

Opinion Writing/Speaking Assessment Primary Source Document
4eme Bilingual English 2019-2020

*Use this excerpt to help you form your **own** opinion on the topic of mobile phones in schools. Pick out the arguments for either side, do any additional research you need to, and get ready to take a strong position!*

What do five experts think about mobile phones in schools?

By Sophie Heizer, The Guardian, June 28, 2018

Parents and teachers have [...] concerns about cyberbullying and safety, as well as technology distracting from schoolwork. But do the benefits of having phones in classrooms – such as contact with parents, access to mental health text lines, and learning opportunities – outweigh the risks?

We asked five experts if schools should ban mobile phones in classrooms. Here are two responses:

Danielle Einstein, psychologist	Matthew Kearney, teacher
<p>The mere presence of one's phone consumes attention even when it's not being checked. It's been shown we have reduced working memory capacity [...] when our phone is upside down and silent on our desk compared with when it is in another room.</p> <p>[Also], the introduction of smartphones has led to a decline in people's ability to cope with uncertainty. Research shows being uncomfortable with uncertainty is associated with students feeling distracted and tense during [standardized] tests. The more uncomfortable young people are with uncertainty, the higher the number of [...] psychological problems they report experiencing. Smartphone use is associated with the current epidemic of anxiety and depression.</p>	<p>First, regardless of any ban, students will continue to learn with their phones off-campus, later in life in their [higher] education, and in their professional and workplace learning. Second, if students want to investigate, collect data, receive personalized and immediate feedback, record media, create, compose or communicate with peers in and beyond the classroom, using mobile apps is ideal.</p> <p>Also, if they want to learn at a place, time and pace of their choosing, for example on excursions, or work on projects with friends in more informal spaces like home, on a train or in Facebook groups, mobile devices are needed.</p>