

1 When computers first started to be used on a wide scale, some people predicted that we would spend so long staring at computer screens that we would end up forgetting how to talk to one another. But in fact, the rapid expansion of electronic communication in the 21st century has had the opposite effect. Rather than retreating into themselves, people are using technology, in particular email and text messaging, to find more and more ways to expand their network of friends.



2 Jane Adams, 23, sends so many messages to her friends. She's known as the Text Queen. 'My friends and I take our phones out with us and send messages to other friends saying "we are in this club and it's really good. Come and meet us," she said. It means we don't have to spend ages planning an evening out. You can just send the same message to everyone'. Text messaging and email also help Jane keep in touch with old schoolmates she would probably have lost contact with otherwise. She finds that it's easier to send a message saying 'Hi, thinking of you,' rather than having to write a long letter.

3 It seems these forms of communication have filled a gap, offering something that face to face conversation does not. Professor Pam Briggs, a psychologist at the University of North Umbria, believes they have become popular because they offer people an opportunity to present themselves in the ways that they want to. 'People seem to really enjoy sending text messages and emails,' she says. 'They can take their time planning their message. They prefer it to speaking on the phone to each other – maybe also because this way they can choose when they want to respond to someone.'

4 The fact that text messages are so quick and easy is a big part of the attraction. Many people also find text messaging more informal than making a phone call or writing a letter, and therefore simpler to use. Ann Rose, who teaches at London school, uses email and text messaging to keep in touch with her students. 'I have always given my number out to students and told them to call me if they have any problems. But no one ever did. Now, they often email or text me with questions about their work. They don't find it difficult to keep in touch that way, whereas they might feel that a phone call is more of an interruption,' she said.

5 So is it all good? Ann has identified one negative result of text messaging. 'The popularity of this way of writing among my students,' she says 'can cause a few difficulties as they have started using abbreviations such as 'r u ok' for 'are you okay?' And 'thx' for 'thanks'.

**I COMPREHENSION (15 POINTS)**

**{BASE ALL YOUR ANSWER ON THE TEXT}**

**A Are these sentences TRUE or FALSE? Justify your answer. (3 pts)**

- 1 Jane Adams and her friends find that text messaging saves time in organising meetings.  
.....  
.....
- 2 Jane keeps contact with her old school friends thanks to email and text messaging.  
.....  
.....
- 3 Ann Rose used to receive phone calls from her students.  
.....  
.....

**B Answer these questions with information from the text. (4 pts)**

- 1 What effect has been caused by the expansion of electronic communication?  
.....  
.....
- 2 Why is Jane Adams called "Text Queen"?  
.....  
.....
- 3 In what ways are text messaging and e-mailing different from face to face conversation according to Professor Briggs? (2 pts)  
a .....  
b .....

**C Find in the text words and expressions that mean the same as the following. (2 pts)**

- 1 to increase (para 1) : .....
- 2 a chance (para 3) : .....

**D What do the underlined words refer to? (3 pts)**

- 1 we (para 2) .....
- 2 they (para 3) .....
- 3 This way of writing (para 5) .....

**E Complete these sentences with information from the text. (3 pts)**

- 1 Some people thought that the expansion of the use of computers would stop them from .....
- 2 To ask questions about their work, Ann Rose's students.....
- 3 According to Ann Rose, the negative effect of text messaging on students' writing is .....

**II LANGUAGE (15 POINTS)**

**A Fill in the blanks with the correct form of the words between brackets. (4 pts)**

- 1 Many people in this area have no income and live in (poor) .....
- 2 Did the bad weather (prevention) ..... you from going out?
- 3 The book is very (comprehension) ..... and it gives you all the information you need.
- 4 Guad Elmaleh has a great (art) ..... talent. He also plays several musical instruments.

**B Put the verbs between brackets into the correct form. (4 pts)**

- 1 As soon as the authorities (ban) ..... the new song, everyone will go out and buy it.
- 2 Amine's sure that John (get) ..... the job.
- 3 I (listen) ..... to my favourite radio station and Becky was doing her homework.
- 4 look at the aeroplane, it (take off) .....

**C Fill in each blank with the right word. (4 pts)**

instrumental      lyrics      vast      attention      politics      celebrities      struggling

- 1 There was a huge mistake, but I didn't really want to draw ..... to it.
- 2 it's difficult to succeed in this business, so he's a ..... actor.
- 3 ..... give meaning to a piece of music.
- 4 they live in an apartment with a ..... living room; it's just enormous.

**D Rewrite the following sentences using the connectors between brackets. (3 pts)**

- 1 You will push this button and the door will open. (**as soon as**)  
.....
- 2 I'll come back home. Then I'll have a bath. (**when**)  
.....
- 3 Sanaa will finish work. Then she will go out. (**after**)  
.....

