



Entrance exam 2003-2004

English

Duration: 1 h

Read the text, and then answer the question that follows.

PARENTS are soon to be offered the ultimate weapon to win the war over how much TV their children watch. Instead of constantly fighting to ration viewing habits, they will have the job done for them by a coded electronic device.

It will switch off the set once an allotted period runs out, leaving the child to turn to other activities such as reading or even playing in the fresh air .

The gadget, "TV Allowance", was invented by Miami photographer. Randal Levenson, a former engineer, who
7 despaired of ever reducing his three children's screen time.

There was a lot of anger in the House about the TV and Nintendo usage, said Mr. Levenson , 47 .

9 His response was to build the Calculator-sized box which plugs into The TV.

The Levensons now use a code to set the four hours that Moss, 13, Cormac, 11, and Geddes, 6, can watch each week. Each has his own code, and when his time is up, the screen goes blank . He can find out how much time is left by touching a button. The gadget, which will sell in Britain for £ 49 this summer, also controls video games and the video. It can block out specific periods such as homework time and cannot be disconnected by frustrated youngsters

They've got their lives back, said Mr. Levenson's wife, Rusty. Not that they were total couch potatoes, but they certainly spent too much time in front of the TV.

"The problem before was that we were giving up. We could only say "No" so many times. But the unemotional gadget can go on saying "No" for as long as necessary.

'I thought, "Oh, this is really going to be horrible," said Moss, recalling the first time it was attached to the family set. Then you get to live with it and get used to it. I think my vocabulary's ten times bigger now because I'm reading more.'

22 But, being children and therefore devious, they have found ways of getting round the system, if not beating it.

The set is switched off for advertisements and they barter with each other for TV time. They also decide which programs more than one child wants to watch. Any time left over at the end of the week can be carried over into the next.

'It teaches kids time management and other business skills,' said Mr Levenson, who decided to market the gadget after neighbors asked him to make units for them. So far, 3,500 have been sold without advertising and he believes that is only the start.

'If make money, that will be fine. But it was worth it to cut back on the amount of TV my kids were watching. It takes about two weeks but then children accept the situation. They come to find that there are other things in life besides sitting and watching TV,

'a couch potato = someone who spends a lot of time sitting on the sofa in front of the TV.



I- Comprehension

A- Answer the following questions. (4 points)

- 1- How big is the TV Ration Box?
- 2- What can the children do to gain more TV time to watch?
- 3- If Mr. Levenson's Ration Box doesn't sell well in England, will he be happy? Why?
- 4- "Need is the mother of invention." How does the text support this proverb?

B- Vocabulary. (3 points)

- 1- Write three synonyms that the writer used for the word "TV Ration Box". (1)
- 2- Write the synonym and the antonym that the writer used for the word "plug" in line 9. (1)
- 3- "Beat" in line 22 means _____. (1/2)
- 4- "Reducing" in line 7 means _____. (1/2)

C- Paraphrase this sentence: "The allotted period runs out." (1points)

D- Read the article again and form questions for the following answers. (3 points)

- 1- _____? By touching a button.
- 2- _____? Randal Levenson.
- 3- _____? Two weeks.

E- Restate the following sentences using the given words without changing the meaning. (2points).

- 1- "They've got their lives back," said Mr. Levenson's wife.
Mr. Levenson's wife said _____.
- 2- They have found ways of getting round the system.
Ways _____.

II - Writing (7 points)

A magazine is investigating the views of people on the question: Should parents limit the amount of TV their children watch? Write a short article (10-15 lines) on this topic.



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Solution of English

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A- 1- It is as big as a calculator.

2- They can switch off the set for advertisements and barter with each other.

3- Yes, because he could cut back on the amount of tv .his kids were watching.

4- Mr. Lev. invented this gadget because he was looking for a way to reduce his children's screen time.

B- 1- gadget device allowance

2- attach disconnect

3- winover

4- decrease

C- The limited time ends or expires.

D- 1- How can the child find out how much time is left?

2- Who invented the TV. Ration Box?

3- How long does it take the children to accept the situation?

E- 1-.....that they had got their.....

2- Ways of getting round the system have been found.