



**Level 3 Certificate  
MATHEMATICAL STUDIES**

**Paper 2A/2B/2C**

**June 2023**

**1350/2/PM**

**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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## **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.

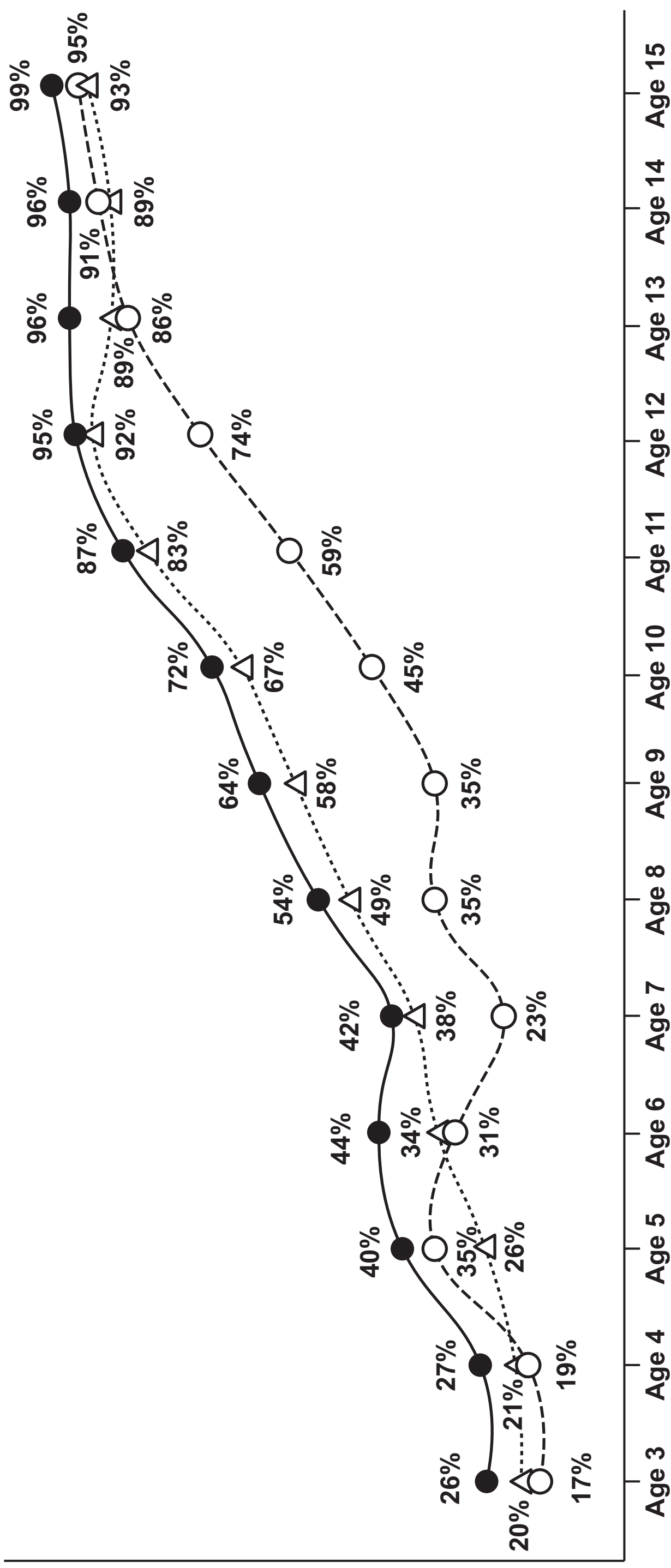
Children use a wide range of online messaging and calling apps, with WhatsApp the most popular (used by 52% of 5–15s, rising to 78% of 12–15s). Two-thirds of 8- to 15-year-olds said they used messaging services more in 2020 than before.

### **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.

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).

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



**KEY**

- Uses messaging or social media
- .....△..... Uses chat/messaging
- Uses social media

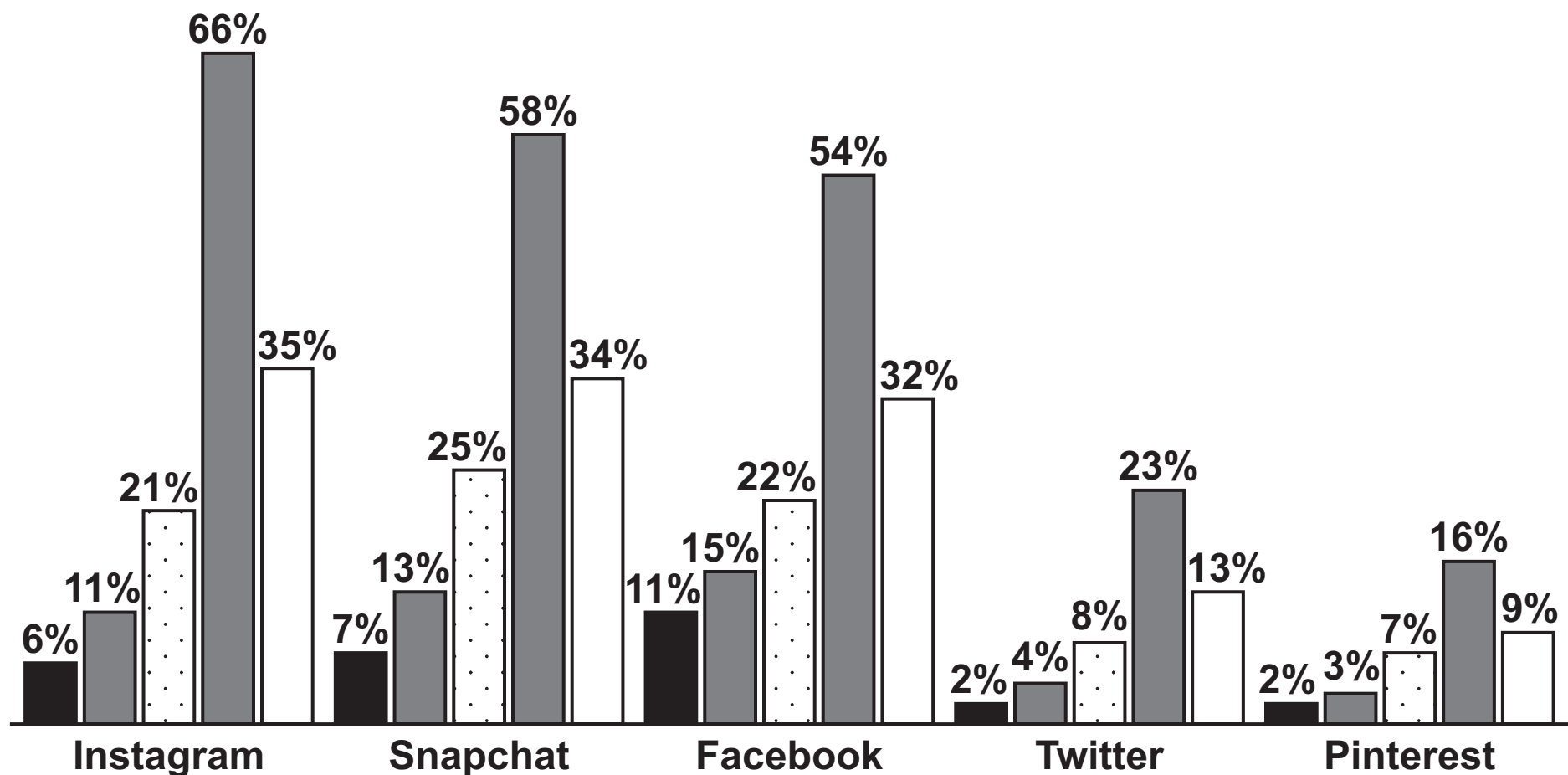
Source: Ofcom Children’s and Parents’ Media Literacy Tracker 2020 – Survey 2: QP44A. Which, if any, of these social media apps or sites does your child use? / QP44B. And which, if any, of these chat or messaging apps or sites does your child use? Responses from parents for 3- to 7-year-olds and from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

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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**



**KEY**

Aged 3–4  
  Aged 5–7  
  Aged 8–11  
  Aged 12–15  
  All aged 5–15

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.

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