BACCALAUREAT BLANC
REGIONAL
MARS 2024

Fomesoutra.com
ça soutra !

SERIE A1 - Coefficient : 4
SERIE A2 - Coefficient : 2
Durée : 3 h

LANGUE VIVANTE 1 : ANGLAIS

Cette épreuve comporte 4 pages numérotées 1/3, 2/3, et 3/3.

Do all the activities of this examination paper on your answer sheet.

| PART ONE: READING | (40%) |

Read the text below and do all the activities that follow.

FAKE NEWS ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Though Social media has become almost an inevitable part of our society now, we can't always depend on it for information. Every day we read bunches of things online on social media, which may happen to be true, but most often it is not the case. Misinformation leads to fake news that is fabricated stories, without any verifiable facts, sources, or quotes. Those stories are forged to
5   influence the readers' own opinions or to deceive them. In the last few years, the number of fake news stories has increased via social media platforms like WhatsApp, Facebook, YouTube, etc., because they are shared online faster than we can ever imagine.

Most of the time fake news conflates three different notions: misinformation, disinformation, and mal-information. Misinformation is false information, but a person conveys it, and believes that
10   it is true and shares it. Disinformation is the information which is shared intentionally by a person after knowing that it is not true. On the other hand, information based on reality but imposes harm on a person, organization, or country is termed as mal-information.

There are mainly two reasons for sharing fake news on social media. Some people spread it for political, ideological, or business interests. Some also spread it for fun. However, fake news is
15   shared without knowing it's fake by some people. The motive can be varied from one person to another. Few of them think sharing the information before others gives them a sense of pride. Others think they must let people know about the importance of news and some commit it for fun.

Are we given enough contemplation before sharing information? Is it fake or real? Are we looking at an original piece of content? Who created this content? When and why is the content
20   being shared? Why should we share it?

There are different ways to identify fake news and stay accurately informed. It frequently has a clear bias, and it may strive to inspire anger or other strong feelings from the reader.

Though there are different ways to prevent fake news on social media, sometimes they are not enough. Because there are no editors on social media to allow the spread of any content after
25   verifying it.

But we social media users also have to play an important role. Instead of demanding the social media companies to take the necessary steps, we can be the editors ourselves by learning the research process of checking the truth behind the fake content. Personal responsibility is the first and fundamental step to protect our society from this fake content.

Adapted from timesofindia.indiatimes.com

COMPREHENSION CHECK

A- Vocabulary (10%)

Match the words or phrases from the text in Column A with their meanings or synonyms in Column B according to the text. There are more words in Column B than in Column A.

Write your answers like in the example.

Example: 1-f

Column A	Column B
1- bunches (line 2)	a- expand
2- forged (line 4)	b- mislead
3- deceive (line 5)	c- correctly
4- increased (line 6)	d- mixes; combines
5- shared (line 7)	e- admiration
6- conflates (line 8)	f- a large number
7- conveys (line 9)	g- deep reflection or consideration
8- harm (line 11)	h- become greater in number
9- spread (line 14)	i- communicates
10- contemplation (line 18)	j- invented; fabricated
11- accurately (line 21)	k- damage
	l- given part of something to somebody else

B- True / False statements (30%)

Read the following statements and say if they are true or false from your understanding of the text. Write T for true and F for false. Justify your answers by indicating the lines.

Example: 1-T (line 1)

1. Social media is absolutely necessary in our daily life today.
2. The information disseminated by social media users is always reliable.
3. The sources of fake news can easily be checked.
4. Fake news aims to manipulate the readers.
5. Social media platforms have rapidly spread fake news.
6. Those who share fake news always do it out of bad intentions.
7. Not everyone can recognize or identify misleading information.
8. Reflecting before spreading the news on social media is essential.
9. Fake news stories are identifiable by their characteristics.
10. Social media editors can control the spread of fake content.
11. There is nothing social media users can do to control fake news content.

PART TWO: LANGUAGE IN USE (30%)

Task 1

The following passage is an extract from an article related to fake news on social media. Complete it with the appropriate words from the box to make it meaningful.

Write your answers like in the example.

Example: 1- news

> information – share – norms – news – ignored – anonymously – influence – distorted – balance – accounts - button

The rise of social media has changed how we perceive and handle information. For many, social media has become their main source of **1.......** . Never has it been so easy to access, publish and **2.......** information. Anyone can create, within minutes and sometimes **3.......**, one or more Facebook or Twitter accounts. Social media platforms, by design, encourage users to share information effortlessly through a click of a **4....** and yet, information often gets **5.......** along the way. In some cases, humans may not even be controlling the spread of **6.......** . Programmes that automatically post and share information, called 'bots', can also operate social media **7........** .
Targeted information - or more maliciously: misinformation - has long been used to shape people's thoughts and decisions to **8.......** their behaviour. Newspapers, both traditional and online, generally adhere to journalistic norms of objectivity and **9.......**, and thus enjoy high levels of trust and credibility. On social media, however, these **10.......** are often forgotten, **11.......** or purposefully dismissed.

Task 2

This text is about the consequences of disinformation on COVID-19. To make it meaningful, choose the correct option in brackets. Write your answers like in the example.
Example: 1- has

In the wake of the coronavirus pandemic, the spread of fake news and the disputing and twisting of facts have increased. The World Health Organization **1-(is - has – have - will)** warned of an ''infodemic''. It endangers and keeps **2-(costing - to cost – cost - costs)** human lives because people also become ill **3- (after – at – of - through)** denying the virus, non-compliance **4-(on – from – with - by)** protective measures such as distancing, hygiene, masks, and ventilation.
The good news **5-(has – is – are - have)** that each and every one of us **6-(can do – can't do – does – do)** something against the spread **7-(in – at – about - of)** disinformation and half-truths. False information **8-(who – whose – that - when)** spreads through social media or messaging services **9) (such as – with – for - at)** WhatsApp or Telegram **10-(seem – seems – is seeing - seemed)** particularly credible because it is mostly **11-(to – by – from - of)** relatives, friends or people you know.

PART THREE: WRITING (30%)

Do **only one** of the following tasks. **(Not more than 25 lines).**

Task A

As a member of your school's English Club, you are asked to give a presentation on the following topic: '**The negative impact of social media on young people**.' In your presentation,
- define the term social media ;
- identify three (3) of its misuses by young people ;
- suggest ways to control its misuse.

Task B

You took part in a conference organized by the Nigerian Minister of Information and Communications Technology in Lagos on the use of social media. Back in your country, you decide to write an article for your English Club's magazine to inform your schoolmates about the dangers of fake news. In your article,
- explain why people spread fake news ;
- point out three (3) dangers related to such practice ;
- suggest some measures to control that phenomenon.