School: Collège Privé Pierre Simon **School year:** 2026-2027	**Class:** Tle A **Duration:** 3 hours
Student's name: ..... **Class:**	**NOTE / MARK** **..... / 20**

ENGLISH TEST N°1

Do all the activities that follow on the text.

PART ONE : READING — 40 %

A cell phone? Never for me.

Someday soon, I may be the last man in America without a cell phone. To those who see cell phones as progress, I say: they aggravate noise pollution and **threaten** our solitude. The central idea of cell phones is that you should be connected to almost everyone and everything at all times. The trouble is that cell phones **assault** your peace of mind no matter what you do.

I'm a dropout and aim to stay that way. I admit this will be increasingly difficult because cell phones are now passing a historic **milestone**. As with other triumphs of the mass market, they've reached a point when people forget what it was like before they existed. No one remembers life before cars, TVs, air conditioners, jets, credit cards and microwave ovens. So, too, now with cell phones. Anyone without one will soon be classified as a **crank** or member of the deep underclass.

Look at the numbers: in 1985 there were 340,213 cell phone users. By year end 2003 there were 159 million. (...) Among those 60 to 69, cell phone ownership (60 percent) is almost as high as among 18 to 24-year-olds (66 percent), though lower than among 30 to 49-year-olds (76 percent), according to a recent **survey** from the Pew Research Centre. Even among those 80 and older, ownership is 32 percent.

Of course, cell phones have productive uses. For those constantly on the road (salesmen, real-estate agents, repair technicians, some managers and reporters), they're a **godsend**. The same is true for critical workers (doctors, oil-rig firefighters) needed at a moment's notice. Otherwise, benefits seem **murky**. They make driving more dangerous. The Harvard Centre for Risk Analysis blamed cell phones for six percent of auto accidents each year, involving 2,600 deaths (but admitted that estimates are difficult).

Then, there's the **sheer** nuisance. Private conversations have gone public. We've all been subjected to someone else's sales meeting, dinner reservation, family **feud** and dating problem. In 2003 cell phone conversations totalled 830 billion minutes. Surely many could be postponed or forgotten. It's true that lots of people like to **gab**. Cell phones keep them company. Count that as a plus. But it's also true that lots of people dislike being bothered. These are folks who have cell phones but often wish they didn't. A recent **poll** asked which invention people hated most but couldn't live without. Cell phones won, chosen by 30 percent of respondents.

Some benefits may be overstated. Cell phones for teens were sold as a way for parents to keep tabs on children. That works up to a point. The point is when your kids switch off the phones.

Robert J. Samuelson, Newsweek, August 23, 2004

A. VOCABULARY CHECK (20 %)

Choose the best meaning of each underlined word from the text. Write your answers like the example.

Example: *1. threaten: b (menace)*

N°	Word	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)
1	**threaten**	destroy	menace	increase	interrupt
2	**assault**	damage	reduce	disturb	attack
3	**milestone**	level, stage	distance	speed	starting block
4	**crank**	sick	retarded	illiterate	strange person
5	**survey**	study	new	publication	result
6	**godsend**	real pastime	real blessing	good opportunity	real advantage
7	**murky**	cannot be seen	quite limited	rather numerous	quite obvious
8	**sheer**	simple	very small	absolute	artificial

N°	Word	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)
9	**feud**	ongoing quarrel	serious problem	business	meeting
10	**gab**	play a lot	dance a lot	talk a lot	listen a lot
11	**poll**	competition	question	investigation	vote

B. COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (20 %)

Write short answers to these questions.

1. Is the narrator for or against cell phones? Give evidence from the text.
2. What are the drawbacks of cell phones according to the author?
3. Why does the author consider himself to be a dropout?
4. Why will anyone without a cell phone soon be looked at as a crank?
5. Which age group owns the most cell phones? Give the percentage.
6. To which two groups of workers are cell phones a real necessity?
7. Can people have private conversations on cell phones? Why not?
8. Are cell phones an efficient way for parents to "keep an eye" on their children?
9. Why do cell phones "make driving more dangerous" according to the author?
10. How can cell phones be inefficient in keeping an eye on children when they are out of home?

PART TWO : LANGUAGE IN USE 30 %

TASK ONE

Complete the following paragraph by selecting the right option in the brackets.

Example: *1 – used*

In the past, people **1/** (using – used – use) to eat meat of animals that they **2/** (to kill – killing – killed) themselves. They **3/** (had – will have – are having) the habit to make fire with stones by rubbing them. Five centuries ago, men **4/** (was – were – have been) hunters and women **5/** (have done – doing – did) farm tasks. But things have changed now in our era. But someone **6/** (would have told – telling – told) me that things already **7/** (have changed – are changing – were changing) before our era.

TASK TWO

Complete the following paragraph about lifestyles with either the present simple or the present perfect tense. Choose the correct verb form from the options given in brackets.

Write your answers like the example: *9 – has gone*

Lifestyle is a vital aspect of human well-being. It **1/** (plays / has played) a significant role in shaping societies for centuries. While new trends **2/** (emerge / have emerged) over time, some traditions **3/** (remain / have remained) unchanged. For example, people **4/** (follow / have followed) a daily routine that mainly **5/** (has consisted / consists) of specific activities. These activities **6/** (vary / have varied) from culture to culture, but they usually **7/** (reflect / have reflected) the values and beliefs of a particular community. Furthermore, lifestyle choices **8/** (impact / have impacted) both individuals and the environment.

PART THREE : WRITING 30 %

The cell phone is the most popular means of communication in today's world. However, a lot of people complain about it. Write a paragraph, to be published in your school English Club magazine, emphasizing the following aspects:

- what people do not like about cell phones;
- the advantages of cell phones;
- whether driving and cell phones can go together, etc.

Good luck!