#### **NICL AO 2017**

### Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions given below it.

Certain words have been highlighted for your attention. Most people spend (on average) half of their day tapping away at their hand-held devices. Either, surfing the net or checking notifications. Facebook ranks the highest in all social networking platforms, followed by Twitter, Instagram and so forth. Social media is addictive- which is why so many people are 'hooked'. Often referred to as Social networking addiction, this phrase is often used to describe someone who spends too much time on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and other channels. A blog post, Instagram post, tweet, or youtube video can be produced easily by anyone and shared, which can then be viewed by millions for free. Psychologists and scientists have now taken the time to study social media in terms of why they believe it interferes with aspects of our daily life. There is no official medical term that identifies addiction and social networking. It cannot be deemed as a disease or disorder as the cases are not severe and the habit can easily be maintained or prevented. Furthermore, instead of spending long periods of time on social media, we dip into and out of these sites all day long. We check for updates from friends and family as well as news and information. However, the behavior associated with the excessive use of these channels has become the subject of much public and sociological debate. We actively post, like, comment and share personal posts. Not only that, we tend to share and reshare expressions (of either negative or positive) contagiously. But, why? Scientists believed some years ago that, dopamine was simply a pleasure chemical in the brain. Recent studies have shown that; dopamine actually produces the desire in people to 'want' by drawing out the need for us to - seek and search. Creating the ultimate drive to find what is that what we want. Dopamine is spontaneous. It's stimulated by unpredictability and small bits of information as well as reward cues which are the same conditions that social media presents to all users. In addition, the pull of dopamine is so strong that recent studies have shown that tweeting, for example, can be harder to resist than cigarettes and alcohol! Researchers at Chicago University studied the effects of social media. They concluded quite quickly that people presented higher levels of addiction to social media than the need to smoke or drink. Media cravings ranked higher. And, let's not forget oxytocin, many call it the cuddle chemical because the brain releases pleasure chemicals that transpire usually when you kiss and hug- or tweet. It is also known as the hormone that builds the strong yet unique bond between mothers and their babies. Oxytocin is now regarded as the human stimulant of empathy, generosity, trust, and more. These are factors which many advertisers and marketers play on when promoting a brand or business over social media. Nevertheless, problems have arisen most commonly with school kids whereby mobile phone devices have been confiscated because exam results have fallen severely due to lack of attention on homework or studies. Schools in many westernized countries have had to take drastic action - banning smartphones, iPad and most portable devices from school premises- as it is claimed to be a huge distraction. Whereas, other schools use it for educational purposes and as a rewards system for their pupils. Research has also indicated unsurprisingly that Facebook is the most common activity that university students switch to, when studying. Worryingly, it has also found that those who most engage in this type of internet browsing tend to have lower levels of educational achievement. Also, there have been many cases of students posting or sharing content that is unethical, which has caused parents and academic institutions to limit the use of these online networking channels.

# Ques. 1. Which of the following words is the most similar in meaning to the word 'contagiously' as given in the passage?

- 1. Assail
- 2. Ambivalent
- 3. Arboreal
- 4. Malignant

5. Cogent

Correct Option - 4

Que. 2 What were the conclusions drawn by the researchers at Chicago University on studying the effects of social media?

- 1. People presented higher levels of addiction to social media than the need to smoke or drink.
- 2. Levels of addiction of smoking and drinking were higher than that of media craving.
- 3. There was a higher rate of media cravings.
- 4. 1 and 2
- 5. 1 and 3

Correct Option - 5

## Que. 3 Why is Oxytocin regarded as the cuddle chemical?

- 1. The brain releases pleasure chemicals that transpire usually when you kiss and hug- or tweet.
- 2. It builds the strong yet unique bond between mothers and their babies.
- 3. It produces the desire in people to "want" by drawing out the need for us to -seek and search.
- 4. 1 and 2
- 5. 2 and 3

Correct Option - 1

Que. 4 Which of the following words is the most opposite in meaning to the word 'confiscated' as given in the passage?

1. Cognizant
2. Covet
3. Expiate
4. Pithy
5. Relinquish
Correct Option - 5
Que. 5 What actions are taken by schools for students regarding mobile phone devices as mentioned in the passage?
1. Punish students who bring mobile phones to schools.
2. Use it for educational purposes and as a rewards system for their pupils.
3. Banning smartphones, iPad and most portable devices from school premises.
4. 1 and 2
5. 2 and 3
Correct Option - 5
Que. 6 What stands true about Dopamine in the present scenario?
1. It creates the ultimate drive to find what is that what we want.
2. It's stimulated by unpredictability and small bits of information as well as reward cues.
3. Dopamine was simply a pleasure chemical in the brain
4. 1 and 2
5. 2 and 3

## Correct Option - 4

# Que. 7 Why is there no real medical term that identifies addiction and social networking?

- 1. Research is not yet done on the subject
- 2. It cannot be deemed as a disease or disorder as cases are not severe
- 3. The habit can easily be maintained or prevented
- 4. 1 and 2
- 5. 2 and 3

Correct Option - 5

# Que. 8 Which is the most common activity that university students switch to when studying?

- 1. Youtube
- 2. Facebook
- 3. Twitter
- 4. Whatsapp
- 5. All of the above

Correct Option - 2

## Que. 9 Which of the below sentences summarizes the key idea of the passage?

- 1. The Psychology of Social Addiction
- 2. The Addiction in Students
- 3. The Science behind Addiction

- 4. Beliefs of Scientists for Social Life
- 5. None of the above

Correct Option - 1

### Que. 10 What does the phrase 'Social Networking Addiction' mean?

- 1. Stalking People Socially
- 2. Creating Fake profiles for fun
- 3. Finding your Friend Circle Online
- 4. Someone who spends too much time on social websites
- 5. Someone who is an introvert socially

Correct Option - 4

In the following passage, some of the words have been left out. Read the passage carefully and select the correct answer for the given blank out of the given alternatives. Some words have been emboldened and bracketed to help you figure out the answer.

Behind the \_\_(1)\_\_ (commotion), nastiness and never ending-ness of Brexit, the European Union is wrapping up a five-year legislative term that \_\_(2)\_\_ (contain) a number of initiatives sure to have a big impact on the lives of ordinary citizens. Bigger even than Brexit. So, as the European Parliament this week holds its last \_\_(3)\_\_ (full attendance) session before the May 23-26 elections, here's a look at some EU actions during the current term \_\_(4)\_\_ (planned) to be felt far beyond the Brussels bubble and long after any actual U.K. withdrawal from the bloc. Everyday plastic goods like plates, cutlery and straws will be banned in the EU as of 2021 in a \_\_(5)\_\_ (attempt) to clean up oceans. With plastics accounting for about 80 percent of marine pollution, the bloc took less than a year to agree to \_\_(6)\_\_ (ban) such throwaway items. Drivers can get ready

3. plan
4. group
5. roof
Correct Option- 4
Que. 14 Which of the following words fits the blank labeled as (6)?
1. prohibit
2. protest
3. proclaim
4. promote
5. Abstain
Correct Option - 1
Que. 15 Which of the following words fits the blank labelled (2)?
1. featured
2. have
3. comprise
4. cropped
5. features
Correct Option - 5
Que. 16 Which of the following words fits the blank labeled as (8)?
1. toil

2. endeavour
3. vantage
4. foil
5. Travail
Correct Option - 2
Que. 17 Which of the following words fits the blank labeled (1)?
1. rackets
2. gaggle
3. noise
4. chortle
5. Hurtle
Que. 18 Which of the following words fits the blank labeled as (4)?
1. reproached
2. opportune
3. apportioned
4. slated
5. fated
Correct Option - 4
Que. 19 Directions: Read the sentence to find out whether there is any error in it. The error, if any, will be in one part of the sentence. The number of that part is the answer. If there is no error, the answer is (5). Ignore errors of punctuation, if any. The

mathematically symbols used in the /(A) manuscript made it somewhat easy for the researchers /(B) to figure out the date and the period in which /(C) all these coins and artworks existed. /(D)

- 1. A
- 2. B
- 3. C
- 4. D
- 5. No error

Correct Option - 1

#### Que. 20 Find out whether there is an error in the highlighted parts.

The error, if any, will be in one part. If there is no error, the answer is (5). Ignore errors of punctuation, if any. The teacher had planned to conduct an interactive session but was disappointed by the lack of enthusiasm in the class. The students were underprepared, poorly behaved, and disrupting.

- 1. The teacher had planned to conduct
- 2. disappointed by the lack of enthusiasm
- 3. The students were underprepared
- 4. disrupting
- 5. No error

Que. 21 In the sentence given below, one/more parts have errors and others are correct. Find out which part has an error and mark it as your answer. If there is no error, mark 'No error' as your answer.

Mr. Subramanian complaint(A)/ about the noise pollution but(B)/ did not receive a positive response(C) from the concern authority.(D)

- 1. Only A
- 2. A and C
- 3. B and D
- 4. A and D
- 5. No error

Correct Option - 4

Que. 22 In the following sentence, some parts have errors and some are correct. Find out which part has an error and mark it as your answer. if there is no error mark 'option E'

If my nephew had gotten the job,(A)/ he would had been stable for life.(B)/ The prospects seemed good at the time,(C)/ however things did not pan out.(D)/ No error (E).

- 1. A
- 2. B
- 3. C
- 4. D
- 5. E

Que. 23 Directions: In the following sentence, one part of the sentence has an error, and the other parts are correct. Find out which part has an error and mark it as your answer. If there is no error, mark 'No error' as your answer. Ignore the error of punctuation, if any.

At the conference, /(A) the participant who is known / (B) for his trivial questions stood up again /(C) and interrupted the discussion. /(D) No error. /(E)

- 1. A
- 2. B
- 3. C
- 4. D
- 5. E

Correct Option- 5

Que. 24 In this question, a sentence has been divided into four parts (A), (B), (C) and (D). Read the sentence to find out whether there is any grammatical error in it. The error if any, will be in one part of the sentence. Mark that part as your answer. If there is no error, the answer is 'No error'. Ignore the error of punctuation if any.

Sentence structure is incredibly important (A)/ to the way we communicate (B)/ and this ability come naturally to (C)/ native English speakers with time and experience. (D)

- 1. (A)
- 2. (B)
- 3. (C)
- 4. (D)

#### 5. No error

## Correct Option- 3

Que. 25 In the following sentence, a part of the sentence is underlined. Below are given alternatives to the underlined part, which may improve the sentence. Choose the correct alternative. In case no improvement is needed, choose the option that indicates 'No improvement'.

On account of your instructions, we have remitted the amount to your bankers.

- A. By means of
- B. On behalf of
- C. In accordance with
- D. Conducive to
- 1. A, B and C
- 2. B, C and D
- 3. A, B and D
- 4. Only C
- 5. No improvement

Correct Option- 4

Que. 26 In the following sentence, a part of the sentence is underlined. Below are given alternatives to the underlined part, which may improve the sentence. Choose the correct alternative. In case no improvement is needed, choose the alternative that indicates 'No improvement'.

The entire town was set on the ears when it was announced that a giant megastore would be closing itself 1. Set by the eyes 2. Set by the ears 3. Set at the ears 4. Set on the eyes 5. No Improvement Correction Option- 2 Que. 27 Phrases in the sentences given below are underlined. Choose the option which you feel can replace all the underlined phrases. If there is no improvement needed, please click on 'No improvement required'. 1. Make sure that the lights are worked up before you leave. 2. In less than ten minutes an idling car will produce double the pollution of a car that is wired and then restarted. 3. Bogdan shuffled some papers on his desk, run over his computer, and got up. 1. turned off 2. thought out 3. run over 4. wired 5. No improvement required

Que. 28 Which of the phrases given below the sentence should replace the word/phrase given below in bold in the sentence to make it grammatically correct? If the sentence is correct as it is given and no correction is required, mark 'No correction required' as the answer.

The professor emphasized that rich should help poor.

- 1. rich should help the poor
- 2. the rich should help the poor
- 3. the rich should help poor
- 4. the rich people should help poor
- 5. no correction required

Correct Option - 2

Que. 29 Which of the phrases given below the sentence should replace the word/phrase given below in bold in the sentence to make it grammatically correct? If the sentence is correct as it is given and no correction is required, mark 'No correction required' as the answer.

When I had asked him how to cut the paper, he told me that the scissor was kept on the table.

- 1. a pair of scissor were
- 2. scissors were
- 3. pair of scissors was
- 4. scissors is
- 5. both 2 and 3

## Correct Option - 5

Que. 30 Which of the phrases given below the sentence should replace the word/phrase given below in bold in the sentence to make it grammatically correct? If the sentence is correct as it is given and no correction is required, mark 'No correction required' as the answer.

His enthusiasm to prepare for government exams gradually died down with time

- 1. died out in time
- 2. died down on time.
- 3. died off with time
- 4. died down off time
- 5. no correction required