

ACADEMIE DE MONTPELLIER	Spécialité : BTS M.U.C
Epreuve écrite de langue vivante étrangère : Anglais	Session 2017

Proposition de sujet n°19

KEEP MOBILE PHONES OUT OF THE CLASSROOM

In most schools, you will find mobile phones treated like contraband. They are items to be kept strictly out of any adult's sightline. One glimpse could, after all, land the owner in a world of bother, often culminating in the phone's confiscation. Because of this, students tend to view their teachers as alien inhabitants from another planet, oblivious to how practically everyone carries a phone 100% of the time. Teachers, for our part, are merely subscribing to a simple enough maxim, out of sight out of mind.

Yet a number of mainly fee-paying schools are promoting pupils' use of mobiles within school and lessons. Headteacher Caroline Jordan, of Heading school, said: "Until recently we did not allow them in the classrooms. However, over the last year or so we have begun to harness the technology. We believe there is a place for smartphones as resources that most of our girls carry around with them."

The proposal sounds unmanageable. In a class of 30, how do you ensure students are actually googling the question you've posed? Who is to say they're not quickly checking an update on Facebook, or Twitter or Whatsapp? Isn't this essentially inviting unnecessary teacher scrutiny and surveillance? Yet, despite all this, I do understand the reasoning: choosing not to exploit the ubiquity of such devices appears technophobic and foolhardy. Indeed, as educators seek to be engaging and student-led, isn't it best that we meet pupils where they are rather than where we want them to be? It is a persuasive line but one that falls apart on closer scrutiny. (259)

Adapted from *The Guardian*
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