

PRUEBA DE ACCESO A LA UNIVERSIDAD
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MATERIA: LENGUA EXTRANJERA: INGLÉS

Convocatoria:

MIÉRCOLES 3 JUNIO

How TikTok harms boys and girls differently

Taking as a model two studies published in 2022 and 2024, both of which revealed alarming results, journalist Neelam Tailor embarked on an investigation to uncover what TikTok truly offers young teenagers.

The first study, on which Tailor based her work, indicated that teenage boys are exposed to misogynistic content, which significantly increases within just the first five days of using the platform. In contrast, the second one showed that TikTok offers teenage girls content related to eating disorders, self-harm, and suicide just seconds after they create an account.

To observe the experiences of a typical teenager registering on TikTok and test the app’s algorithm, which determines what content users see based on their interactions, Tailor opened accounts for two fake children: a 14-year-old boy named Rami and a 13-year-old girl named Angie.

The two accounts had only been active for a few minutes, but the journalist quickly noticed differences in the types of content they were receiving. After spending only a short time browsing, she became convinced that there are significant dangers for kids on the app. The platform appears to exploit vulnerable teenagers while profiting substantially from advertisements by keeping them scrolling.

When the journalist logged in as Rami, she encountered content related to cricket, football, and cars, as well as explicit and violent videos. Male influencers discussed masculinity and provided dating tips, often expressing negative feelings towards women and girls. However, when she signed in as Angie, the platform showed her an idealised view of a perfect life and body, emphasising a super-flat stomach, suggesting healthy food alternatives and listing what not to eat.

To gain a deeper understanding of the studies that support her work, Tailor arranged to speak to the research teams who conducted them. The Chief Executive Officer of the Centre for Countering Digital Hate, which was responsible for the experiment about teens at risk for eating disorders, stated the following: “We set up accounts in four different countries, and in 2.6 minutes, they began receiving self-harm content. To indicate that the users might be vulnerable, we named half of the accounts ‘Susan Loses Weight’, and TikTok subsequently tripled the amount of harmful content directed at those accounts. Surprisingly, TikTok’s response to our report was quite extraordinary. They did not deny any of the findings; instead, they made it more difficult for us to replicate our research in the future.”

On the other hand, the team studying how app algorithms contribute to online hate and misogyny made an interesting observation: “Our viewing habits have changed. We used to watch TV or films collectively, but now we primarily consume content alone, and we tend to normalise what we see because we are used to scrolling with our personal algorithms. Therefore, it would be interesting to scroll through our most-used apps with a partner occasionally. If this experience makes us feel uncomfortable, we should take a moment to reflect on it.”

Adapted from *The Guardian*, September 2025

1. Say whether the following sentences are TRUE or FALSE according to the text. COPY the evidence from the text. No marks will be given without the evidence. (1.5 points)

- a) Journalist Neelam Tailor asked two adolescents to create individual TikTok accounts to examine how the platform presents content to different users.
- b) The journalist set up a meeting with the teams responsible for the research that supports her work to discuss future collaborations.
- c) The writer suggests that it could be beneficial to examine our most commonly viewed apps with someone else.

2. ANSWER the questions below. COPY no more than 10 words and/or a number from the text to answer each question. (1.5 points)

- a) What motivated Tailor to do her research project?
- b) How does TikTok make most of its money when young people spend time on its platform?
- c) Why did the Centre for Countering Digital Hate give a name to some of the accounts they created?

3. FIND a word or expression in the text that means... (1 point)

- a) grows (lines 1-10)
- b) traits, behaviours, and roles that societies have traditionally associated with being male (lines 11-19)
- c) the opposite of realistic (lines 11-19)
- d) unexpectedly (lines 20-33)

4. READ this conversation and COMPLETE your part. Write the numbers (1-6) and complete each sentence on your exam paper. (1.5 points)

Talking to your form teacher about a problem you have

You: Good morning, Miss. (1) _____?

Your teacher: Of course. Tell me.

You: I'm really worried. My history teacher saw me looking at another student's test paper, and now (2) _____

Your teacher: Cheating is a serious matter. Why did you do that?

You: (3) _____, so I thought cheating would help me pass.

Your teacher: I understand. We need to find a way for you to fix this and rebuild trust.

You: (4) _____?

Your teacher: No, no, no. I'll do it. It's better if I talk to her first.

You: (5) _____?

Your teacher: Only if necessary will I talk to your parents. I'll talk with the history teacher first. Right now, let's focus on doing things properly.

You: Thanks for (6) _____

Your teacher: You're welcome, and remember, mistakes help us learn. I'm here to support you with anything you need.

5. Choose ONLY 3 of the following situations and WRITE what you would say in each one to show that you understand the context of the situation. Write between 10 and 25 words. (1.5 points)

- a) Your neighbour's dog keeps barking at night and disturbing your sleep. Politely share your concern with them.
- b) Your sibling borrowed your headphones without asking and broke them. Express your disappointment to them.
- c) Your music teacher asks if you'd like to participate in the school's Got Talent. Respond with enthusiastic acceptance.
- d) Your classmate invites you to study together on Saturday, but you already have plans. Politely decline the invitation.
- e) Your classmate keeps talking to you during class, making it hard to pay attention. Address the issue with them.

6. Choose ONE of the following topics and WRITE a composition of about 140-180 words. (3 points)

- a) Pros and cons of TikTok, the most popular app for kids.
- b) Should TikTok be banned? Give your opinion.