

Subject: English	End-of-Term Test N° 1	Duration: 2 hours
School: Lycée de l'Éducation	Level: 4th Form — Baccalauréat	Section: Bac Lettres / Sciences / Technique
Date: Saturday, December 13th, 2025	Coefficient: 2	English Department — TA'LIM TN

Name: _____	Surname: _____	Class: 4th Form ___

NB: Marks will be awarded for the quality of your English and the clarity of your answers. An unjustified answer has no value.

EXAM PAPER (20 marks)

Part One — Reading Comprehension (8 marks)

Read the following text carefully, then answer the questions below.

THE SCHOOL THAT BANNED SMARTPHONES

[1] When the headmaster of Riverside Secondary School announced, in September 2023, that smartphones would be banned on school premises from January 2024, both pupils and parents protested loudly. 'How will my daughter contact me after school?' asked one father. 'This is a violation of our freedom!' declared a group of teenagers. Six months later, however, the same parents and pupils admit that the decision was one of the best the school has ever made.

[2] The results have been striking. According to a report published by the school, pupils' average grades in Mathematics rose by 14% and in English by 11% during the first term of the ban. Teachers noticed that students were more focused in class and participated more actively in discussions. Discipline problems, which used to disrupt lessons daily, dropped by nearly half. 'For the first time in years, I can teach without competing with TikTok,' said Mrs Robinson, an English teacher.

[3] The social benefits were equally impressive. At break time, the schoolyard is now full of pupils talking, playing football, or reading instead of staring silently at their screens. 'I have made more friends in three months than in the whole of last year,' said Liam, a fifteen-year-old pupil. School counsellors report that cases of cyberbullying, which had become a serious concern, have almost disappeared. Pupils also sleep better at night because they no longer stay up scrolling through social media.

[4] Not everyone is convinced. Some parents argue that teenagers must learn to use technology responsibly rather than being shielded from it. Others point out that smartphones can be useful educational tools when used properly. The headmaster replies that the ban does not reject technology — the school has equipped every classroom with tablets and computers — but simply removes the main source of distraction. 'We are not against technology,' he said. 'We are for education.'

[5] The success of Riverside has inspired several other schools to consider similar measures. Whether the ban will be adopted nationwide remains an open question, but one thing is certain: a small decision has changed the atmosphere of an entire school.

(Adapted from The Times Educational Supplement, 2024)

——— COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS ———

1) Tick (√) the sentence that best states the main idea of the text. (1 mark)

A) Smartphones are useful educational tools that should never be banned.

B) Banning smartphones at school has improved both grades and social life.

C) Parents and pupils were right to protest against the headmaster's decision.

2) Read and complete the following table with information from the text. (3 marks)

Aspect of school life	Before the ban	After the ban
Average grades	.....	.....
Discipline problems	.....	.....
Behaviour at break	.....	.....
Cyberbullying	.....	.....

3) Say whether the following statements are True or False. Justify with a detail from the text. (4 marks)

a) When the ban was announced, everybody agreed immediately. (§1)
b) Mrs Robinson could finally teach without competing with social media. (§2)
c) The ban completely removed all technology from the school. (§4)
d) Other schools are interested in copying Riverside's decision. (§5)
4) What do the underlined words in the text refer to? (2 marks)
a) the same (§1) refers to .....
b) which (§2) refers to .....
5) Find in the text words that are closest in meaning to: (2 marks)
a) striking (§2) ≈ .....
b) convinced (§4) ≈ .....
6) Answer the following question in your own words. (2 marks)
How does the headmaster (§4) justify the fact that the school still uses tablets and computers despite the smartphone ban?

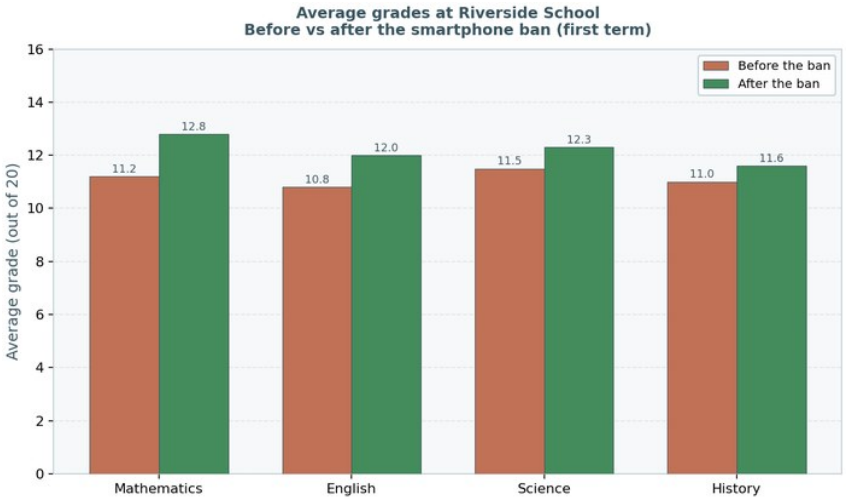


Figure 1 — Average grades at Riverside School before and after the smartphone ban (out of 20).

Part Two — Language (6 marks)

1) Fill in the blanks with words from the box. There is ONE extra word. (2.5 marks)
[focused — distraction — grades — scrolling — convinced — banned]
Since smartphones were ....., pupils have become more ..... in class and their ..... have improved. Instead of ..... through social media at break time, they now talk and play together. Even the most sceptical parents are now ..... that the decision was a good one.
2) Put the verbs in brackets in the correct tense or form. (2 marks)
a) When the headmaster (announce) ..... the ban last September, many parents protested.
b) Since the ban was introduced, pupils' grades (rise) ..... significantly.
c) If every school (adopt) ..... such a measure, discipline would improve nationwide.
d) The headmaster said that smartphones (be) ..... the main source of distraction.
3) Circle the correct alternative. (1.5 marks)
Pupils (who / which / whose) stare at their screens all day become (less / fewer / least) sociable. (Although / Because / Despite) smartphones can be useful, they often turn (into / out / off) a major distraction. The headmaster insists (in / on / at) removing them to protect the pupils' concentration.

Part Three — Writing (6 marks)

1) Guided writing — Biography (2.5 marks)
Use the notes below to write a short biography (about 6–8 lines) of the British educator Charlotte Evans.
• 1970: born in Manchester, England / passionate about literature.
• 1988: studied English Literature at Cambridge University.
• 1992: became a secondary-school English teacher.
• 2010: published 'Teaching in the Digital Age', a book on technology and education.
• 2018: appointed headmistress of Riverside Secondary School.
• 2024: banned smartphones on school premises / improved grades and discipline / inspired many other schools.
Charlotte Evans was born in Manchester, England, in 1970. ……

2) Essay (3.5 marks)

Your school is considering banning smartphones on school premises. Write an article for the school magazine in which you give your opinion on this decision. Argue for or against the ban and support your position with at least two arguments and examples. (Write about 10–12 lines.)

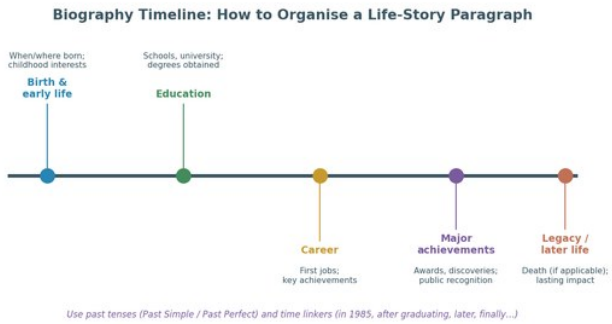


Figure 2 — Biography timeline: how to organise a life-story paragraph chronologically.

ANSWER KEY — Exam 02

Part One — Part One — Reading Comprehension

1) Main idea: B) Banning smartphones at school has improved both grades and social life. (√)

(A is contradicted by the text; C is only the initial reaction, not the main idea.)

2) Table completion (before → after):

Aspect of school life	Before the ban	After the ban
Average grades	lower (baseline)	+14% in Maths, +11% in English
Discipline problems	disrupted lessons daily	dropped by nearly half
Behaviour at break	staring silently at screens	talking, playing, reading
Cyberbullying	a serious concern	has almost disappeared

3) True / False with justification:

a) FALSE. Justification (§1): 'both pupils and parents protested loudly' — nobody agreed immediately.

b) TRUE. Justification (§2): 'For the first time in years, I can teach without competing with TikTok,' said Mrs Robinson.

c) FALSE. Justification (§4): 'the school has equipped every classroom with tablets and computers' — the ban only concerns smartphones, not all technology.

d) TRUE. Justification (§5): 'The success of Riverside has inspired several other schools to consider similar measures.'

4) Reference words:

a) the same (§1) refers to 'the parents and pupils' who had protested — now they admit the decision was a good one.

b) which (§2) refers to 'discipline problems' (discipline problems which used to disrupt lessons daily).

5) Synonyms:

a) striking (§2) ≈ remarkable / impressive / astonishing.

b) convinced (§4) ≈ sure / certain / persuaded (accept 'agreed').

6) Open question: The headmaster justifies the continued use of tablets and computers by explaining that the ban does not reject technology — the school still uses classroom tablets and computers — but simply removes the main source of distraction (the smartphone). His position is summed up in the sentence: 'We are not against technology, we are for education.' In other words, useful educational technology is welcome, but personal smartphones that disrupt learning are not.

Part Two — Part Two — Language

1) Vocabulary gap-fill (one extra word: 'distraction'):

Since smartphones were BANNED, pupils have become more FOCUSED in class and their GRADES have improved. Instead of SCROLLING through social media at break time, they now talk and play together. Even the most sceptical parents are now CONVINCED that the decision was a good one.

The extra word (not used) is: distraction.

2) Verb tenses and forms:

a) When the headmaster ANNOUNCED the ban last September, many parents protested. (Past Simple — signal 'last September'.)

b) Since the ban was introduced, pupils' grades HAVE RISEN (or 'have been rising') significantly. (Present Perfect — signal 'since'.)

c) If every school ADOPTED such a measure, discipline would improve nationwide. (Second conditional: if + past simple, would + base form.)

d) The headmaster said that smartphones WERE the main source of distraction. (Reported speech: past simple shifts to past perfect 'had been' is also correct; 'were' is acceptable for a general truth.)

3) Circle the correct alternative:

Pupils WHO stare at their screens all day become LESS sociable. ALTHOUGH smartphones can be useful, they often turn INTO a major distraction. The headmaster insists ON removing them to protect the pupils' concentration.

- who (relative pronoun for people)
- less (comparative of 'sociable', an adjective — 'fewer' is for countable nouns)
- Although (concession linking word introducing a clause)
- into ('turn into' = become; phrasal verb)
- on ('insist on' + noun/-ing — fixed preposition)

Part Three — Part Three — Writing

1) MODEL BIOGRAPHY (guided writing):

Charlotte Evans was born in Manchester, England, in 1970. From childhood, she was passionate about literature. In 1988, she entered Cambridge University to study English Literature. After graduating in 1992, she became a secondary-school English teacher. Her interest in the relationship between technology and education led her to publish, in 2010, a book entitled 'Teaching in the Digital Age'. In 2018, she was appointed headmistress of Riverside Secondary School. Determined to improve her pupils' results, she banned smartphones on school premises in 2024. The measure not only raised grades and reduced discipline problems but also inspired many other schools to follow her example.

2) MODEL ESSAY (opinion article — should smartphones be banned at school?):

Title: Yes, Ban the Phone — Keep the Mind

Our school is considering banning smartphones on school premises. In my opinion, this decision is absolutely necessary, and I strongly support it.

First, smartphones are the main source of distraction in the classroom. Many pupils secretly check their messages or watch videos during lessons, which prevents them from concentrating. At Riverside School, the ban led to a 14% rise in Mathematics grades — clear evidence that fewer screens mean better results.

Second, smartphones damage pupils' social life. Instead of talking to each other at break time, teenagers stare at their screens in silence. Banning phones would encourage them to make real friends, play together, and develop the social skills they will need as adults. It would also reduce cyberbullying, which has become a serious problem in many schools.

Some people argue that phones are useful educational tools. This is true, but schools already provide computers and tablets for classwork. A personal smartphone is not essential for learning — it is, most of the time, a source of distraction.

In conclusion, banning smartphones at school is a wise decision that protects both pupils' education and their well-being. A school is a place to learn and to grow — not to scroll.