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<p><b>CONVOCATÒRIA: ORDINÀRIA 2026</b></p>	<p><b>CONVOCATORIA: ORDINARIA 2026</b></p>	
<p><b>ASSIGNATURA: ANGLÈS</b></p>	<p><b>ASIGNATURA: INGLÉS</b></p>	

## ARE BOOMERS THE REAL IPAD BABIES?

The phone never leaves their palm. It blares and beeps at odd hours, threatening anyone in the vicinity with the sensory overload of a full-blast Facebook reel. It's a constant companion, but a distracting one, when it comes to family dinners and nights with friends and restaurant outings. And when they're in the solitude of their own homes, that phone is a compulsive doomscroll device that devours hours at a time. Research shows social media use is growing among people 65 and older and some of their children and grandchildren are worried they're slipping quietly into screen addiction.

Brendan Moriak, a 25-year-old film orchestrator, noticed that since he and his brother moved out, his Gen X parents' phone use has skyrocketed – and in unexpected ways. His mom asks AI which type of towels to buy. His dad used it to write a jukebox musical. "Gen X and Boomers are now ChatGPT-pilled and addicted to their phones," he said. "My parents are on their phones more than I'm on my phone." We can already hear the choir: "Not all boomers!" That may be true, but it's not just anecdotal. According to research firm GWI, the newly retired are more likely than people under 25 to own tablets, laptops and smart TVs.

Despite countless studies about teenage screen time use, the impact of phone addiction during retirement has yet to be fully understood. Research doesn't yet tell us what it means for individuals. Or for their families. One Washington woman said her husband's parents visit just a handful of times per year. During those visits, they spend much of the time scrolling Facebook and reading news apps and online shopping for their grandbabies – but very little time playing with them. "If Grandma can't even read 'Goodnight Moon' without taking a call, what is she telling her grandkids? Is the other person or device more important than you?"

Like so many wretched things in 2026, this phenomenon has roots in the pandemic. When religious services, book clubs, doctor appointments and family reunions went online in 2020, so did the retired. Navigating telehealth appointments and virtual socializing ultimately made some older adults feel



more confident in tech use and adoption.

*Adapted from an article by Sophia Solano, The Washington Post, 18-3-2026.*

### Part I. Reading Comprehension

1. Are the following statements true (T) or false (F)? Identify the part of the text that supports your answer by copying the exact passage on the answer sheet. (2 points: 0.5 point each)

- Older adults rarely use their phones during social situations like dinners or outings. **F**, *"It's a constant companion, but a distracting one, when it comes to family dinners and nights with friends and restaurant outings."*
- Brendan Moriak believes his parents use their phones less than he does. **F** *"My parents are on their phones more than I'm on my phone."*
- The effects of phone addiction during retirement are already well understood by researchers. **F**, *"Despite countless studies about teenage screen time use, the impact of phone addiction during retirement has yet to be fully understood."*
- The rise in tech use among older adults is linked to the COVID-19 pandemic. **T**, *"Like so many wretched things in 2026, this phenomenon has roots in the pandemic."*

2. Taking into account the information in the text, answer the following questions using your own words. Copying directly from the text is not allowed. (2.5 points: 1.25 point each)

A. Why are some younger family members concerned about older adults' phone use?

**Evidence from the text:** *"some of their children and grandchildren are worried they're slipping quietly into screen addiction."*

**Suggested answer:** *Some younger relatives are worried because older adults are spending too much time on their phones, even during family moments. This can make them less present with their children or grandchildren and may suggest that they are becoming addicted to screens.*

B. How did the pandemic contribute to increased technology use among older adults?

**Evidence from the text:** *"When religious services, book clubs, doctor appointments and family reunions went online in 2020, so did the retired."*

**Suggested answer:** *During the pandemic, many older adults had to use the Internet for activities that they normally did in person, such as social and religious events, cultural activities and medical consultations. This made them use technology more frequently and helped them feel more comfortable with it.*



3. Taking into account the information in the text, answer the following questions using your own words. Copying directly from the text is not allowed. (2.5 points: 1.25 point each)

vicinity      devours      skyrocketed      anecdotal      device      wretched

a. circumstantial → **anecdotal** (*anecdotal means based on personal stories or individual cases rather than full scientific evidence. "Circumstantial" is the closest synonym here.*)

b. gadget → **device**

c. neighbourhood → **vicinity**

d. despicable → **wretched**

4. Choose a, b, c or d, in each question below. Only one choice is correct. (1.5 points: 0.5 point each)

1. What does the text suggest about research on phone addiction among older adults?

a. It clearly explains all its effects on families. **X** This is wrong because the text says the opposite: research does not fully explain the effects yet. Evidence from the text: "Research doesn't yet tell us what it means for individuals. Or for their families."

b. It focuses mainly on teenagers rather than retirees. **X** This option is partly tempting because the text mentions teenagers, but it is not the correct answer. The text says there have been many studies about teenage screen time, but the question asks what research suggests about older adults. The key point is not simply that research focuses on teenagers, but that the impact on retired people is still not fully understood. Evidence from the text: "Despite countless studies about teenage screen time use, the impact of phone addiction during retirement has yet to be fully understood."

**c. It is still limited and does not fully explain its impact. Evidence from the text: "the impact of phone addiction during retirement has yet to be fully understood."**

d. It proves that older adults are not affected by phone addiction. **X** This is wrong because the text suggests that older adults may be affected by phone addiction, and younger relatives are worried about it. Evidence from the text: "some of their children and grandchildren are worried they're slipping quietly into screen addiction."

2. According to the text, what do some grandparents do during family visits?

a. They spend all their time playing with their grandchildren. **X** This is wrong because the text says the opposite: they spend very little time playing with them. Evidence from the text: "but very little time playing with them."

b. They avoid using their phones completely. **X** This is wrong because the grandparents are described as using their phones during visits. Evidence from the text: "they spend much of the time scrolling Facebook and reading news apps and online shopping for their grandbabies."

c. They focus on cooking and household tasks. **X** This is wrong because the text does not mention cooking or household tasks at all. It says they spend much of the visit using their phones. Evidence from the text: "*they spend much of the time scrolling Facebook and reading news apps and online shopping for their grandbabies.*"

d. They often use their phones instead of interacting much with their grandchildren. Evidence from the text: "*they spend much of the time scrolling Facebook and reading news apps and online shopping for their grandbabies – but very little time playing with them.*"

3. What does the text imply about device ownership among retirees?

a. They own fewer devices than young people. **X** This is wrong because the text says that newly retired people are more likely than people under 25 to own certain devices. Evidence from the text: "*the newly retired are more likely than people under 25 to own tablets, laptops and smart TVs.*"

b. They are less interested in technology than teenagers. **X** This is wrong because the text does not say they are less interested in technology. In fact, it suggests that their use of technology has increased. Evidence from the text: "*Research shows social media use is growing among people 65 and older.*"

c. They are more likely than young people to own certain devices. Evidence from the text: "*the newly retired are more likely than people under 25 to own tablets, laptops and smart TVs.*"

d. They only use basic mobile phones. **X** This is wrong because the text mentions several different devices, not only basic phones. Evidence from the text: "*the newly retired are more likely than people under 25 to own tablets, laptops and smart TVs.*"

Part II. Composition (130 to 150 words approximately) (3 points)

5. Choose one of these two topics and write a composition about it.

## MODEL ESSAY OPTION A

A. Write about a situation in which the use of a phone or digital device influenced a moment with your family or friends.

**Note:** We have **bolded** the connectors, linkers, and useful phrases in the essay



Short  
introduction,  
2- 3 lines

Last summer, my family and I went to a restaurant to celebrate my grandmother's birthday. **At the beginning**, everyone was talking and laughing, **but** after a few minutes, most of us started looking at our phones.

Main body  
divided into 2  
or máx. 3  
paragraphs

**First**, we only wanted to take some photos and send a few messages. **Then**, my cousins began watching videos, and my uncle answered a work email. **After a while**, the table became strangely silent. My grandmother looked disappointed, and I realised that a special family moment was becoming less important than our screens.

**Suddenly**, I suggested putting our phones in the middle of the table until dessert. **To my surprise**, everyone agreed. We started telling stories, remembering funny moments and enjoying the meal much more.

Short  
conclusion, 2-3  
lines

**In the end**, that day taught me that phones can help us keep memories, **but** they should never stop us from living them.

(144 words)

💡 Let's have a look in more detail why this model essay is a good example of writing.

#### 📌 Prompt breakdown:

1. Clear setting: when and where the story happened.
2. Explanation of the special occasion: the grandmother's birthday.
3. Description of the initial positive atmosphere.
4. Clear problem: people start using their phones instead of talking.
5. Development of the situation with specific examples.
6. Emotional reaction: the grandmother feels disappointed.
7. Turning point: the writer suggests putting the phones away.
8. Positive result: the family starts talking and enjoying the meal.
9. Clear final lesson connected to the topic.



PROMPT POINT	COVERED?	EVIDENCE FROM COMPOSITION
Clear time reference	✓	"Last summer"
Clear place	✓	"went to a restaurant"
Special occasion	✓	"to celebrate my grandmother's birthday"
Positive beginning	✓	"everyone was talking and laughing"
Main problem	✓	"most of us started looking at our phones"
Specific examples of phone use	✓	"take some photos and send a few messages" / "watching videos" / "answered a work email"
Change in atmosphere	✓	"the table became strangely silent"
Emotional reaction	✓	"My grandmother looked disappointed"
Writer's realisation	✓	"a special family moment was becoming less important than our screens"
Turning point	✓	"I suggested putting our phones in the middle of the table until dessert"



Positive consequence	✓	"We started telling stories, remembering funny moments and enjoying the meal much more"
Final lesson	✓	"phones can help us keep memories, but they should never stop us from living them"

## MODEL ESSAY OPTION B

B. Write a text discussing whether it is acceptable to use smartphones during family gatherings.

**Note:** We have **bolded** the connectors, linkers, and useful phrases in the essay

Short introduction, 2-3 lines	<p><b>Nowadays</b>, smartphones are part of our daily life, <b>so</b> it is normal to bring them to family gatherings. <b>However, I believe that</b> using them too much during these moments is not acceptable <b>because</b> it can make people feel ignored.</p>
Main body divided into 2 or máx. 3 paragraphs	<p><b>Firstly</b>, family gatherings are a good opportunity to talk, laugh and spend time together. <b>If</b> someone is constantly checking messages or watching videos, the atmosphere can become uncomfortable. <b>For example</b>, grandparents may feel that their family is not really interested in them.</p> <p><b>Nevertheless</b>, I think smartphones can be acceptable in some situations. They can be useful for taking photos, sharing a funny video or answering an urgent call. The problem appears <b>when</b> people use them all the time and forget the people around them.</p>
Short conclusion, 2-3 lines	<p><b>In conclusion</b>, smartphones are not bad, <b>but</b> we should use them with respect. During family gatherings, real conversations should be more important than screens.</p> <p>(147 words)</p>

💡 Let's have a look in more detail why this model essay is a good example of writing.

📌 **Prompt breakdown:**

1. Clear introduction to the topic of smartphones during family gatherings.
2. Clear opinion about excessive smartphone use.
3. Explanation of why using phones too much can be negative.
4. Reference to the importance of family gatherings.
5. Specific example showing how phone use can affect other people.
6. Balanced point of view: smartphones can be acceptable in some situations.
7. Mention of useful uses of smartphones.
8. Explanation of the real problem: using phones all the time.
9. Clear conclusion connected to the topic.

PROMPT POINT	COVERED?	EVIDENCE FROM COMPOSITION
Clear topic	✓	"smartphones are part of our daily life"
Reference to family gatherings	✓	"bring them to family gatherings"
Clear opinion	✓	"using them too much during these moments is not acceptable"
Reason for the opinion	✓	"because it can make people feel ignored"
Importance of family gatherings	✓	"a good opportunity to talk, laugh and spend time together"
Negative effect of	✓	"the atmosphere can become uncomfortable"



smartphone use		
Specific example	✓	"grandparents may feel that their family is not really interested in them"
Balanced argument	✓	"smartphones can be acceptable in some situations"
Useful uses of smartphones	✓	"taking photos, sharing a funny video or answering an urgent call"
Main problem	✓	"when people use them all the time and forget the people around them"
Final conclusion	✓	"smartphones are not bad, but we should use them with respect"
Final idea connected to the topic	✓	"real conversations should be more important than screens"