



• Passage 1 Level 5

Passage

Marcia says that all of her friends have a cell phone, but Marcia's mom doesn't want to buy her one. Marcia's mom doesn't want Marcia to play video games either. What is more, the Internet scares her. Marcia's mom says, "If Marcia has a cell phone, how do we know whom she is talking to? Video games are bad for you. The Internet is dangerous and uncontrolled. **It's like having a gun in the house.** We should just ban her from using the computer, and I'm not buying her a cell phone until she is eighteen. This is the only way we can be sure that Marcia is safe."

Marcia's dad disagrees with Marcia's mom. Although he agrees that there are some dangers to it, he likes the Internet, and finds it to be very useful. "The trouble is," he says, "**We just can't stop Marcia from using the Internet, as this would put her at a disadvantage.** What is more, I like video games. I think that, when played in moderation, they are fun. Obviously, it is not good to play them without restraint or self-control. **Finally, I think Marcia needs a cell phone.** We can't take these things away."

Questions

- 1) Which of the following best describes the difference between Marcia's mom and Marcia's dad?
 - A. Mom wants to ban Marcia from using the computer, while dad likes to play video games.
 - B. Mom thinks technology is dangerous, while dad thinks it can be useful.
 - C. Mom cares little about Marcia's future, while dad is very supportive.
 - D. Mom is very strict while Dad is open minded.
- 2) Which of the following best describes the similarity between Marcia's mom and Marcia's dad?
 - A. Mom and dad both like technology.
 - B. Mom and dad both think video games are bad.
 - C. Mom and dad both think the internet is dangerous.
 - D. Mom and dad both care about Marcia's wellbeing.
- 3) In paragraph 1, Marcia's mom says, "It's like having a gun in the house." She says this in order to
 - A. support the idea that the Internet is dangerous
 - B. reject the claim that guns can be safe if used responsibly
 - C. encourage Marcia's dad to purchase a gun
 - D. explain why the Internet is uncontrolled
- 4) In paragraph 2, Marcia's dad says, "We just can't stop Marcia from using the Internet, as this would put her at a disadvantage." What does Marcia's dad mean by this?

- A. Marcia needs to learn how to use the internet if she wants to have friends in the future.
 - B. Marcia should not stop using the internet because this will seriously slow her learning.
 - C. If a person's ability to use the internet becomes important in the future, Marcia will be at a loss.
 - D. If Marcia does not learn to use the internet on her own, then she will never learn to recognize its dangers.
- 5) In paragraph 2, Marcia's dad says, "Finally, I think Marcia needs a cell phone." Given what you know about Marcia's mom's concerns, what is the best reason Marcia's dad can provide to convince Marcia's mom that Marcia needs a cell phone?
- A. Marcia can use her cell phone to talk to her friends, instead of needing to borrow one of ours.
 - B. Having a cell phone will teach Marcia how to use new technology.
 - C. Because all of her friends have one, it would be unfair to disallow Marcia to have a cell phone.
 - D. If Marcia's is in trouble she can use her cell phone to call for help.
- 6) Which of the following describes a level of game play that Marcia's dad would disapprove of?
- A. On Saturday, Marcia plays video games all evening. The next day, she wakes up early and goes for a walk through the woods near her house. When her friend calls Marcia, they talk about the what they are going to wear to school on Monday.
 - B. Marcia plays video games for an hour or two. Then she eats lunch and meets her friends at the skating rink. That night, Marcia and her friends go to see a movie.
 - C. Marcia plays video games all morning. When her friends ask her to come play outside, Marcia tells them that she is too busy and continues to play.
 - D. Marcia plays video games for an hour every day for five days straight. During these days, she does not watch any TV.
- 7) Marcia's mom can best be described as
- A. ridiculous
 - B. careful
 - C. cruel
 - D. rude
- 8) Marcia's dad can best be described as
- A. shameless
 - B. foolish
 - C. wild
 - D. reasonable
- 9) Which of the following would be the best way for Marcia to change the way her mom thinks about technology?
- A. Read her a newspaper article that talks about the importance of technology.
 - B. Provide her an instruction manual detailing how the latest cell phone functions.
 - C. Take her to the library and show her the top five most popular internet websites.
 - D. Spend the weekend playing video games with her.

Answers and Explanations

1) **B**

In paragraph 1, Marcia's mom says, "The Internet is dangerous and uncontrolled," and "Video games are bad for you." This lets us know that mom thinks cell phones and the Internet are dangerous and that video games are bad for you. In paragraph 2 we learn that although he agrees with mom that there are some dangers involved with using the internet, he "likes the Internet, and finds it to be very useful." Moreover, dad thinks Dad continues to say, "I like video games." At the end of paragraph 2 dad says, "I think Marcia needs a cell phone." This let us know that dad thinks the Internet is useful, video games are fun (when played in moderation), and that Marcia needs a cell phone. Cell phones, video games and the Internet are all examples of technology. Mom thinks these things are dangerous and Dad thinks these things are useful. Therefore **(B)** is correct. Mom does want to ban Marcia from the computer and Dad does like playing video games. However, **(A)** is not the best choice because these are not the only differences between Marcia's Mom and Dad. In addition, Mom doesn't want Marcia using certain technologies because she is worried that they are dangerous or bad for Marcia. Marcia's dad thinks that Marcia should use the technology because it is useful and fun. This means that both parents want the best for Marcia. Since both parents support Marcia and care about her future, **(C)** is incorrect. Finally, just because Mom is concerned about the use of certain technologies doesn't mean that she is strict in general. Just because Dad is pro-technology does not mean that he is open minded about everything. Since choice **(D)** makes generalizations not supported by the passage, it is incorrect.

2) **D**

In paragraph 1, Marcia's mom describes why she thinks technology is bad. She says that the internet, cell phones, and video games are dangerous. At the end of the paragraph she says, "This is the only way we can be sure that Marcia is safe." This lets us know that the reason why she dislikes technology is because it will put Marcia's safety at risk. This lets us know that Marcia's mom cares about Marcia's wellbeing. In paragraph 2, we learn about why Marcia's dad thinks technology is good for Marcia. According to him, technology is "very useful." Moreover, he does not want to take technology away from Marcia, as this will "put her at a disadvantage." This lets us know that Marcia's dad also cares about Marcia's wellbeing. Therefore **(D)** is correct. The passage does not provide information to support choices **(A)**, **(B)**, and **(C)**. Therefore they are incorrect.

3) **A**

Feedback: To answer this question, it helps to use context. In paragraph 1, Mom says "The Internet is dangerous and uncontrolled. It's like having a gun in the house." Since Mom says that the Internet is dangerous immediately before she compares it to having a gun in the house, we can understand that Mom draws this comparison to illustrate how dangerous she thinks the Internet is. This makes **(A)** the correct choice. Mom is not arguing that guns can never be safe. Rather, she compares the Internet to guns to express how dangerous she finds the Internet. This makes **(B)** incorrect. Mom does not encourage Dad to buy a gun, so **(C)** is not the best choice. Mom compares having the Internet to having a gun in the house. She does this to explain how dangerous the internet is, not explain why the Internet is uncontrolled. This rules out **(D)**.

4) **C**

disadvantage (*noun*): an unfavorable or poor condition.

In paragraph 2, we learn about why Marcia's dad thinks technology is good for Marcia.

According to him, technology is "very useful." Moreover, he does not want to take technology away from Marcia, as this will "put her at a disadvantage." This lets us know that Marcia's dad also cares about Marcia's wellbeing. So, it makes sense to think that if Marcia does not learn to use the internet, and the internet becomes important in the future, Marcia will be at a loss. Choice **(C)** is correct. The passage does not provide information to support choices **(A)**, **(B)**, and **(D)**. Therefore they are incorrect.

5) **D**

In paragraph 1, we learn that Marcia's mom does not want Marcia to have a cell phone. This is because if Marcia had a cell phone, Marcia's mom would not know who Marcia was talking to. In addition, Marcia's mom wants to ban Marcia from using the computer because she thinks the Internet is dangerous. We can understand from this that Mom is very concerned about Marcia's safety. Since Marcia could use her cell phone to call for help, the cell phone may actually make Marcia safer. Since Marcia's mother is very concerned about safety, this reason would be most likely to change her mind about Marcia having a cell phone. This makes **(D)** the best choice. The passage does not provide any information to make us think that Marcia's mom is concerned about Marcia borrowing her cell phone. Since this reason does not address any of Mom's concerns, **(A)** is not a good choice. Moreover, Marcia's mom does not appreciate any of the technology discussed in the passage, so it is very unlikely that she thinks Marcia needs to learn how to use new technology. This makes **(B)** incorrect. As explained above, Marcia's mom is very concerned with safety and what is best for her daughter. The fact that all of Marcia's friends have cell phones does not address any these concerns. Moreover, in the opening line of the passage we learn that, "Marcia says that all of her friends have a cell phone, but Marcia's mom doesn't want to buy her one." This lets us know that Marcia's mom does not care about the fact that all of Marcia's friends have cell phones. This means **(C)** is incorrect.

6) **C**

In paragraph 2, Marcia's dad says, "What is more, I like video games. I think that, when played in moderation, they are fun. Obviously, it is not good to play them without restraint or self-control." From this, we can understand that Marcia's dad thinks it is okay to play video games in moderation. When you do something *in moderation*, you exercise restraint, and do not do it too much. Using this information, we can understand that if Marcia plays games all morning and then declines an invitation to play outside with her friends, then she is not playing in moderation. This means **(C)** is correct. **(A)** is incorrect because although Marcia plays video games all evening, she goes for a walk the next day. When her friend calls, they talk about school. This shows that Marcia has other interests in addition to playing video games. What is more, she plays the video games on a Saturday, which is a weekend. Weekends are good times to play games. **(B)** is incorrect because Marcia only plays video games for an hour or two. Then she goes to the skating rink with her friends. This is a social activity in which Marcia can get some exercise. Later, they go to a movie. This shows that Marcia has other interests in addition to playing video games. **(D)** is incorrect because although Marcia plays video games for five days straight, she only plays them for one hour each day. This is a moderate level of play. What is more, she does not watch TV. This is good because it means she is spending her time doing something other than looking at a screen. For example, she might be doing homework, playing outside, or doing arts and crafts.

7) **B**

In paragraph 1, we learn about how Marcia's mom thinks the internet is "dangerous and uncontrolled." For this reason, she does not want Marcia to use technological devices. She is very concerned about her daughter's wellbeing, and does not want her to take any risks. Using this information, we can understand that Marcia's mom can best be described as careful.

Although Marcia's mom seems to have an extreme view of technology, she does this only because she cares about her child, Marcia. Caring about one's child is not ridiculous. Choice **(B)** is correct. Although Marcia's mom seems to have an extreme view of technology, she does this only because she cares about her child, Marcia. Caring about one's child is not ridiculous. Therefore **(A)** is incorrect. **(C)** is incorrect because it is wrong to think that Marcia's mom is cruel, or mean, simply because she has an extreme view of technology. She does this only because she cares about her child, Marcia. **(D)** is incorrect because Marcia's mom is never rude, or impolite.

8) **D**

In paragraph 2, we learn that Marcia's dad thinks that although "there are some dangers to it, he likes the Internet, and finds it to be very useful." Marcia's dad continues to say, "We just can't stop Marcia from using the Internet, as this would put her at a disadvantage. What is more, I like video games. I think that, when played in moderation, they are fun. Obviously, it is not good to play them without restraint or self-control." This lets us know that Marcia's dad cares about Marcia's future. He realizes that there are dangers involved in using technology, such as the risk of playing video games too much, but that the world is changing. If Marcia does not change with it, she will be left behind. This is a reasonable way to think. This makes **(D)** correct. Although Marcia's dad is more willing to take the risks involved in allowing Marcia to use technology, this does not mean that he is *shameless*, *foolish*, or *wild*. These words are too strongly negative. In life, risks must be taken. One must face these risks, and think about ways to overcome them. This means choices **(A)**, **(B)**, and **(C)** are incorrect.

9) **A**

In paragraph 1, we learn that Marcia's mom does not like the internet and other forms of technology because she thinks they are "dangerous and uncontrolled." In order to change the way she thinks about technology, it makes sense to read her a newspaper article that talks about the importance of technology. This is a good idea because it involves a form of communication that is not technological. Also, a newspaper article is typically viewed as a reputable source. Marcia's mom will be most likely to consider the opinion of a newspaper article author. Therefore **(A)** is correct. **(B)** is incorrect because an instruction manual will not provide arguments in favor of the idea that a child should be able to use technology. Although it may be a good idea to take Marcia's mom to the library to show her the internet, it is not a good idea to show her the top five most popular websites. The most popular websites may not demonstrate the true value to be gained by using the internet. This means **(C)** is incorrect. Although it may be a good idea for Marcia to play a video game with her mom to show her what they are like, it is not a good idea to play them all weekend with her. This would be bad because you should not play video games for such a long time. Marcia's mom would not like this. Even Marcia's dad, who is in favor of using technology, would consider this level of game play to be excessive, or immoderate. Choice **(D)** is incorrect.