

**CONCOURS EXCEPTIONNEL SOUS-OFFICIERS SESSION 2023**

**Text:**

Cell-phone calls, text messages, e-mails, online social networks, chat rooms – there has never been a time when the means of communicating were so numerous and easy to come by; yet, in this world of mass connection, many people – young and old – feel lonely. Why?

In their book, *Loneliness – Human Nature and the Need For Social Connection*, researchers John T Cacioppo and William Patrick thoroughly address the subject of loneliness. They refer to a study that says “increased internet use can increase social isolation as well as depression when it replaces more tangible forms of human contact”.

The hectic pace of life imposed by modern society is hardly conducive to warm human contact. A smile and the affection that can be seen in a person’s eyes cannot generally be conveyed over the phone or through the message on a computer screen.

The above can be true in the workplace but even more within the family circle. In many homes family members come and go without sharing meals or conversation. Adolescent children have their own computer and live virtually isolated from the rest of the family. Ironically, in spite of the electronic communication gadgets, many youngsters feel lonely.

These days, even the bonds of marriage can be threatened by feelings of loneliness. Lack of communication between marriage partners can bring about a situation in which the two lead parallel lives, moving in lines that seldom, meet. A feeling of being alone while living with a marriage mate is one of the most distressing forms of loneliness.

Single parents in particular may have to contend with feelings of loneliness. The world of mass connection, among many other things, can cut off companionship with their children. Also, many single people long to have a companion, but their emotional needs remain unfulfilled.

Loneliness has become a social evil that can contribute to alcoholism, overeating, drug abuse, promiscuous sexual behavior, and even suicide. It is therefore important to identify the causes of loneliness. Taking this first step can lead to success in coping with the problem.

**SOURCE: Awake! September 2010**

**I. READING COMPREHENSION (8 marks)**

- A. Circle the letter corresponding to the best answer: The best title for this text is \_\_ (1 mark)**

- a. A world of connection.
- b. A world of loneliness
- c. The importance of mass connection
- d. Alone in the crowd

B. Find in the text 4 words referring to SOLITUDE (2 marks)

Four (4) words from the text referring to SOLITUDE are ____	1. _____
	2. _____
	3. _____
	4. _____

C. Refer to the text and circle the most suitable answer: a,b,c and d (2 mark)

1. Nowadays, many people feel lonely because \_\_\_\_
  - a. they need more electronic gadgets.
  - b. they don't know how to use electronic gadgets.
  - c. they don't profit by electronic gadgets.
  - d. there are fewer forms of human contact.
2. A world of mass connection contributes to \_\_\_\_
  - a. social unrest
  - b. broken family relations
  - c. social boredom
  - d. broken families

D. INFORMATION TRANSFER: Find four consequences of loneliness or solitude. (2 marks)

1 _____	2 _____
3 _____	4 _____

E. REFERENCING: What do the following words refer to in the text? (1 mark)

- 1- the two: \_\_\_\_\_
- 2- this first step: \_\_\_\_\_

II. COMMUNICATIVE AND LINGUISTIC COMPETENCE (7 marks)

F. **Reordering:** Make a meaningful sentence with the following elements. (1 mark)  
to control their children / use of the Internet / because of the widespread / Parents find it difficult / and cell phones.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

G. Complete this dialogue with words from the box. (2.5 marks)

**need - hardly - pity - matter - broken**

Astou: Hey sister, you look really worried, what's the \_\_\_\_\_ with you?

Bineta: You know, my kids \_\_\_\_\_ talk to me now. It seems to me that electronic and music have \_\_\_\_\_ our relations!

Astou: Okay, I know what you mean! You know what; my own kids only talk to me when they are in \_\_\_\_\_ of money.

Bineta: It's a \_\_\_\_\_

H. Complete the following phrases meaningfully with correct word forms. (2.5 marks)

In many houses, parents rarely share meals or conversation with their children. Single ones in particular, struggle against feelings of being \_\_\_\_\_ (**lone**), which adds to the situation of boredom and \_\_\_\_\_ (**happy**), that can give way to a \_\_\_\_\_ (**break**) of relationship and separation. The only solution to get out of this cycle is to question our \_\_\_\_\_ (**behave**), favour human contact as well as \_\_\_\_\_ (**social**)

I. Complete the following sentence meaningfully without copying the text. (1 mark)

On the one hand parents spoil their children with electronic gadgets. On the other,

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

III. WRITING (5 marks)

Choose one topic and write about 150 words.

**Topic 1:** Like most countries, in Senegal, cell phone use has become a phenomenon. Talk about its social, economic and political impacts on people's everyday life

**Topic 2:** People say that new technologies are causing more isolation in society. Do you share this opinion? Why (not)?