

Section A: Reading

Answer all questions in this section.

You are advised to spend about one hour on this section.

Read Source 1, 'With friends like these...' by Tom Hodgkinson.

- 1 From reading the article, what do you understand about the issues the writer has with Facebook?

[8 marks]

Hodgkinson opens the article with the statement "I despise Facebook." This simply summarises his views on the social media site: absolute hatred. The reader is introduced to the idea that Hodgkinson has many issues with Facebook.

The writer finds using a computer to connect yourself with friends entirely illogical. This is clear as he questions Facebook's strapline in saying that the website "connects you with the people around you." Hodgkinson uses a question to emphasise the lack of sense that this makes.

Hodgkinson believes that Facebook actually "disconnects" us. He believes that we are becoming more isolated by

clear
understand

interpret.

communicating with our friends virtually rather than in reality. Hodgkinson lists familiar "enjoyable" things such as "talking and eating and dancing and drinking." The reader is likely to have experienced these things, and therefore they can recognise the enjoyment they bring rather than complete isolation at a computer screen.

Hodgkinson describes Facebook as an "American business" and a "capitalist experiment." The reader learns that Hodgkinson feels a large amount of mistrust towards the company. Hodgkinson emphasises that Facebook is effectively "making money out of friendship." This would shock the reader as it makes Facebook sound manipulative and may change the reader's opinion on the website.

Hodgkinson also hates what Facebook has made us become. He believes that the site is unhealthy.

interpret.

perceptive

Turn over >



app. gts.

perceptive

because it promotes "disturbing competitiveness around friendship." The reader learns that people can create a more perfect version of themselves online, due to "vanity", by uploading attractive photos and having an excessive number of friends. Hodgkinson suggests that this is not an act of friendship, it is an attempt to "out-do" our friends ~~in~~ to feel better about ourselves.

The reader learns about the scale of the social media site, as Hodgkinson describes the "59 million active users." He suggests that users are being naive by "volunteering" their ID card information. This would shock the reader as they realise that facebook can actually pose a threat to their security. ✓ Band 4.

offers ev. that text is fully understood.

Detailed engagement.

Perceptive comments with links.

(8)

8

