4.2 HL: Paper 3 unseen-text practice

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____ **Total: 30 marks**

KEY WORDS unseen text • assumption • metaphor • attention

Objective

Practise responding to an **unseen text** on a contemporary issue: identify its claims and assumptions, connect it to what you have studied, and write an evaluation.

You must be able to:

- identify the main claim and assumptions of an unseen text
- explain the philosophical issue in your own words
- connect the text to thinkers and arguments you know
- evaluate the text's argument
- write a structured response under time pressure

1 Key knowledge and worked examples

■ **Unseen text (written for practice)**

> "We are told that smartphones make us free: we can talk to anyone, learn anything, buy whatever we like. But a free person is one who can decide where to put their attention. The phone is designed so that we cannot. Every notification is a small decision taken by someone else. A society that sells its attention has sold its freedom, one minute at a time."

■ **Reading it**

ask	in the text
main claim	smartphones reduce our freedom
key concept	freedom as control of one's attention (a kind of positive liberty)
assumption	design decisions control users; people cannot resist notifications
evidence	none given, only examples and a metaphor ("sells its attention")
links	1.2 freedom; 2.3 positive and negative liberty; 4.1 non-neutral technology

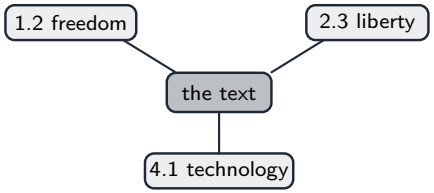
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2 Practice

2.1 State the **main claim** of the unseen text and **one** of its **assumptions**. [2]

2.2 Explain the **metaphor** "A society that sells its attention has sold its freedom", and **one** weakness of using it as evidence. [3]

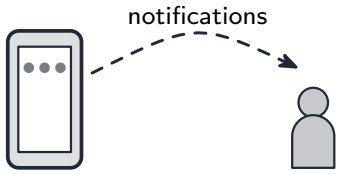
2.3 Connect the text to **two** ideas you have studied. [4]



2.4 Give the strongest **objection** to the text, and a reply its author could make. [6]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 *(HL Paper 3 style.)* With reference to the unseen text, evaluate the claim that modern technology threatens human freedom. [15]



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