

IELTS – PASSAGE 2

You should spend about 20 minutes on Questions 1-13.

What Types of Social Networks Exist?

Learn more about the different options available for people to interact and collaborate with each other online.

1. Social Connections

Keeping in touch with friends and family members and building social connections are two of the greatest benefits of social networking.

Facebook: Arguably the most popular social media utility, Facebook provides a way for users to build connections and share information with people and organisations they choose to interact with online.

Whatsapp: Share your thoughts and keep up with others via this real-time information network.

Google +: This relatively new entrant to the social connection marketplace is designed to allow users to build circles of contacts that they are able to interact with and is integrated with other Google products.

MySpace: Though it initially began as a general social media site, MySpace has evolved to focus on social entertainment, providing a venue for social connections related to movies, music games and more.



2. Multimedia Sharing

Social networking makes it easy to share video and photography content online.

YouTube: Social media platform that allows users to share and view video content.

Flickr: This site provides a powerful option for managing digital photographs online, as well as for sharing them.

3. Professional

Professional social networks are designed to provide opportunities for career-related growth. Some of them provide a general forum for professionals to connect, while others are focused on specific occupations or interests.

LinkedIn: As of November 2011, LinkedIn had more than 135 million members, making it the largest online professional network. Participants have an opportunity to build relationships by making connections and joining relevant groups.

Classroom 2.0: Social network specifically designed to help teachers connect, share and help each other with profession-specific matters.

4. Informational

Informational communities are made up of people seeking answers to everyday problems. You may perform a web search and discover countless blogs, websites, and forums filled with people who are looking for the same kind of information.

5. Educational

Educational networks are where many students go in order to collaborate with other students on academic projects, to conduct research for school, or to interact with professors and teachers via blogs and classroom forums. Educational social networks are becoming extremely popular within the educational system today.

The Student Room: UK-based student community featuring a moderated message board and useful resources related to school.

The Math Forum: A large educational network designed to connect students with an interest in Maths, this site provides interaction opportunities for students by age group.

6. Hobbies

One of the most popular reasons many people use the Internet is to conduct research on their favourite projects or topics of interest related to personal hobbies. When people find a website based on their favourite hobby, they discover a whole community of people from around the world who share the same passion for those interests.

7. Academic

Academic researchers who want to share their research and review results achieved by colleagues may find academic-specific social networking to be quite valuable.

Academia.edu: Users of this academic social network can share their own research, as well as follow research submitted by others.

Connotea Collaborative Research: Online resource for scientists, researchers and clinical practitioners to find, organise and share useful information.

Adapted from: <http://socialnetworking.lovetoknow.com>

Questions 1-5

Complete each of the following statements with the best endings A-I from the text below.

1. Social connection networks...
2. Multimedia sharing networks...
3. Professional networks...
4. Educational networks...
5. Academic networks...

LIST OF ENDINGS

- A. are mainly used by students.
- B. are mainly used for research and peer review.
- C. are one of main reasons why people use the Internet.
- D. are used by people to share videos.
- E. are used by teachers to share lesson plans.
- F. help human relationships.
- G. help people become managers.
- H. help people solve everyday problems.
- I. help people who are looking for a job.

Questions 6-13

Complete the table below.

Choose NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS from the passage for each answer.

Category	Description	Examples
Social connections	keep in touch with friends and 6.	Facebook: the most 8. Google +: to build a 9. of contacts
Multimedia sharing	share videos and photos	YouTube: for video 10. Flickr: for managing 11.online
Professional	for job opportunities	LinkedIn: to make connections and join 12. groups.
Educational	for students to collaborate on projects or for school research	The Student Room: with a moderated 13.
Academic	share research and 7.	Academic.edu: to share and follow research