**BAŞKENT UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES**

**ACADEMIC ENGLISH UNIT – EXEMPTION EXAM MATERIAL ENGL 102**

# SAMPLE OPINION ESSAY 1

**TOPIC: Children shouldn’t use smart phones in classes. Do you agree? Why / Why not?**

Children Shouldn't Use Smartphones in Classes

In today's digital age, smartphones have become an essential part in our lives. They have transformed how we connect with others and access information. Although they have many benefits, I strongly believe that children should not use smartphones in classrooms because of several reasons.

Firstly, smartphones can be highly distracting during learning. With social media, games, and messaging apps at their fingertips, students may have difficulty in concentrating on their studies. Instead of focusing on the lesson, they might be interested in checking notifications or non-academic activities, which makes their progress slower.

Secondly, excessive smartphone use has negative impacts on mental health. Social media often portrays an unrealistic view of life, causing negative feelings of inadequacy and anxiety among young users. It is crucial to encourage face-to-face interactions and healthy socialization among children, which is best achieved by limiting smartphone usage during class time.

Additionally, excessive screen time can adversely affect physical health. Too much screen time can lead to health issues like obesity and poor posture. Encouraging physical activities during breaks is essential for overall well-being.

Last but not the least, excessive smartphone use may lead to a decline in reading habits. With instant access to information and entertainment through smartphones, children might become less interested in reading books and engaging in critical thinking. This trend can negatively impact language skills, vocabulary development, and critical reasoning abilities, all of which are crucial for a successful and effective education.

In conclusion, while smartphones offer many advantages, their presence in classrooms can decrease the learning process. The potential distractions, negative effects on mental and physical health, and decline in reading habits make strong reasons for prohibiting their use during class time.

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**SAMPLE OPINION ESSAY 2**

**Topic:** Online education is becoming more popular than traditional education.

Do you agree or disagree? Why?

**Online Education or Traditional Education?**

Education is known to play a crucial role in people’s life regardless of their gender, age or cultural environment. With the advent of the Internet, online education has become a widely used alternative to traditional education. I agree with the statement that online education is gaining more popularity than traditional education because of being more economical and time-saving.

To start with, in online education, expenses are not as high as those of traditional education. Unlike traditional education, which requires buildings, classrooms, and labs, online education needs only a computer and Internet connection. School administrations have to charge students higher tuition as they have to pay for many things such as the rent of the buildings, electricity and heating. However, when students get online education, they do not need to go to school as they study at home in front of their computers. That is why I believe that this is a great comfort brought by online education, making it far more affordable than traditional education.

Secondly, I believe online education is receiving more popularity compared to traditional education because of being time-saving. It is needless to say that time is of great importance to anybody. Since traditional education is conducted in classrooms, students have to leave their home, drive or use public transportation to get to school, which may take quite a long time. The loss of time in traffic leaves little or no space in students’ life for other activities. On the other hand, online education allows students to stay at home so that they lose no time in traffic.

To sum up, in my opinion, being more affordable and time-saving are two of the factors that make online education more popular than traditional education. It seems that technological advances are still working for the favor of humanity.