell phones – and, indeed, all wireless devices – pretend to increase your freedom while actually stealing it.

Robert J. SAMUELSON, *Newsweek*, August 23, 2004.

COMPREHENSION CHECK

A/ Vocabulary: Choose the best meanings of the underlined words according to the text. Write your answers like the example. Example: 1. threaten = b. menace

- 1- threaten (line 3): (a) destroy; (b) menace; (c) increase; (d) interrupt
- 2- assault (line 5): (a) damage; (b) reduce; (c) disturb; (d) attack
- 3- milestone (line 7): (a) level, stage; (b) distance; (c) speed; (d) starting block
- 4- crank (line 11): (a) sick; (b) retarded; (c) illiterate; (d) strange person
- 5- survey (line 16): (a) study; (b) news; (c) publication; (d) result
- 6- godsend (line 20): (a) real pastime; (b) real blessing; (c) good opportunity; (d) real advantage
- 7- murky (line 21): (a) cannot be seen; (b) quite limited; (c) rather numerous; (d) quite obvious
- 8- sheer (line 25): (a) simple; (b) very small; (c) absolute; (d) artificial
- 9- feud (line 27): (a) on-going quarrel; (b) serious problem; (c) business; (d) meeting
- 10- gab (line 29): (a) play a lot; (b) dance a lot; (c) talk a lot; (d) listen a lot
- 11- poll (line 31): (a) competition; (b) question; (c) investigation; (d) vote

B/ Comprehension questions: Write short answers to these questions.

- 1- Is the narrator for or against cell phones? Give evidence from the text.
- 2- What are the drawbacks of cell phones according to the author?
- 3- Why does the author consider himself to be a dropout?
- 4- Why will anyone without a cell phone soon be looked at as a crank?
- 5- Which age group owns the most cell phones? Give the percentage.
- 6- To which two groups of workers are cell phones a real necessity?
- 7- Can people have private conversations on cell phones? Why not?
- 8- Are cell phones an efficient way for parents to "keep an eye" on their children?
- 9- Why do cell phones "make driving more dangerous" according to the author?
- 10- How do cell phones steal our freedom instead of increasing it?

PART TWO: WRITING (40%)

Choose **only one** of the two tasks below and do it. (20- 25 lines)

Task A

Nowadays most of the young people want to have cell phones. Peter, an American boy of eleven, wants his mother to buy him a cell phone because all his classmates have one. His mother is trying to show him the drawbacks of using a cell phone at his age. Write out their dialogue.

Task B

The cell phone is the most popular means of communication in today's world. However, a lot of people complain about it. Write an article, to be published in your school English Club magazine, emphasizing the following aspects:

- what people do not like about cell phones;
 - the advantages of cell phones;
 - can driving and cell phones go together;
- Etc...