


<b>INSTITUT PREPARATOIRE AUX ETUDES D'INGENIEUR DE SFAX</b>		<b>A.U. : 2015/2016 Niveau : 1ère année Epreuve : Anglais Durée : 1h 30mn Date : 05/01/2016</b>
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## **DEVOIR DE FIN DE SEMESTRE N°1**

### **The Paperless Classroom Is Coming**

1. Back-to-school night this year in Mr. G's sixth-grade classroom felt a bit like an inquisition. Teacher Matthew Gudenius, a 36-year-old computer whiz, had prepared 26 PowerPoint slides filled with facts and footnotes to deflect the concerns of parents. But time was short, the worries were many, and it didn't take long for the venting to begin.
2. "I like a paper book. I don't like an e-book," one father told him, as about 30 adults squeezed into a room for 22 students. Another dad said he could no longer help his son with homework because all the assignments were online. "I'm now kind of taken out of the routine," he complained. Rushing to finish, Gudenius passed a slide about the debate over teaching cursive, mumbling, "We don't care about handwriting." In a flash, a mother objected: "Yeah, we do."
3. At issue was far more than penmanship. The future of K-12\* education is arriving fast, and it looks a lot like Mr. G's classroom in the northern foothills of California. Last year, the U.S. government announced a federal scheme to get a laptop, tablet or smartphone into the hands of every student in every school in the U.S. and to get all 49.8 million American kids online simultaneously by 2017. Bulky textbooks will be replaced by flat screens. Worksheets will be stored in the cloud, not clunky Trapper Keepers. The Dewey decimal system will give way to Google. "This one is a big, big deal," says the Secretary of Education.
4. It's a deal Gudenius has been working to realize for years. He doesn't just teach with a computer on every student's desk; he also tries to do it without any paper at all, saving, by his own estimate, 46,800 sheets a year, or about four trees. The paperless learning environment represents the ultimate result of technology transforming the classroom.
5. Ask his students if they prefer the digital to the tree-based technology and everyone will say yes. It is not unusual for kids to groan when the bell rings because they don't want to leave their work, which is often done in ways that were impossible just a few years ago. Instead of telling his students to show their work when they do an algebra equation, Gudenius asks them to create and narrate a video about the process, which can then be shown in class. History lessons are enlivened by brief videos that run on individual tablets. And spelling, grammar and vocabulary exercises have the feel of a game, with each student working at his own speed, until Gudenius—who tracks the kids' progress on a smartphone—gives commands like "Spin it" to let the kids know to flip the screens of their devices around so that he can see their work and begin the next lesson.

6. While kids may take to new technology naturally, the learning curve for parents and other educators can be steep. In Calistoga, Calif., where Gudenius teaches, the first classroom computers were iPads for kindergartners, **which** led to an initial rebellion from some teachers and even a member of the school board. Pediatricians have been warning parents for years to limit screen time for their children. They have claimed that a long screen time could lead to physical ailments later in life—sore backs, dry eyes, painful necks—among kids who are asked to work most of the day on computers while using desks designed for pencil and paper.

7. Back at Calistoga, Gudenius works the crowd on back-to-school night, mixing in funny YouTube videos with examples of work his students have completed. He explains that state tests will all be administered online anyway and that no college will accept handwritten papers, so typing must be learned. Toward the end, one of his critics, Tony McBeardsley, a parent who voiced **his** support for paper books, offers an olive branch. “I love your enthusiasm,” he says. The parental concerns may not be resolved, but the revolt seems quelled for now. And the transformation goes on.

*Adapted from Time, October 9, 2014*

\*K-12: Kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade

### **PART ONE: READING COMPREHENSION: (14pts)**

#### **A) Choose the best alternative:**

**The text mainly deals with:**

- 1) The benefits of life-long learning
- 2) High-tech changing the classroom in developing countries
- 3) Technology-based learning in the U.S.A.
- 4) Worries about traditional methods of teaching

#### **B) Answer the following questions:**

- 1) What are the technological devices needed in a paperless classroom?
- 2) What are the possible health risks linked to long exposure to screen?

#### **C) Complete the table on the answer sheets contrasting the two learning environments with information from the text.**



**D) Indicate whether the following statements are True or False. Justify with information from the text :**

- 1) Teacher Matthew Gudenius believes that his pioneering teaching system is environmentally friendly.
- 2) Unlike their parents, Gudenius's students are in favour of their teacher's new learning method.
- 3) Since the revolutionary project has raised many fears and objections, it has finally been abandoned.

**E) Complete the sentences on the answer sheets with information from the text.**

**F) Mention examples showing how the paperless classroom is more lively and cheerful than the conventional one.**

**G) Find in the text words having these definitions :**

- 1) change direction or orientation (§1)
- 2) skill or style in writing or in handwriting (§3)
- 3) being the last or the final (§4)

**H) What do the underlined words in the text refer to?**

- 1) him (§2)
- 2) which (§6)
- 3) his (§7)

## **PART TWO: WRITING (6pts)**

It is widely thought that space exploration programs are a waste of time and money although they offer a huge potential to improve life on Earth.

Do you agree with the statement above?

Develop your opinion in a 15-line essay.

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**DEVOIR DE FIN DE SEMESTRE N°1**

**(ANSWER SHEETS)**

**PART ONE : READING COMPREHENSION (14pts)**

**A) The best alternative: (1pt)**

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**B) Answers: (1.5pts)**

- 1) a).....  
b).....  
c).....

- 2) a).....  
b).....  
c).....

**C) Table completion:(2pts)**

**The characteristics of the two learning environments**

The current learning environment	The future paperless learning environment
1).....	1).....
2) Clunky Trapper Keepers	2).....
3).....	3) Google

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**D) True or False statements: (3pts)**

1)(.....).....  
.....

2)(.....).....  
.....

3)(.....).....  
.....

**E) Sentence completion: (2.5pts)**

- 1) Among the arguments against the digital learning technology is the inability of parents to provide help with homework as.....  
.....
- 2) In order to keep up with the rapid progress in paperless education, an American federal plan has recently been launched aiming not only.....  
.....  
but also .....

**F) Examples: (1pt)**

- 1) .....
- 2) .....

**G) Vocabulary items:(1.5pts)**

- 1) .....
- 2) .....
- 3) .....

**H) References:(1.5pts)**

- 1) .....
- 2) .....
- 3) .....

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**PART TWO: WRITING (6pts)**