



**GCSE**

4171/01



S15-4171-01

**ENGLISH/ENGLISH LANGUAGE  
FOUNDATION TIER  
UNIT 1 (READING)**

A.M. TUESDAY, 2 June 2015

1 hour

**ADDITIONAL MATERIALS**

Resource Material.

An 8 page answer book.

**INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES**

Use black ink or black ball-point pen.

Answer **all** questions.

Write your answers in the separate answer book provided.

**INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES**

The total mark available for this unit is 40.

The number of marks in brackets will give you an indication of the time you should spend on each question or part-question.

Answer **all** of the following questions.

On the opposite page is an extract from a newspaper article, 'Television and Young Children' by Susanna Rustin.

The **separate Resource Material** is a blog, 'A Weekend to Forget' by Claire Powell.

**Read the newspaper article on the opposite page titled, 'Television and Young Children'.**

1. List **ten** reasons why watching television can be good for young children, according to the article. [10]

**Now read the first page of the blog in the separate Resource Material, 'A Weekend to Forget'.**

2. Why did Claire Powell decide to ban television for the weekend? [10]

**Now read the second page of the blog.**

3. In this part of the text, how does Claire Powell make it clear that the television ban ruined the weekend? [10]

You should write about:

- what happens;
- the words and phrases used.

**Use information from both texts to answer the following questions.**

4. Compare and contrast what the texts say about:
  - the possible problems caused if young children watch too much television; [5]
  - how to control children's viewing habits. [5]

You must make it clear from which text you get your information.

## Television and Young Children

*In 2013 a report stated that five year olds who watch more than three hours of television a day have an increased risk of health problems. The newspaper article below is a response to this report.*

It is good advice to parents to limit the amount of time their children watch television. However, recent studies have suggested watching television can be helpful to the way children grow and develop. The study advises parents to check carefully which programmes their children are watching. Some are beneficial. For example, young children can develop number skills through educational, but fun programmes, such as *Numberjacks*. Similar programmes are *Alphablocks*, which focuses on language skills, and *Nina and the Neurons*, which introduces children to basic science. Primary schools also show television programmes to help their children learn basic skills.

Another report found that five year olds who watch over three hours of television a day are more likely to be badly behaved than those who watch less. However, the risk is small and even less if parents follow the report's advice and watch television programmes with their children and discuss the content of the programmes with them.

Television programmes can encourage children to be creative and use their imagination. Some programmes can develop their interest in music, getting children to sing songs and learn about musical instruments. Other programmes give them a chance to learn about a new and wide range of topics such as archaeology, history and wild animals.

There are programmes specially designed for young children which can get them involved with new characters and stories. Watching characters like Mr Tumble can help children to understand shapes and colours, and watching *Dora the Explorer* can help them to learn some basic Spanish.

For some young children, watching television is important because it gives them a quiet time in the day when they can relax. For the very young, a number of television programmes end with the main characters saying goodnight, going to bed and falling asleep, which is helpful for parents who hope their children will follow this example.

Parents should control when the television is turned on, so they should keep the remote control out of the reach of young children. Parents should also turn the television off if it is not being watched. This way watching a television programme is made special and not just used as an excuse for parents not to play and talk to their children.

While studies suggest that it is important that young children have more to their lives than just television, most experts agree that young children, with the correct parental control, can gain a great deal from watching television.

Based on a newspaper article by Susanna Rustin in *The Family Guardian*.



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**Resource Material**

## A Weekend to Forget

I recently read a report that claimed health and behaviour problems can occur if young children watch too much television. This worried me because my two children, William and Zara, both watch a lot of television; so I decided to try and control how much they watch. I already turn the television off during mealtimes, when William is doing his homework, and when nobody is watching it. To see how we would cope, I decided to ban television for a whole weekend.

I thought my husband and I might talk to each other and that we'd spend some quality family time together. I also thought it might be fun! Our weekends had become boring and revolved around watching the television and not going out together as a family. My husband agreed we should try a television-free weekend. We had read that children who watch television for more than three hours a day are more likely to get into fights and tell lies, and we wanted to try and avoid this type of behaviour. The report also said less television was good because parents should spend more time interacting with their children.



One of my friends, Vicky, challenged me to give it a go. She claimed that limiting the amount of television her children watched had significantly improved their behaviour. Vicky said there was no chance we could cope without television. This made me even more determined to succeed. The weather forecast for the weekend was good so my mind was made up.

As the weekend approached I had doubts; I should have listened to them. The first problem was an argument about when the weekend started, Friday night or Saturday morning. It was clear that my enthusiasm for a television-free weekend was not shared by the children. It was agreed they could watch *Peppa Pig* on Friday night and then we would switch off until Monday. Zara moaned about our plans and even waved a sad goodbye to Peppa Pig.

On Saturday morning I followed guidelines from the newspaper report and provided fun alternatives to television, filling the room with non-screen entertainment such as books, toys and puzzles. This worked well but there were some mumbblings that watching *Octonauts* was more fun. We then went to the park to play on the swings and feed the ducks. Unfortunately it was drizzling, we all got soaked and the over-fed ducks ignored us.

We bought fish and chips and my husband said we would be back in time to watch the rugby. I explained that the experiment included us, which annoyed him immensely. He claimed the experiment was aimed at the children not him. William joined in the moaning, saying all of his friends would be watching the game.

On Saturday evenings we usually watch television together so as an alternative I organised a game of hide and seek. Another disaster. Zara didn't understand the rules and William hid in the cellar and was covered in dust. Bedtime brought more upset. I had followed the article's advice and removed the television from William's room. He burst into tears, so I had to promise to return it on Monday. My husband and I spent a tense evening playing Scrabble as he stared glumly at the television muttering about *Match of the Day*.



Sunday was equally dismal. We visited my parents who agreed with the children and made me feel even worse. At last it was bedtime. Zara said it had been a horrible weekend. William claimed it was the most boring weekend ever and my husband said it had been a waste of time.

So much for the claim that too much television causes behaviour problems. I have another theory – no television creates even more problems.

Claire Powell