

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPER 4

PART A Group Interaction

This article appeared on an online news website:

Should teachers and students be friends on social media?

A majority of teens are online and most of them use social networking apps such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Snapchat. This makes social media a convenient way for teachers to connect with students. Some teachers think that as Instagram is what most teenagers use these days, it is a good idea for teachers to connect with students in this way to maintain their interest. Some parents agree that this allows teachers to be leaders and role models for their students online.

But at the same time, students should learn to know the difference between personal and professional communication. At school, students do not talk to their teachers as if they were friends, but when interacting with teachers on social media, the line between personal and professional communication is less clear. Therefore, it is recommended that students should not talk to their teachers like their friends on Instagram. Otherwise, they may cross that line.

Recently, a number of parents have also complained about seeing teachers wearing swimsuits and gym clothes on their Instagram accounts. These parents claimed the photos were inappropriate. In order to avoid such problems and complaints, some schools are proposing a new policy not to allow teachers and students to be friends on social media.

Your school is proposing a policy not to allow teachers and students to be friends on social media. Your group has been asked to discuss the proposal. You may want to talk about:

- why students like to connect with their teachers on social media
- problems with connecting with teachers on social media
- whether you agree with the proposed policy
- anything else you think is important

PART B Individual Response

1. What do you like to share on social media?
2. Do young people spend too much time on social media?
3. Do you think many Hong Kong teachers are active on social media?
4. Why do you think Instagram is so popular?
5. Should schools teach students how to use social media safely?
6. Should parents monitor their children's friends on social media?
7. Does social media negatively affect your learning?
8. Should schools monitor their students' social media activities?