**BAŞKENT UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES**

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

**SAMPLE PERSUASIVE ESSAY 1**

**TOPIC:** There should be restrictions on having smartphones according to age.

Should Smartphones Be Limited?

Nowadays, smartphones can be seen in the hands of people from almost every age, and they have become a fashionable item instead of a need. Especially, the young generation has the habit of having a smartphone. Therefore, it begins to be a controversial issue in adults’ opinions. It is a clear fact that most children and teenagers do not need a fully equipped phone as a need. For that reason, there should be restrictions on having smartphones according to age.

Firstly, a typical cell phone, like a smartphone, can supply a link between parents and children anytime and anywhere. For continuous communication between parents and children, smartphones are not the only devices that we need to have. Although many people argue that smartphones give children the ability to keep in contact with their parents anytime anywhere, because of their extra special features, children spend more time looking at them apart from emergency calls. In short, smartphones are not the only objects that are necessary to make calls with parents.

Secondly, it is a fact that most of the new technological equipment, including smartphones, cause children not to participate in normal childhood activities like playing games outside. They spend their time looking at social media instead of playing sports with their friends outside or going to the cinema. In contrast, opponents of cell phones point out that when smartphones are banned for children, the new generation will not be able to follow technological developments. However, using a computer will help children catch up with the recent trends in technology easily as well. In conclusion, the habit of using a smartphone harms a child’s psychological development and limits his/her childhood to a phone’s screen.

To sum up, new technological items should be considered thoroughly before letting our children use them. A child’s cell phone shouldn’t be smarter than necessary as the wrong use of this technology may greatly affect a child’s physical activities and harm his/her mental health.

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**SAMPLE PERSUASIVE ESSAY 2**

**Topic:** Should Government Restrict Social Media?

**Restricted Social Media or Not?**

Social media is a big part of our lives. It helps us connect and share ideas. Some people believe that government should restrict social media to deal with problems like false information and harmful content. However, restricting social media would limit free speech and hurt its benefits. **I strongly believe that** government shouldn’t restrict social media because it supports open communication and helps businesses grow.

To start with, social media is important for free expression. It allows people share their thoughts and opinions. If the government restricts social media, it could lead to censorship and limit our ability to speak freely. **Opponents say that** restrictions are needed to stop harmful content. There is some truth to this argument. **However**, teaching people to use social media responsibly and improving platform moderation are better solutions. In this way, we can handle harmful content without limiting free speech.

Next, social media helps businesses and encourages new ideas. Many companies use these platforms for advertising and connecting with customers. Restrictions could slow down business growth and limit new opportunities. **Although** critics argue that regulation is needed to protect users, better self-regulation by platforms can address issues without stopping innovation.

In conclusion, restricting social media would limit free speech and harm business growth. Instead, we should focus on teaching responsible use and improving platform rules to keep social media useful and open for everyone.