

Epreuve d'aptitudes pour la formation d'éducateur en alternance

Anglais

Vendredi, le 8 juin 2018

Durée: 15.45 hrs. – 17.45 hrs.

Educateur en alternance – Test d'admission en anglais

A. READING COMPREHENSION (20 MARKS)

JUST BEING SOCIAL by Margaret Davis

Opinions are divided about the use of social media in the workplace. It's possible that what, at first, looks like purely personal use may have a legitimate work-related reason, as Margaret Davis explains.

1. There have been a number of developments in social media since 2002, when Heather Armstrong was fired for writing rude things about her boss on what she thought was a private blog. Even so, it's worth remembering that a) you can still lose your job for criticizing your employer or colleagues, and b) hardly anything online is actually private.
2. According to CareerBuilder.com, 28 percent of employers have fired people for using the internet for non-work-related activities during working hours, while 18 percent have fired people for something they posted on social media. It seems that not everyone takes such statistics seriously, though. A recent US study showed that 34 percent of employees said they used social media to "take a mental break from work". And according to a study of 2,000 American office workers by the professional staffing agency *Ajilon*, 19 percent said that they played Pokémon Go at work.
3. The US Chamber of Commerce Foundation says that Americans spend an average of one hour of their working day on social media. For millennials (people born in the 1980s or early 1990s), that figure goes up to 1.8 hours. Millennials also say that having access to social media at work makes them more productive.
4. "To expect someone to maintain focus for eight hours straight is unreasonable. People need a break and, in today's world., that break includes social media access", Suzanna Flores, author of *Facehooked*, told CNBC. "My advice to

corporations is: don't prevent or over-moderate [social media use at work] but you can limit it. And also, have in place policies and procedures that will protect the integrity of your company.”

5. Does your company or workplace have social media guidelines? It should, not only to protect employees but also because it can reassure management. According to a study, in companies where there is a clear social media policy, employees are actually less likely to use social media to take breaks. This is also true in the case of contacting family or friends from work: those whose companies have guidelines are only 20 percent likely to do so, compared to 35 percent of those whose companies do not.
6. Guidelines can be developed with the help of your personnel department and works council. You should also ask your company to provide training on the most appropriate ways of using social media in the workplace.
7. There are many areas of potential conflict between social media use and the workplace, some of which you may not have even considered. For example, employees may breach company confidentiality in private posts or may post something negative about a competitor on a company account. “An employee untruthfully tweeting on an official Twitter account about the alleged negative treatment of women by a competitor’s managing director might be faced with claims against them for defamation”, says John Plant of the international legal firm Taylor Wessing.
8. “Communication between employees, not only in the workplace but also through social media sites, also has implications,” Plant adds. Some companies encourage social media contact as team building.
9. Employers also fear time theft – which is when people are paid for time when they are not actually working (for example, when they are checking private Facebook, Pinterest, and Instagram accounts or personal email in the workplace).

10. Stefan Stern, a business school professor, is sceptical about whether a quick visit to Facebook at work is time theft, however. “Many of us are, in a sense, working and not working at the same time, for much of the time,” Stern writes in *The Guardian*. “For example, your social media presence may not only amuse and impress your friends but could remind a potential employer that you are available. How many of your Facebook friends are really friends, for that matter? Are they in fact contacts? Or both? There may be no simple answer to these questions.”

1. Write the key words from the article next to the definitions below. The paragraph numbers are given to help you. (5 m)

| | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| make sure that something stays at the same level, rate, or standard (paragraph 4) | |
| make someone feel less worried about something (paragraph 5) | |
| writing or saying something bad about someone that is not true and makes people have a bad opinion of them (paragraph 7) | |
| possible effects or results (paragraph 8) | |
| do or say something that other people think is funny or entertaining (paragraph 10) | |

2. Read these statements carefully. Are they true or false according to the text? Correct the ones that are false. (6 m)

| | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|---|
| <p>a) Americans spend less than one hour of their working day on social media.</p> <hr/> <hr/> | T | F |
| <p>b) Over a quarter of employers have fired employees for using the internet for non-work-related reasons during work hours.</p> <hr/> <hr/> | T | F |
| <p>c) 18% of employers have fired people for posting on Facebook.</p> <hr/> <hr/> | T | F |
| <p>d) Guidelines can be developed with the head of the department and the trade unions.</p> <hr/> <hr/> | T | F |
| <p>e) Employees are more likely to use social media to take breaks when their company has a clear social media policy.</p> <hr/> <hr/> | T | F |
| <p>f) Companies should have social media guidelines to protect employers and reassure customers and clients.</p> <hr/> <hr/> | T | F |

3. Answer the following questions about the text in your own words. (9m)

a) Why was Heather Armstrong let go from her job? (1m)

b) Why do people take social media breaks during work? What reasons do they give? (3m)

c) Why does the author of the article think that companies should have clear guidelines about social media at work? (3m)

d) Why does Stefan Stern say about social media being considered “time theft” by some people? (2m)

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B. WRITING (20 MARKS)

Essay topic:

Social media has more disadvantages than advantages. Do you agree or disagree?

Write a well-structured essay of 250 – 300 words. Use paragraphs and linking words. Include an introduction, a main body containing 2 or 3 relevant arguments that you explain and a conclusion. Indicate the number of words used.