

SHOULD SMART PHONES BE ALLOWED IN CLASSROOMS?

Smart phones are extremely common in today's society. The age that people are getting their first phone is dropping with each passing year. Therefore, the number of school-aged children with smart phones is rising. Some educators believe that smart phones can be of great benefit to students when brought into the classroom. Others believe that they are a huge distraction and are detrimental to their students' learning.

The smart phones of today can be used in school lessons in many educational ways. For example, having access to the internet via a smart phone means that students can research any topic at any time during a lesson. In addition to this, smart phones come equipped with cameras. This enables students to record videos and take photographs of projects, school events and field trips. Also, the various applications available for download onto a smart phone can be engaging and motivating learning tools for students.

However, there are also disadvantages to bringing smart phones into the school lessons. For example, smart phones provide access to tools such as calculators. If students are allowed to have their smart phone with them in class, they may use these tools at inappropriate times, such as during an exam. Also, students might use their smart phone at times during the lesson when they should be paying attention to their teacher. The student could miss important information and therefore perform poorly in the subject. In addition to this, if a student's smart phone was to ring during a lesson, other students (and the teacher!) could become very distracted.

Smart phones are amazing examples of modern technology. They are an inevitable part of our society and are used by a huge majority of people around the world. While smart phones may have some distinct educational advantages, the disadvantages should not be ignored. Perhaps it is the decision of each individual educator as to whether or not smart phones should be allowed in classrooms.

Comprehension Questions

1) Why is the number of smart phones in schools rising?

2) List three advantages to using smart phones in the classroom.

3) Why are the cameras that are found in smart phones useful in the classroom?

4) What are some other ways smart phones could be used in the school environment?

5) List three disadvantages to using smart phones in the classroom.

Comprehension Questions

6) How can smart phone tools, such as calculators, cause problems in the classroom?

7) List some high modality words from the text. Why has the author used these words?

8) How do you feel about smart phones in the classroom? Why do you feel this way?

9) The author states that *smart phones are an inevitable part of society*. Do you agree?

10) Is this text intended to inform, persuade or entertain? How do you know?

Answers

1) Why is the number of smart phones in schools rising?

The age that people are getting their first phone is dropping with each passing year. Therefore, the number of school-aged children with smart phones is rising.

2) List three advantages to using smart phones in the classroom.

- Having access to the internet via a smart phone means that students can research any topic at any time during a lesson.
- Smart phones come equipped with cameras which enables students to record videos and take photographs of projects, school events and field trips.
- The various applications available for download onto a smart phone can be engaging and motivating learning tools for students.

3) Why are the cameras that are found in smart phones useful in the classroom?

Cameras enable students to record videos and take photographs of projects, school events and field trips.

4) What are some other ways smart phones could be used in the school environment?

Answers may vary.

5) List three disadvantages to using smart phones in the classroom.

- Smart phones provide access to tools such as calculators which may be used during inappropriate times.
- Students might use their smart phone at times during the lesson when they should be paying attention to their teacher.
- If a student's smart phone was to ring during a lesson, other students and the teacher could become very distracted.

6) How can smart phone tools, such as calculators, cause problems in the classroom?

If students are allowed to have their smart phone with them in class, they may use these tools at inappropriate times, such as during an exam.

Answers

7) List some high modality words from the text. Why has the author used these words?

Extremely, great, huge, detrimental, many, engaging, motivating, very, amazing, huge and distinct. Shows the reader a high degree of certainty about what is being said.

8) How do you feel about the use of smart phones in the classroom? Why do you feel this way?

Answers may vary.

9) The author states that *smart phones are an inevitable part of society*. Do you agree?

Answers may vary.

10) Is this text intended to inform, persuade or entertain? How do you know?

This text is intended to inform the reader about the advantages and disadvantages of smart phones in classrooms. Whilst it does not support one side or the other, the writer presents persuasive arguments for both sides so that individuals can make an informed decision about their own view on the subject.