

IELTS Writing Task 2 - Social Media Impact on Society

🎯 Topic Overview

Topic Statement: Many people believe that social media platforms have had a negative impact on individuals and society. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement?

- **Category:** Technology / Society
- **Question Type:** Agree/Disagree (Opinion Essay)
- **Time Allocation:** 40 minutes
- **Word Count:** 250-300 words

📚 Essential Vocabulary

Topic-Specific Terms

Word/Phrase	Vietnamese Meaning & IPA	Part of Speech	Example	Collocations
social media platforms	nền tảng mạng xã hội / 'souʃəl 'mi:dɪə 'plætfɔ:rmz/	n.	Social media platforms have revolutionized how people communicate globally.	popular platforms, emerging platforms
digital interaction	tương tác kỹ thuật số / 'dɪdʒɪtl ,ɪntər'ækʃən/	n.	Digital interaction has largely replaced face-to-face communication among teenagers.	meaningful interaction, superficial interaction
cyberbullying	bắt nạt trực tuyến / 'saɪbər ,buliŋ/	n.	Cyberbullying has become a serious concern for parents and educators.	prevent cyberbullying, victim of cyberbullying
misinformation	thông tin sai lệch / ,mɪsɪnfər'meɪʃən/	n.	The spread of misinformation on social media threatens democratic processes.	spread misinformation, combat misinformation
addiction	nghiện /ə'dɪkʃən/	n.	Social media addiction affects millions of users worldwide.	severe addiction, overcome addiction
privacy concerns	mối quan ngại về quyền riêng tư / 'praɪvəsi kən'sɜ:rmz/	n.	Privacy concerns have led many users to reconsider their online presence.	raise concerns, address concerns
echo chamber	buồng vang (môi trường chỉ tiếp xúc với ý kiến	n.	Social media algorithms often create echo chambers that	political echo chamber, break out of echo

Word/Phrase	Vietnamese Meaning & IPA	Part of Speech	Example	Collocations
	tương đồng) /'ekou 'tʃeimbər/		reinforce existing beliefs.	chambers
viral content	nội dung lan truyền nhanh /'vaɪrəl 'ka:ntent/	n.	Viral content can shape public opinion within hours.	go viral, create viral content
mental health implications	tác động đến sức khỏe tâm thần /'mentl helθ ,implɪ'keɪʃənz/	n.	Researchers are studying the mental health implications of excessive social media use.	serious implications, long-term implications
online harassment	quấy rối trực tuyến /'a:nlайн hæ'ræsmənt/	n.	Online harassment has forced many public figures to leave social media platforms.	report harassment, experience harassment

Academic Words

Word/Phrase	Vietnamese Meaning & IPA	Part of Speech	Example	Usage Notes
detrimental	có hại /ˌdetri'mentl/	adj.	Excessive screen time has detrimental effects on children's development.	Often used with "to" or "effects on"
exacerbate	làm trầm trọng thêm /ɪg'zæsərbet/	v.	Social media can exacerbate feelings of inadequacy and loneliness.	Formal alternative to "make worse"
unprecedented	chưa từng có tiền lệ /ʌn'presɪdəntɪd/	adj.	The platform's growth was unprecedented in the tech industry.	Emphasizes uniqueness
pervasive	lan tràn, phổ biến khắp nơi /pər'veɪsɪv/	adj.	The pervasive influence of social media affects all age groups.	Stronger than "widespread"
facilitate	tạo điều kiện thuận lợi /fə'sɪlɪteɪt/	v.	These platforms facilitate global communication and collaboration.	More formal than "make easier"
correlate	có mối tương quan /'kɔ:rəleɪt/	v.	Studies correlate heavy social media use with increased anxiety levels.	Often used with "with"
substantiate	chứng minh, xác thực /səb'stænʃɪteɪt/	v.	Research has substantiated claims about social media's negative effects.	Academic term for "prove"
proliferation	sự gia tăng nhanh chóng /prə'lifə'reɪʃən/	n.	The proliferation of fake news poses serious societal challenges.	Formal term for rapid increase

Useful Collocations

- **social media** + influence/impact/presence/engagement/addiction
 - Example: Her social media presence has grown exponentially this year.
- **digital** + footprint/natives/divide/literacy/communication
 - Example: Young people need to understand their digital footprint's permanence.
- **online** + behavior/community/privacy/identity/reputation
 - Example: Companies increasingly scrutinize candidates' online behavior before hiring.

Essay Structure

Introduction (50 words)

Background statement structure:

- In recent years/decades, [phenomenon] has become increasingly [adjective]
- Vocabulary: proliferation, unprecedented, pervasive
- Example: "In recent decades, the proliferation of social media platforms has fundamentally transformed how people communicate and consume information."

Thesis statement structure:

- While [concession], I [strongly/partially] [agree/disagree] that [main argument]
- Vocabulary: detrimental, substantial, outweigh
- Example: "While these platforms offer certain benefits, I largely agree that their detrimental effects on mental health and social cohesion outweigh any advantages."

Body Paragraph 1 (80-100 words)

Main idea: Negative psychological impacts on individuals Supporting points:

- Point 1: Increased anxiety and depression from constant comparison
- Point 2: Addiction and reduced productivity **Example/Evidence:** Studies showing correlation between usage time and mental health issues **Suggested vocabulary:** exacerbate, correlate, substantiate, mental health implications

Body Paragraph 2 (80-100 words)

Main idea: Erosion of genuine social connections and civic discourse Supporting points:

- Point 1: Echo chambers polarizing society

- Point 2: Misinformation spreading faster than facts **Example/Evidence:** Political polarization and vaccine misinformation examples **Suggested vocabulary:** echo chamber, misinformation, facilitate, unprecedented

Conclusion (40-50 words)

Summary statement: Restate position on social media's overall negative impact **Final**

thought/recommendation: Need for regulation and digital literacy education **Suggested vocabulary:** paramount, address concerns, digital literacy

Ideas Bank

1. Main Arguments Against Social Media:

- Mental health crisis among teenagers
- Spread of conspiracy theories and extremism
- Data privacy violations and surveillance capitalism
- Reduced attention spans and deep thinking capacity

2. Counter-arguments (for balance):

- Democratization of information and education
- Support communities for marginalized groups
- Business opportunities and economic growth
- Crisis communication and awareness campaigns

3. Supporting Examples:

- Facebook's role in political misinformation
- Instagram's link to body image issues in teens
- Twitter's impact on political discourse
- TikTok's influence on youth behavior

Sample Answer

In recent decades, the proliferation of social media platforms has fundamentally transformed how individuals interact and consume information worldwide. While these digital tools have undeniably facilitated global connectivity, I strongly agree that their detrimental effects on both individuals and society substantially outweigh their benefits.

The most concerning impact of social media lies in its profound psychological effects on users, particularly young people. Research has consistently correlated excessive platform usage with increased rates of anxiety, depression, and low self-esteem. The constant exposure to curated, idealized versions of

others' lives exacerbates feelings of inadequacy and FOMO (fear of missing out). Moreover, the addictive nature of these platforms, designed to maximize user engagement through dopamine-triggering notifications and infinite scrolling, has created what experts term "digital addiction." This dependency not only undermines productivity but also impairs users' ability to engage in meaningful face-to-face interactions.

Furthermore, social media has contributed to the erosion of civil discourse and social cohesion. These platforms facilitate the rapid spread of misinformation, with false news traveling six times faster than truthful content according to MIT research. The algorithm-driven echo chambers reinforce existing biases, leading to unprecedented political polarization and radicalization. The pervasive nature of online harassment and cyberbullying has created toxic digital environments that spill over into real-world violence and discrimination. Additionally, privacy concerns regarding data harvesting and manipulation have undermined democratic processes, as evidenced by various election interference scandals.

In conclusion, while social media platforms were initially heralded as tools for democratizing communication, their negative implications for mental health, social harmony, and democratic integrity are increasingly evident. Addressing these concerns through stricter regulation and comprehensive digital literacy education has become paramount for protecting future generations.

Word count: 284 words

Band Score Analysis

- **Task Achievement (Band 8):** Clear position throughout, well-developed arguments with specific examples
- **Coherence and Cohesion (Band 8):** Logical progression, effective use of cohesive devices and paragraphing
- **Lexical Resource (Band 8):** Wide range of vocabulary with precise word choice, natural collocations
- **Grammatical Range and Accuracy (Band 8):** Complex structures with good control, minimal errors

Writing Phrases for Transitions

Phrase	Vietnamese Meaning & IPA	Example	Variations
furthermore	hơn nữa /fɜːrðər'mɔːr/	Furthermore, social media has contributed to political polarization.	Moreover, In addition, Additionally
conversely	ngược lại /kən'versli/	Conversely, some argue that these platforms democratize information.	On the contrary, In contrast
consequently	do đó, kết quả là /'ka:nseqwəntli/	Consequently, many users experience digital fatigue.	As a result, Therefore, Thus

Phrase	Vietnamese Meaning & IPA	Example	Variations
nonetheless	tuy nhiên /nʌnðə'les/	Nonetheless, the benefits cannot be entirely dismissed.	Nevertheless, However, Still
in light of	xét về, dựa trên /ɪn laɪt ʌv/	In light of recent evidence, regulations seem necessary.	Considering, Given that, In view of

