

Nombre: _____

1. Read this article about technology and answer the questions

The Family who turned back the clock

The Jones Family have nine TV sets, six computers, three cars, and every domestic appliance. What would their life be like without them? Melanie Adams reports.

When Malcolm Jones woke up last Monday, he heard the birds singing. Not remarkable, you might think, especially given that he lives near a forest. But birdsong in the Jones household is usually drowned by a tidal wave of electronic music crashing around the house as soon as his four children wake up.

This is a family who have chosen to fill their home with every conceivable gadget. They have nine television sets, including one in each bedroom and in the kitchen. All the children have their own personal computers and smartphones. Of course, there are all the usual appliances we all take for granted, such as the washing machine, tumble drier, dishwasher, deep freezer, microwave oven and home theatre, but they also have an electric trouser press, an Olympic-sized spa bath and jacuzzi, three cars, and a music system which plays throughout the whole house.

The Experiment

What happens if all the props of modern living are removed?

To help us find out, we asked the Joneses to turn back the clock fifty years and to switch off all their labour-saving gadgets and push-button entertainment for three days. We also wanted them to stop using their cars. The family, comprising Malcolm, 48, Carol, 43, and their four children Emma, 17, Richard, 14, Tamsin, 9 and Tom, 7, were not enthusiastic, but everyone, except for Emma, agreed to try. (Emma couldn't stand the thought of being without the telephone and her car, which she had only just learnt to drive, so she refused point-blank to join in.) The other three children were not allowed to use their computers or watch TV. They were banned from opening the freezer to get out fish fingers and oven chips. Malcolm was forbidden to use his electric razor and mobile phone, but allowed to use his car for work. Carol was encouraged to go everywhere on foot or by bicycle (women rarely drove 50 years ago), told to ignore the washing machine and dishwasher, and she was discouraged from using the telephone.

How did they cope?

The much dreaded three days got under way!

Old-fashioned meals, games and entertainment were planned for the evenings. After eating together at the kitchen table, they sat playing cards, putting off doing the washing-up because they hated doing that.

Carol was surprised at how long everything took. *“By the time I had washed up the breakfast things and got back from walking the children to school, it was nearly lunchtime. Getting to the shops, which normally takes five minutes by car, took at least one hour, so it was impossible just to pop out for a loaf of bread. It was strange having to wait until the clothes dried in the garden before getting the ironing done, instead of simply using the drier.”*

1) Why is it unusual that Malcom heard the birds singing when he woke up last Monday?

2) Why was this family chosen for the experiment?

3) Who refused to join in the experiment? Why?

4) Why wasn't Carol allowed to use her car?

5) How did Carol feel during the experiment?

2. Go on reading the article and fill in the blanks with a linking word

For Carol, the experience was neither positive _____ negative. Although she found it quite difficult to get used to the length of time it took to do things, she enjoyed having a slower, more relaxed pace of life. "As _____ as the experiment started, all sorts of things that we had put off doing got done," she said. "Bikes got mended, rooms tidied, bookshelves sorted, hamsters cleaned out. It was _____ good to see Tamsin and Tom playing games together! They _____ read stories to each other, _____ was very surprising."

The children, _____ the other hand, did not seem to take it so lightly. They missed their former easy life. _____ addition, the lack of electronic entertainment, _____ as the TV, the smartphones and the music system, had a dramatic effect on them. They seemed to enjoy each other's company more, _____ they clearly believed that they were suffering so much _____. Tamsin even spent some time gazing at the blank TV screen in her bedroom.

3. Go on reading and fill in the gaps with ONE suitable word

What did they each think?

What Malcolm liked _____ was the peace. "It was so peaceful that we _____ hear the birds singing. I usually start the day by watching the business news. Then I press the music button and listen to jazz while I take a shower and get dressed. I didn't miss _____ of this. I think the experience did the children a lot of good. I'd throw all the televisions away _____ it were my decision now."

The children vigorously denied _____ any good had been done to them. Richard, _____ main hobby is the play station, spoke for them all _____. he said, "I missed my music, the computer games, and the TV. We had to read books instead! _____ of us is keen on reading. It was awful. To be honest, I quickly got sick and tired of the experiment. I was looking _____ to the end of it from the moment it started. I hated not being _____ to do what I usually do. I think my life is perfect as it is!"

4. Read about Carol and Tom's reactions. Complete the text with the correct form of the verb in brackets. When you see + use a modal

Carol's feelings were the most ambiguous. Before the experiment started she thought they _____ (+ not tolerate) it for three days. But they did. "I enjoyed _____ (do) more things together as a family. But as a housewife, I didn't like my day _____ (be) so full of housework. When you've got a dishwasher, you just stack it as you go through the day and turn it on at night. But you _____ (+ not leave) dirty dishes in the sink all day, so you _____ (+ keep) doing the washing-up."

For Carol it was a difficult situation. She _____ (never/spend) so much time washing clothes before in her life. She says, "It was just unbelievable. I kept telling the kids, 'Sorry, I _____ (not iron) your shirt yet!'"

However, the experience made her aware of many things. For example, she realized that she _____ (not spend) enough time with her kids. "If I hadn't taken part in this experiment, I _____ (not notice) how little time I shared with the children."

Also, the experiment helped Carol _____ (discover) the disadvantages of many of the gadgets her family use. Before the experiment, she _____ (+ believe) that TV, for example, had no bad effects on her children. _____ (see) the way they behaved when they were away from a TV set, she realized that watching TV is a very passive activity. For three days, she could see her children _____ (play) lots of sports.

LEVEL A6

PAPER 1 / 17

For Tom, 7, everything seemed _____ (be) a game. When the experiment was over, he said that he _____ (find) it fun as he _____ (+ play) with the rest of his family, especially with his elder brothers and sisters who usually _____ (refuse) to spend time with him. “I loved _____ (talk) to by everyone in the house. I _____ (+ like) this to go on forever.”

All things considered, the Joneses’ perception of life _____ (deeply affect) by the experiment. They might change many things after it.

5. Complete the interview to Emma.

Interviewer: Tell me Emma, _____ ?

Emma: As I have already mentioned, I had just got my driving license. There’s no way I would give up using my car, so I just refused to be part of it.

Interviewer: _____ ?

Emma: I’ve had the car for only a month.

Interviewer: _____ ?

Emma: I use everything you can think of: the TV, the computer, the music system, the DVD player, the i-pod, the play station.

Interviewer: _____ ?

Emma: The experiment would have affected my life in many different ways. I wouldn’t have been able to talk to my friends, to chat, to drive everywhere. Imagine!

Interviewer: _____ ?

Emma: My smartphone, definitely. But I would also have missed the TV and the car.

Interviewer: _____ ?

Emma: If I hadn’t been able to use my car? I guess I’d just have stayed at home all day.

Interviewer: But the experiment lasted only three days, _____ ?

Emma: Yes, I know.

Interviewer: Anyway, having seen your family undergo that situation, _____ ?

Emma: No, my point of view hasn’t changed at all. I still believe there are many more advantages than disadvantages.

Interviewer: Now tell me about your plans for the future. _____ ?

Emma: Next year? I’m going to study Literature at Cambridge University.

Interviewer: _____ ?

Emma: Yes, my parents agreed with my choice of career. Why wouldn’t they?

6. Composition. Write about 180 words on ONE of the following:

- a. Technology is a bad influence on children. Discuss.
- b. The day my life changed radically forever.