Integrated Skills in English

ISE IV

TRINITY COLLEGE LONDON

The Controlled Written examination

Saturday 28 May 2011 10.00am–1.00pm

Your full name: .....
(BLOCK CAPITALS)

Candidate registration number: .....

Centre: .....

Time allowed: 3 hours

Instructions to candidates

1. Write your name, candidate number and centre number on the front of this examination paper.
2. You must not open this examination paper until instructed to do so.
3. This examination paper contains **three** tasks. You must complete **all** tasks.
4. Use blue or black pen, not pencil.
5. Write your answers on the examination paper.
6. Do all rough work on the examination paper. Cross through any work you do not want marked.
7. You must not use a dictionary in this examination.
8. You must not use correction fluid on the examination paper.

Information for candidates

The tasks in this examination have equal weighting.
You are advised to spend about 75 minutes on Task 1, 60 minutes on Task 2 and about 45 minutes on Task 3.

Examiner's use only							
Task 1							
Task fulfilment	A	B	C	D	E	N	U
Accuracy and range	A	B	C	D	E	N	U
Task 2							
Task fulfilment	A	B	C	D	E	N	U
Accuracy and range	A	B	C	D	E	N	U
Task 3							
Task fulfilment	A	B	C	D	E	N	U
Accuracy and range	A	B	C	D	E	N	U

Integrated Skills in English IV

Time allowed: 3 hours

This examination paper contains three tasks. You must complete all tasks.

Task 1 — Reading into writing task — text synthesis

Read the text below and look at the graphs. Then, **in your own words**, write a report (approximately 350 words) for a group of people who rely heavily on the use of a variety of electronic gadgets:

i) summarising the concerns that arise from the common habit of multitasking with a range of technological devices **and**

ii) discussing ways to deal with this new phenomenon and assessing how far the problem at work is the responsibility of the employer or of the individual.

As gadgets take over, focus falters

When one of the most important email messages of his life landed in his inbox a few years ago, Kord Campbell managed to overlook it, not just for a day or two, but 12 days. He finally saw it while sifting through old messages: a big company wanted to buy his Internet start-up. The message had slipped by him amid an electronic flood: two computer screens alive with email, instant messages, online chats, a web browser and the computer code he was writing.

While he managed to salvage the $1.3 million deal after apologising to his benefactor, Mr Campbell continues to struggle with the effects of the deluge of data. Even after he unplugs, he craves the stimulation he gets from his electronic gadgets. He forgets things like dinner plans and he has trouble focusing on his family.

Scientists say juggling email, phone calls and other incoming information can change how people think and behave. They say our ability to focus is being undermined by bursts of information which play to a primitive impulse to respond to immediate opportunities and threats. The stimulation provokes excitement that researchers say can be addictive. In its absence, people feel bored.

While many people say multitasking makes them more productive, research shows otherwise. Heavy multitaskers actually have more trouble focusing and shutting out irrelevant information, scientists say, and they experience more stress. Even after the multitasking ends, fractured thinking and lack of focus persist.

Mr Campbell, 43, came of age with the personal computer and he is a heavier user of technology than most. But researchers say the habits and struggles of Mr Campbell and his family typify what many experience — and what many more will, if trends continue. For him, the tensions feel increasingly acute, and the effects harder to get rid of.

For better or worse, the consumption of media has exploded. In 2008, people consumed three times as much information each day as they did in 1960. The nonstop interactivity is one of the most significant shifts ever in the human environment, said Adam Gazzaley, a neuroscientist at the University of California.

'We are exposing our brains to an environment and asking them to do things we weren't necessarily evolved to do, and we know already there are consequences.' It remains to be seen what the impact will be.

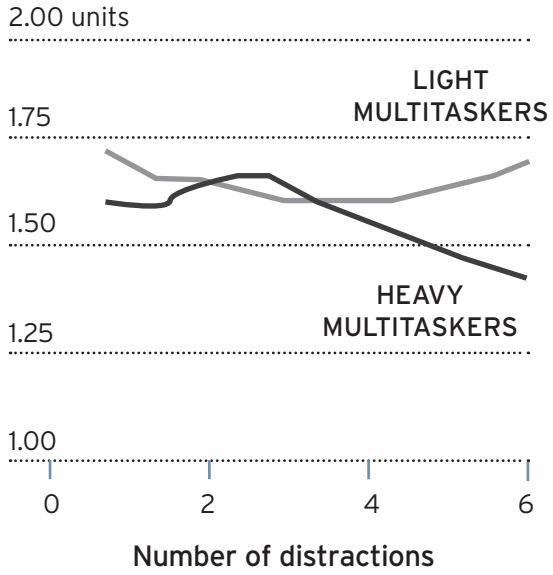
Use your own words as far as possible. No marks for answers copied from the reading texts.
You must make reference to both the text and the graphic information in your answer.

The cost of multitasking

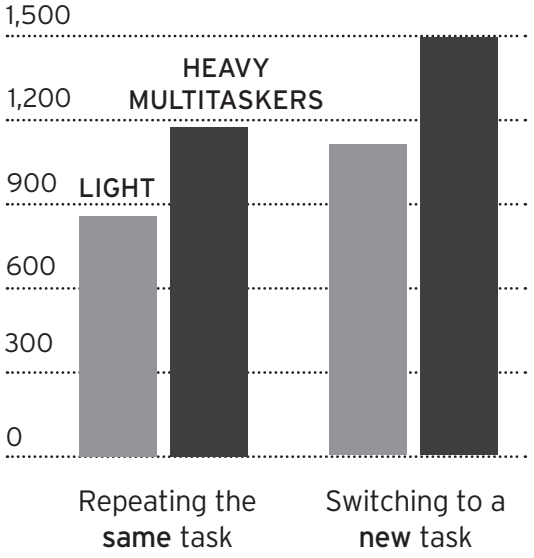
Heavy multitaskers don't perform as well as light multitaskers when faced with distractions.

Heavy multitaskers are also significantly slower than light multitaskers when switching between tasks.

Task performance with and without distractions



Time to perform
in milliseconds



(Source: Adapted from *The New York Times*, 13 June 2010)

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Task 2 — Reading into writing task — text transformation

Read the text below and then, **in your own words**, present the information given as a modern colloquial version of the extract (approximately 300 words) for a teenage publication, which will appeal to young readers and encourage your readers to read the book themselves.

Pride and Prejudice

Jane Austen's 'Pride and Prejudice', published in 1813, is one of the best-known and loved novels in the English language. This is a short adapted extract from chapter 7 of the book:

The village of Longbourn was only one mile from Meryton; a most convenient distance for the young ladies, who were usually tempted there three or four times a week, to pay their respects to their aunt, Mrs Phillips, and to a milliner's shop just over the way. The two youngest of the family, Catherine and Lydia, were particularly frequent in these visits; their minds were more vacant than their sisters', and when nothing better was offered, a walk to Meryton was necessary to amuse their morning hours and supply conversation for the evening; and however bare of news and gossip the countryside in general might be, they always learnt something from their aunt. At present, indeed, they were well supplied both with news and happiness by the recent arrival of a militia regiment in the neighbourhood; it was to remain the whole winter, and Meryton was the headquarters.

Their visits to Mrs Phillips were now productive of the most interesting information. Every day added something to their knowledge of the officers' names and connections. Their lodgings were not a secret, and at length they began to know the officers themselves. Mr Phillips visited them all, and this opened to his nieces an exciting and captivating world. They could talk of nothing but officers. Mr Bingley's large fortune, the mention of which delighted their mother, was worthless in their eyes when compared to the regimentals of an army officer.

After listening one morning to their chatter on this subject, their father coolly observed: 'From all that I can understand by your manner of talking, you must be two of the silliest girls in the country. I have suspected it for some time, but I am now convinced.'

(Source: Adapted from *Pride and Prejudice*, Jane Austen, 1813)

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Task 3 — Critical and analytical writing task

'*Anyone who has never made a mistake has never tried anything new.*' Albert Einstein 1875–1955

Write an essay (approximately 250 words), evaluating how far this statement is true, using examples from your own experience and including alternative points of view in order to reach a balanced conclusion.

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End of examination

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