PART ONE: READING

We can’t deny the fact that computers are redefining the ways we interact with others and gain knowledge about the world around us, and that they are increasingly important in our daily lives.

While recognizing that computers are reshaping children’s lives, at home and at school in profound and unexpected ways, the new report, Fool’s Gold, focuses on potential hazards of computers in the classroom. The larger one remains the fact that there are too many classrooms where young children have little or no access to computers and the Internet. In addition, there are still too many young children in low-income and rural households who don’t get enough opportunities to use computers. These children don’t benefit from new educational software, and they don’t learn to use tools that will be a central part of our lives for decades to come.

A computer is a tool, just like a book, a pencil or a television. It can be used in appropriate ways beneficial to children but can also be misused. Parents and childhood educators should examine the impact of this technology on children, and make sure computers are used to their benefit to develop literacy and cognitive and social skills. By taking responsibility for children’s computer use, families and early childhood professionals can greatly reduce potential hazards and at the same time allow children’s access to many new positive learning experiences.

Mark Ginsberg, Ph.D., Executive Director,
National Association for the Education of Young Children

A) COMPREHENSION: (7points)
1. Choose the letter that corresponds to the right answer:
   The text is: a) a public statement    b) a newspaper article  c) an e-mail

2. Say whether the following statements are true or false according to the text:
   a- We can’t admit that computers are more and more important in our daily lives.
   b- Not all children may use a computer.
   c- Computers can be used in a wrong way.
   d- No one can limit the dangers of computer use.

3. Reorder the following ideas according to their occurrence in the text.
   a. Computers will have a great role in our lives.
   b. Computers play an important role in the way we communicate and learn.
   c. Adults have a great role to play in helping children use computers properly.
   d. Using computers in classrooms may be risky.
4. Answer the following questions according to the text.
a. What is the role of computers in our everyday life?
b. Mention two reasons why computers can’t be used in classrooms.
c. What are some of the advantages of children’s computer use?

5. Who/what do the underlined words refer to in the text?
They §1 - one §2 - their §3

B) Text Exploration: (8 points)
1. Match each word with its definition.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>words</th>
<th>Definitions</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Potential</td>
<td>a. Ability to read and write</td>
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<td>2. Software</td>
<td>b. Related to the mental process by which knowledge is acquired.</td>
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<td>3. Literacy</td>
<td>c. Data, programmes for computers</td>
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<td>4. cognitive</td>
<td>d. That can come into existence</td>
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2. Classify the following words in the table
Knowledge – unexpected – educational – misused

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<th>prefix</th>
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<th>suffix</th>
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3. A/ Write sentence (b) so that it means the same as (a).
   1a. Computer are tools, just like books.
   b. Both.................................................................
   2a. Parents should examine the impact of this technology on children.
   b. Parents.................................................................
   3a. Computers are used to their benefit.
   b. Children.........................................................to their benefit.

B/ Ask the questions that the underlined words answer
1. The new report focuses on potential hazards.
2. Professionals can greatly reduce potential hazards.

4. Classify the following words according to the pronunciation of their final’s’
Ways - focuses - computers - opportunities - parents - experiences

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5. Reorder these sentences to get a coherent paragraph.
   a. To do so, they must keep the computer in an area
   b. to promote interaction and provide security.
   c. Parents must protect young children from the Internet potential hazards.
   d. where other family members or adults are usually present
Part Two: Written Expression

Choose ONE of the following topics

Topic 1:
The world has known tremendous progress thanks to the use of computers and the Internet. However, every invention has its drawbacks. (health / social / ethical problems)

Write a paragraph of about 100 words about the problems related to this technological advance.

Topic 2:
Many pupils think that school is not a pleasant place to go to.

Using the notes given write a composition of about 100 words giving their reasons and making suggestions to make schools more pleasant.

Reasons: Strict regulations / long school day / too much pressure and work / rigid teachers / lack of understanding…

Suggestions for improvement: more freedom / introduce relaxing activities / flexible regulations / optional subjects…….