2013 Specimen Exam Speaking Prompt

CANDIDATE INFORMATION

Situation
I am your friend and I have a problem. Find out what my problem is and offer me some good advice.

First
You should look at the pictures below and ask:
• What is the problem?
• What are some possible solutions?
• What are the disadvantages of each solution?

Then
When you have all the information you need, explain which solution you think is best and why. Be ready to explain why you didn’t choose the other solution. Remember to use information you learn from asking questions to explain your final choice.

Finally
After you have shared your advice, you will be asked more questions about the topic.

EXAMINER INFORMATION

What is the problem? My ten-year-old son/nephew/grandson wants a cell phone so that he can text message all his friends. We think this is a bad idea because he will be distracted in school and his grades may suffer as a result.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Option 1</th>
<th>Option 2</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(computer)</td>
<td>(hourglass)</td>
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What are some possible solutions?
Tell him to just message or email his friends on the computer at home.
He has to wait until he is twelve to get a cell phone.

What are the disadvantages of each solution?
He might keep other family members from using the computer and need supervision.
He will feel left out and might not like going to school.

ELABORATION QUESTIONS

1. Do you and your friends like to text message? What do you text about? What do you think other people text about?
2. In your opinion, how would life be different if people didn’t have cell phones? Why?
3. Some people claim our memory skills have worsened with the use of technology such as cell phones, the Internet, and video games. To what extent do you think this is true?