



C1 - MEDIACIÓN ORAL

Preparación: 15 minutos

Exposición: 4-5 minutos

Technology in education is still a controversial issue; you need to inform your classmates about this fact. You have been provided with a couple of texts (see next page) in order to prepare the talk. Take notes and make sure you include the ideas exposed in the texts.

Technology in Education

Future education

What will determine our future success in the economic and social fields is the ability of our educators to make technology in the classroom. An enabler for achievement in most aspects of our lives. The most significant advantage that advances in technology have brought about is the promotion of independent learning in students. The internet has changed the way students access information necessary for their education. With proper training to identify the more reliable sources of information, most students will no longer depend on often outdated textbooks to glean the information they need. The first step that needs to be taken to make the use of technology in the classroom a useful strategic tool is to motivate educators to embrace these tools without adding extra weight to their workload. We spend more money on education than most EU countries, but our achievement records are not impressive. Part of the problem is that the teaching profession is not valued enough. Many who choose to teach as a career do so for the wrong reasons. Students will often be the victims of these wrong choices. We need to attract the best graduates in the different areas of study, ensure that they have the right motivation to train others, and pay them as much if not more than other industries to bring the best out of our young people.



Adapted from www.timesofmalta.com

Mobile phones and academic effects

Giving a mobile phone to a child aged nine leads to worse maths and reading skills, according to major new Irish research which claims that children who have a mobile phone at age nine score lower on average in standardised reading and maths tests by the age of 13. It also found that 40% of children aged nine own a mobile phone. The data suggests that the effects of this early exposure to mobile phones could include impact on memory patterns or effects on sleep duration. The study also claims that the observed association between mobile phone ownership and test scores remains when we take account of many of the factors which typically influence test scores such as socio-economic class; even within the same communities, children with mobile phones scored less well in academic tests than children without handsets. Furthermore, the research also found children in poorer socio-economic communities were more likely to have a mobile phone at the age of nine than those in more affluent communities. Schools have recently been consulting with their staff, students and parents on the place of personal devices in the school setting, these results may help schools in making decisions on whether and when to restrict access to personal devices, particularly during the primary school years. In a time when technology is everyday more implemented in our classrooms, it's difficult to reconcile the alleged pedagogical benefits of tablets and smartphones and the evidence which suggests that these interfere with cognitive abilities, including concentration.



Adapted from www.Independent.ie

C1 - WRITTEN MEDIATION: TRAVELLING

Duration: 35 minutes

(10 points)

An English friend of yours has written you the following message:

Hi Marta! How are you? I've got big news: Mike and I are travelling to India this summer! He bought the tickets as a birthday surprise, I couldn't believe my eyes when I opened the envelope. We still have to make all the arrangements. It's going to be hard work, but we're so excited! Any advice?

Write a reply (150-180 words) providing some advice based on the article below.

Hi Sam!

I'm fine, what about you? What a coincidence! Last day I read an article about some basic tips for your first trip to India.

Once you are back, let me know, so you tell me how the trip was.

Have a great trip!

Marta



Some tips for India first-timers

Chaotic, bamboozling, intoxicating, crazy, exasperating, wonderful, squalid, beautiful, daunting, overwhelming, and fantastic. India is all these things, and more. How can you possibly prepare yourself for the ultimate travel plunge?

The single most important piece of advice for any India first-timer is to try to remain calm, no matter what. Frustrations boil over easily in India, and being able to control them, take a deep breath and move on, is key to enjoying your time here. If you're getting stressed about losing some money or being scammed, take a moment to consider how much you've really lost and whether it's worth getting that fussed about in the grand scheme of things.

Many people try to cram too much into a visit to India and subsequently burn out. To get the best out your trip, concentrate on a few places rather than trying to tick off as many as possible. Seeing one or two places slowly can be much more rewarding than getting round loads of places but not having time to appreciate any of them. Spend a few days in one spot and you'll be less stressed, gain a deeper understanding of where you are, and have more time to get to know the people you meet – your exchanges with hospitable locals will almost certainly lead to some of the most memorable moments of your trip.



With over a billion locals, many parts of India are certainly crowded. The bustle and mayhem can be fun, particularly if there's a festival in town, but it's easy to reach the point of saturation. Fortunately, India has plenty of quiet retreats, so plan some relaxing escapes into your journey. To keep your batteries charged, spend some days or weeks in a city, followed by some downtime in the countryside or smaller town. For inner (and outer) peace, head south to the backwaters and beaches of Kerala, or north to India's captivating hill stations or the Tibetan-influenced valleys of the Himalaya in Ladakh, Sikkim and Himachal Pradesh.

India has a somewhat notorious reputation amongst travellers for so-called Delhi belly (an upset stomach). No one wants to get ill, particularly if you're on a shorter trip, so it pays to take steps to avoid a dodgy tum. Never drink tap water, and steer clear of any food that may have been washed in it. As a precaution, avoid ice, ice cream, and salads and fruit you haven't just peeled yourself.

It's also wise to let your stomach acclimatise for a few days before launching into a mega-spicy street food feast, and whenever buying street food, apply the same assessment of cleanliness standards as you would anywhere: are the owners freshly cooking the food or has it been standing there for a while? Is the stall busy with lots of customers or only attracting hoards of flies?

<https://www.lonelyplanet.com>