



Province of the  
**EASTERN CAPE**  
EDUCATION

**SENIOR PHASE**

**GRADE 9**

**JUNE 2011**

**ENGLISH HOME LANGUAGE**

**MARKS: 100**

**TIME: 2 hours**

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This question paper consists of 10 pages.

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**INSTRUCTIONS AND INFORMATION**

1. This question paper consists of FOUR sections:

SECTION A: COMPREHENSION	(30)
SECTION B: SUMMARY	(10)
SECTION C: LANGUAGE IN CONTEXT	(30)
SECTION D: TRANSACTIONAL WRITING	(30)

2. Answer ALL the questions.
3. Number the questions correctly, according to the numbering system used in this question paper.
4. Pay special attention to spelling and sentence construction.
5. Write neatly and legibly.

**SECTION A: COMPREHENSION (LO3; LO4; LO5 AND LO6)****QUESTION 1**

Read the text below and answer the set questions.

**YOUNG, URBAN AND HOOKED ON MXIT**

While the middle-aged and middle-class have become ever more wrapped up in Facebook and Twitter, the rest of South Africa has been gravitating towards a low-tech and homegrown social network. It's called MXit and it's that thing that makes it impossible to part teenagers from their cellphones.

Facebook may boast close to 3,5-million users in South Africa, but MXit claims to have 26-million local users. That's about half the population. In comparison, the 55,000-strong cohort of local Twitter users is a mere blip on the radar screen.

It's not hard to understand the allure. MXit provides users with a cheap messaging service that works on even the most basic cellphones and it costs just one cent to send a message. Although it is used by rural grandmothers, university students and young professionals, its core demographic has always been urban teenagers for whom the always-connected world of MXit has become a way of life.

"It's weird for a teen not to use it," says Odirilwe Mokale (16) from Mamelodi. In the same way that many young adults check their Facebook or Twitter feeds first thing in the morning, teenagers catch up on MXit.

"In the mornings the first thing I do is log on and check who's online and see what's going on. Then I get ready for school. After school, when I get home, I'll log on from three to four-thirty. Then I'll just chill with friends [in the real world]. After seven, I'll log on again until 11 or 12," Mokale says. Some nights, she falls asleep mid-conversation with her phone in her hand.

Despite this packed digital social life, Mokale says she is not really addicted anymore. A few years ago, she would spend hours chatting on MXit during school, her phone hidden under the desk or behind a strategically placed book bag. Then two things happened -- her school banned phones during school hours and Mokale, whose grades had started to slip, came to her own conclusion. "I realised MXit won't get me anywhere, MXit won't get me a job," she says. Now there are MXit-free hours in her life, for school, studies, family and friends.

Simphiwe Jiyane (17) of Pimville, Soweto, is just as much a MXit fundi as Mokale. "I can't do just one thing and not the other," Jiyane says. "I like multitasking." This could mean messaging while in the bath, while eating and while travelling to school. She uses MXit to maintain relationships with interesting people she has met at parties, church or music festivals.

Nkululeko Junior Makhanya (also 17) is an "equal opportunity" user of social networks. He uses Twitter, but only rarely. He doesn't see eye to eye with its users, who he says are only into "glam" and following celebrities. If he is trying to find out more about someone he doesn't know well, he may check their Facebook profile, status updates and pictures. But for everyday communication with his wide network of friends, there is only one tool -- MXit.

For Makhanya, who rotates between his mother's house in Soweto, his dad's house in Pretoria and his step-dad's house in Bassonia, it is the cheapest, fastest and most practical way to keep in touch.

As Mokale says, R5 airtime can buy you a week of MXit use. The same amount of airtime used for Facebook would evaporate in a single day. Though both Mokale and Jiyane have Facebook accounts, they seldom use them. Mokale says it is too expensive to use and Jiyane says that she doesn't like Facebook's lack of privacy.

But with a decent phone, you can do just about everything you would want to if you had access to the internet -- take part in conversations, swop music or post videos. All you need is MXit and Bluetooth, which is a standard feature on most phones.

A savvy social media user, Makhanya says he's aware of the way the medium blunts the emotions. "I'd say things, horrible things, that I wouldn't say face to face. And it will be easier to text the person than actually doing it or saying it," he says. The same goes for positive emotions. "It's easier to tell someone 'I love you' by texting than to tell them face to face. And it's easier for them to say it back."

Last year researchers at the University of Southern California released the results of a study, which found that some emotions may be missed in rapid media exchanges, such as texting or tweeting. This would make people who use such rapid exchanges less empathetic to others.

Juan du Toit, MXit's head of international business development, says he believes that teachers, parents and caregivers should focus more on teaching young people about how to live with technology. But he warns that there's an inherent danger if parents and teachers see technology from their perspective and not from young people's perspective.

"Young people, 21 and under, don't necessarily see technology as you and I see it ... Phones are an intimate part of their lives. You and I would not feel threatened if we left our phones at home for the day but young people would feel claustrophobic without their phones."

Du Toit has a point. Life without a cellphone was an alien concept for the teenagers I spoke to. "To me my phone is everything. My phone has all my contacts. Without my phone, I'm doomed," says Jiyane.

Makhanya has had to live without a phone before. "I had a phone and it broke. Within two days I had to get a new one. I literally went crazy," he says. "Without MXit, I'd die. Literally and emotionally, I'd die."

***Faranaaz Parker is a reporter for M&G Online***

**Source: *Mail & Guardian Online* (Adapted)**

**Web Address: <http://www.mg.co.za/article/2010-12-23-young-urban-and-hooked-on-mxit>**

1. Refer to the title of the passage (*Young, urban and hooked on Mxit*):

1.1 The phrase, “**hooked on**” is an example of:

- A Formal language
- B Slang
- C Colloquialism (1)
- D Jargon

Write only the correct LETTER next to the corresponding question number.

1.2 Explain what the phrase “hooked on” means. (2)

1.3 An antonym for “urban” is:

- A Metropolitan
- B Urbanised
- C City
- D Rural (1)

Write only the correct LETTER next to the corresponding question number.

2. Refer to paragraph 1. Mxit is referred to as a “low tech and home-grown social network”.

2.1 What do you understand by the term “low tech”? (2)

2.2 What does the word “home-grown” tell you about the origins of Mxit? (2)

2.3 The word Mxit stands for “Message Exchange It” and is pronounced “Mix-it”. Is the word “Mxit” an abbreviation **or** an acronym? Give a reason for your answer. (2)

3. Refer to paragraph 3.

3.1 Provide a synonym for the word “allure”. (1)

3.2 Give TWO reasons why Mxit is so popular. (2)

4. State TWO reasons why teenagers prefer using Mxit rather than Facebook. (2)

5. How do rapid message exchanges (like Mxit, Twitter, texts) “blunt the emotions”? (2)

6. What is the message that Juan du Toit expresses about technology and young people today? (2)

7. In general cellphone use is not tolerated at schools. Do you agree or disagree with this policy? Provide TWO reasons for your answer. (3)

8. What was the journalist’s intention in writing this article? (2)

9. Describe how you would feel if your cellphone was lost/stolen/damaged and you were not able to use it. (2)
10. Rewrite this sentence in indirect/reported speech.  
Simphiwe said, "I lost my cellphone yesterday." (2)
11. Replace the underlined words in these two sentences with a more formal word. Write down only the word.
- 11.1 It's weird for a teen not to use it. (1)
- 11.2 Then I'll just chill with friends. (1)
- [30]

**TOTAL SECTION A: 30**

## **SECTION B: SUMMARY (LO3; LO4; LO5 AND LO6)**

### **QUESTION 2**

#### **INSTRUCTIONS AND INFORMATION**

The passage below is titled *Practice Cyber-ethics*. Read it carefully and then summarise the passage in SEVEN clear points.

- Your points should take the form of clear INSTRUCTIONS.
- You are NOT required to re-write the title of the summary.
- Each point must be a full sentence.
- Number each point to match the number of the point in the passage.
- No point may be longer than TWELVE WORDS.
- Indicate the number of words used at the end of each point.
- MARKS WILL BE DEDUCTED IF YOU IGNORE THESE INSTRUCTIONS. [10]

#### **Practice Cyber-ethics**

Ethics are principles or standards of human conduct. Cyber-ethics is a code of behaviour on the Internet.

Based on common sense and good judgment, cyber-ethics also includes obeying laws that apply to online behaviour. When you practice cyber-ethics, you are more likely to have a safer and enjoyable Internet experience.

Here are a few suggestions:

- (1) Email and instant messaging make it easy to stay in touch with friends and family members and share ideas and information with people across town or halfway around the world. Social networking sites are also a great way to engage with people online.
- (2) Treat people online the way you would if you were talking to them face-to-face. Be considerate and respectful. Don't be rude or mean, don't use bad language, and don't make threats or attempt to humiliate other people.

- (3) The Internet is like the world's largest library, packed full of information on every conceivable subject, from ancient history to current events, from maths and science to art and anthropology. The information you find online can help you to manage your life, to improve your work, and to make important decisions with greater confidence.
- (4) The Internet has such a wealth of information that it can be tempting to copy and reuse information you find online. Presenting information from the Internet as your own work is not only dishonest, it could be illegal. If the material is copyrighted, then by law it belongs to someone else. If you use it without permission or appropriate attribution, you might be violating copyright laws.
- (5) If you download and distribute copyrighted music, videos, games or other materials over the Internet without proper payment or permission, you are stealing.
- (6) Be careful about the type and amount of information you share with people online. Beware especially of people you don't know or questionable websites that might not be secure. Revealing personal information can make you a target for online criminals or cyberbullies.
- (7) When you're interacting with people online, be honest, and never pretend to be someone else. If someone asks you a question that makes you uncomfortable or asks you to reveal too much personal information, just don't answer.

**SOURCE:** [http://www.microsoft.com/security/online-privacy / cyberethicspractice.aspx](http://www.microsoft.com/security/online-privacy/cyberethicspractice.aspx) (Adapted).

**TOTAL SECTION B: 10**

### **SECTION C: LANGUAGE IN CONTEXT (LO3; LO4; LO5 AND LO6)**

#### **QUESTION 3: DICTIONARY WORK**

Read the article below and answer the set questions.

#### **FYI, OMG enters Oxford English Dictionary. LOL.**

It's official: OMG and LOL are no longer just time-saving shorthands. They're real English.

In a decision that may drive English teachers across the nation to despair, the Oxford English Dictionary (OED), the venerable last word on proper language, has embraced the tech world and added several abbreviations — or "initialisms" — to its new online edition.

Those include OMG (Oh my god), LOL (laughing out loud), TMI (too much information), FYI (for your information) and BFF (best friends forever).

The OED explained the decision extensively in an online statement and pointed out many of these "noteworthy initialisms... are strongly associated with the language of electronic communications."

The OED explains that shorthands such as LOL and OMG have gone beyond just saving space and acquired nuanced meanings of their own, with "a bit more than simple abbreviation going on."

But some abbreviations have been around for longer than expected. Researchers at OED discovered that OMG appeared in a personal letter from 1917 (with the same meaning as now), and the letters LOL had a "previous life" in the 1960s, when they signified little old lady.

**SOURCE:** <http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/technology/2011/03/dictionary-texting-omg-lol.html> (Adapted).

- 3.1 Why do you think that the decision to include OMG and LOL in the Oxford English Dictionary "may drive English teachers to despair"? (2)
- 3.2 Explain why the term "initialism" is a suitable way to refer to an abbreviation. (2)
- 3.3 Are the abbreviations OMG and LOL as modern as you would think? Explain your answer. (3)

Now look at the dictionary entry below and answer the set questions.

**OMG, int. (and n.) and adj.**

**Pronunciation:** Brit. /, / ˈəʊɪm ˈdʒi/ , U.S. / ˈoʊ ˈɛm ˈdʒi/

**Forms:** 19– **O.M.G.**, 19– **OMG**, 19– **omg**.

**Etymology:** Initialism < the initial letters of 'oh my God...  
*colloq.* (freq. in the language of electronic communications).

**A. int. (and n.)**

Expressing astonishment, excitement, embarrassment, etc.: 'oh my God!'; = **omigod** int. Also occas. as n.

**B. adj.**

Causing or characterised by a reaction of astonishment, excitement, etc.; that might cause one to exclaim 'oh my God!'

- 3.4 Name TWO parts of speech that "OMG" can be used as. (2)
- 3.5 Two different pronunciations are given in the entry. What do the abbreviations "Brit." and "U.S." stand for? (2)
- 3.6 Write down TWO other forms in which "OMG" can be written. (2)
- 3.7 The OMG is used "in the language of electronic communications". Name TWO different types of electronic communications. (2)



**QUESTION 4: CARTOON**

Enjoy the cartoon below, reprinted by kind permission of the Rapid Phase Group, and answer these questions.



- 4.1 Refer to frame 1. How does the cartoonist show that the audience's greeting is enthusiastic? Provide TWO clues. (2)
- 4.2 Refer to frame 2. How would you describe Gwen's (Madam's) body language? (2)
- 4.3 Complete Gwen's sentence in frame 2 with a suitable word. Write down just the word. (1)
- 4.4 Refer to frame 3. What figure of speech is the word "ring"? (1)
- 4.5 How would you describe Gwen's facial expression in frame 3? (1)
- 4.6 Refer to frame 4. Explain the irony in this frame. (3)
- [10]**

**QUESTION 5: TEXTUAL EDITING**

Read the text message/sms below. Rewrite the message using formal English.

Hey. How r u?  
 Been trying 2 call u.  
 Need 2 c u.  
 Call me ASAP!  
 Chat 2 u l8r.

**[5]**

**TOTAL SECTION C: 30**

**SECTION D: TRANSACTIONAL WRITING (LO4, LO5 AND LO6)****QUESTION 6: E-MAIL MESSAGE**

You have just received a new cellphone **OR** computer as a gift. Write an e-mail to a friend in which you tell him/her your exciting news. The length of your e-mail message should be 120 – 150 words. **DO NOT USE SLANG.**

Use the following format for your e-mail:

**TO:** (your friend's e-mail address)

**FROM:** (your e-mail address)

**SUBJECT:** (what is your e-mail about?)

**MESSAGE:** (the body of your message)

(30)

**TOTAL SECTION D: 30**

**GRAND TOTAL: 100**