



Level 3 Certificate MATHEMATICAL STUDIES

Paper 2A/2B/2C

June 2023

Preliminary Material

To be opened and issued to candidates on
Wednesday 1 March 2023 or as soon as possible after that date.

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INFORMATION

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Online Nation

The communications regulator Ofcom publishes research about how people in the UK use the Internet.

One report is about children's use of the Internet. An extract is given here.

Online messaging and calling services

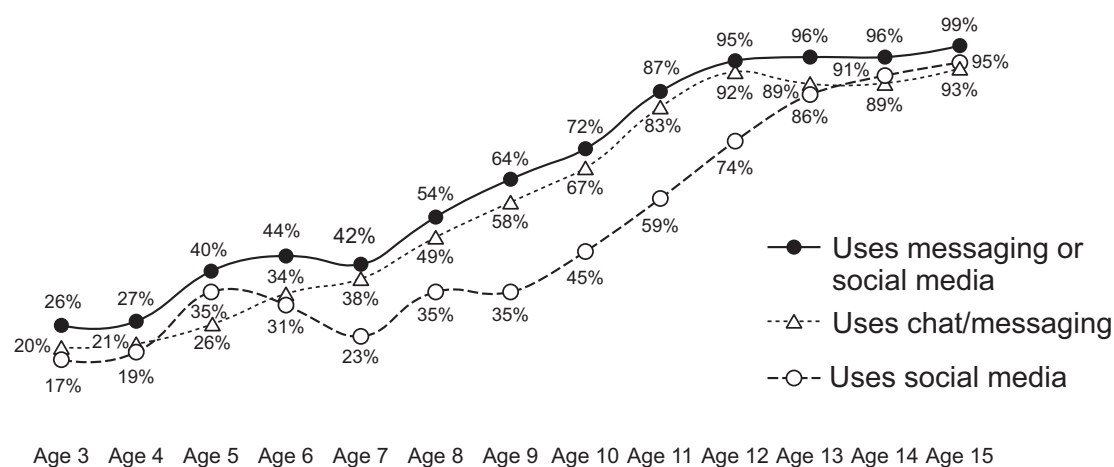
The Internet helped keep children connected in 2020, allowing them to keep in touch with extended family and to maintain and even build new friendships while apart.

Children use a wide range of online messaging and calling apps, with WhatsApp the most popular (used by 52% of 5–15s, rising to 78% of 12–15s). Two-thirds of 8- to 15-year-olds said they used messaging services more in 2020 than before.

Social media and social video

Although most social media platforms set their minimum user age at 13, more than two in five 8- to 11-year-olds used social media apps in 2020. Use of social media rises with age and was almost universal by age 15, at 95%, probably due to a combination of factors including ownership of smartphones, parent's or guardian's permission to use social media, platforms' age restrictions, and a desire to connect with friends through social media.

Graph 1. Incidence of use of social media and messaging apps, by age: 2020



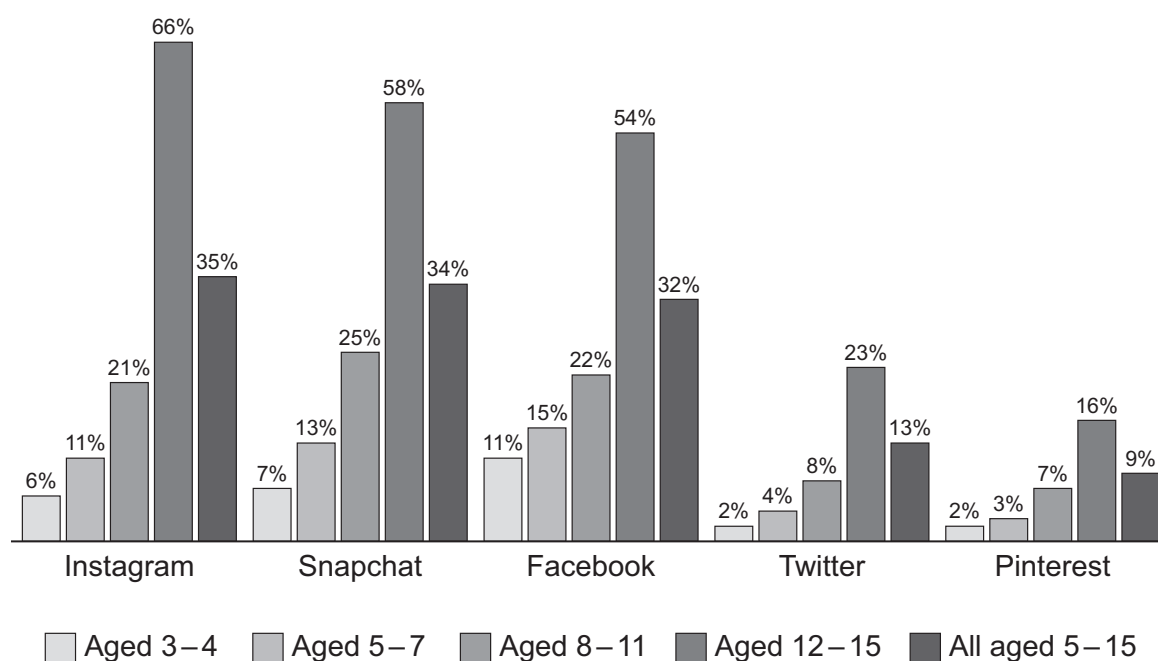
Source: Ofcom Children's and Parents' Media Literacy Tracker 2020 – Survey 2. QP44A. Which, if any, of these social media apps or sites does your child use? / QP44B. And which, if any, of these chat or messaging apps or sites does your child use? Responses from parents for 3- to 7-year-olds and from children aged 8–15.

Like many adults, most 8- to 15-year-olds who use social media or messaging and chat apps use these services to see what their friends are doing (52% of 8–11s, 76% of 12–15s). About half said they used them to follow celebrities (48% of 8–11s, 55% of 12–15s) and a sizeable minority used them to share or discuss news stories (19% of 8–11s, 24% of 12–15s).

Children's social media use is much less Facebook-oriented than adults'. Eight in ten adult social media users said they used Facebook. In 2020, half of 12–15s and a fifth of 8–11s used Facebook.

Children are, however, keen users of Facebook's Instagram; a fifth of 8–11s and two-thirds of 12–15s said they used Instagram. Snapchat is also popular, with six in ten 12- to 15-year-olds saying they used Snapchat.

Graph 2. Top five social media sites/apps used, by age: 2020



Source: Ofcom's Children's and Parents' Media Literacy Tracker 2020 – Survey 2.

QP44A: Which, if any, of these social media apps or sites does your child use?

Responses from parents of 3–7s and children aged 8–15.

7- to 16-year-olds who go online said they spent 3 hours 48 minutes a day online

Self-reported data from CHILDWISE found that between September and November 2020, children aged 7- to 16-years old who went online estimated that they spent 3 hours 48 minutes a day online on average. Time spent online increased with age, rising from 2 hours 54 minutes spent by 7- to 8-year-olds to 4 hours 54 minutes spent by 15- to 16-year-olds.

END OF PRELIMINARY MATERIAL

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