**Symbiosis School, Nashik**

**Std X Term I (2020-21)**

**Subject : English – Comprehension Worksheet - 6 M.M. 18**

**ELECTRONIC JUNK MAIL**

You would have seen an increasing amount of “junk mail” showing up in your e-mail box. The so-called harmless activities of a small number of people are increasingly becoming a serious problem for the Internet.

Spam is the flooding of the Internet with many copies of the same message, in an attempt to force the message on people who would not otherwise choose to receive it.  
Spam is basically electronic junk mail or junk newsgroup postings. It is sometimes confused with any unsolicited e-mail. But an old friend may also find your e-mail address on the Net and send you a message but this could hardly be called spam, even though it is unsolicited. Real spam is generally e-mail advertising for some product sent to a mailing list or newsgroup.

In addition to wasting people’s time with unwanted e-mail, spam also eats up a lot of network bandwidth. There are many organisations and individuals who have taken it upon themselves to fight spam with a variety of techniques. The problem is that because the Internet is public, there is very little that can be done to prevent spam, just as it is impossible to prevent junk mail.

One of the most recent examples of large-scale spamming was the hoax Ericsson e-mail about a free give away, something most people just cannot resist. The letter begins with a claim that since Nokia is giving away telephones, Ericsson will respond by giving away brand new WAP phone. But the recipient must forward the letter to a minimum of 20 people to receive the phone. The letter is signed by Anna Swelund, Executive Promotion Manager for Ericsson Marketing. It was later discovered that there was no such person at Ericsson.

There are numerous instances of these e-mails being used maliciously by someone who has a grudge against an ex-spouse, a public official, a former teacher or someone else with an e-mail address. The person mentioned in the e-mail ends up with thousands of requests from people looking for confirmation that the e-mail—which they actually had nothing to do with—is true.

Spamming works on our own greed to receive freebies. You are instructed by a total stranger (or a well meaning but not very bright friend) to forward a message you know nothing about, except for the fact that maybe a friend passed it along to you and about 90 of their other very close friends.

Very often the victim can receive so many e-mails (and sometimes faxes and phone calls in the more malicious cases) that they have to get a new e-mail box or phone number— thereby ruining established personal and professional communication channels, which was the original intent of the sender.

Most spam is commercial advertising, often for dubious products, get-rich-quick schemes, or quasi-legal services. It costs the sender very little to send—most of the costs are paid for by the recipient or the carriers rather than by the sender.

There are two main types of spam, and they have different effects on internet users. Cancellable Usenet spam is a single message sent to 20 or more Usenet newsgroups. Usenet spam is aimed at “lurkers”, people who read newsgroups but rarely or never post and give their address away. Usenet spam robs users of the utility of the newsgroups by overwhelming them with a barrage of advertising or other irrelevant posts. Furthermore, Usenet spam subverts the ability of system administrators and owners to manage the topics they accept on theft systems.

E-mail spam targets individual users with direct mail messages. They typically cost users money out-of-pocket to receive. Most of us read or receive our mail through dial-up accounts while the meter is running, so to speak.

There is not much really that can be done to protect yourself except that you can ensure your relative safety by creating internet e-mail accounts like Hotmail or Yahoo which can be easily and frequently changed. Further, these accounts also generally offer the option of blocking senders from whom you get spam and you can also opt to block e-mail which has been copied to more than 20 people.

One can also keep oneself informed about spammers through the Blacklist of Internet Advertisers, a popular report that describes the offending activities of spammers that routinely distribute large mailings via e-mail or post unwelcome advertising on newsgroups. You can also visit [www.spam.abuse.net](http://www.spam.abuse.net).

Another organisation devoted to countering the destructive effects of spam is MAPS or the Mail Abuse Prevention System. If an offending spammer cannot be shut down, the  spammer’s ISP may contact MAPS with the subnet addresses allocated to the spammer so those specific addresses may be used instead of the IP address of the entire ISP. The MAPS website at http://mail-abuse.org will yield more useful information on how to counter and control spam.

**Questions:  
A. Choose the most appropriate option: (1 x 4 = 4 marks)**

**(a) Email spam victimises** ……………….

1. group
2. individuals
3. males
4. females

**(b) Usenet spam deprives the users of** ……………….

1. the utility of the newsgroups
2. net facility
3. actual information
4. none of the above

**(c) Name the organisation that counters the devastating effects of spam** ……………….

1. MASP
2. MAPS
3. MPAS
4. MSAP

**(d) Who has to pay most of the costs of spam?**

1. senders
2. receivers
3. carriers
4. either (ii) or (iii)

**B. Answer the following questions briefly: (1 x 6 = 6 marks)**

**(a)** What is spam? What problems are caused to net surfers by spamming?  
**(b)** Give an example of recent large scale spamming.  
**(c)** How does spamming work? Whom does it hit—sender or receiver?  
**(d)** What are the two main types of spams and their effects on Internet users?  
**(e)** How can one protect oneself against spam? Give two options.  
**(f)** Who uses e-mail spam frequently?

**C. Find words in the passage similar in meaning as: (1 x 4 = 4 marks)**

**(a)** a mischievous trick played on somebody for a joke

**(b)** disreputable or risky

**(c)** unsolicited

**(d)** doing wrong

**D. Find words in the passage opposite as : (1x4 = 4 marks)**

**(a)** creative

**(b)** barrage

**(c)** harmlessly

**(d)** trustworthy