Question 1-11 are based on the following passage.

Adapted from Terry F. Pettijohn II, Kimberly E. LaPiene, Terry F. Pettijohn, and Amanda L. Horting, "Relationships between Facebook Intensity, Friendship Contingent Self-Esteem, and Personality in U.S. College Students." © 2012 by Terry F. Pettijohn II et al.

Online social networking sites, such as Facebook, Google, and Bebo, have grown in popularity in recent years and they provide an exciting new area of study in the field of psychology. Facebook provides individuals with easy access to view personal information about their friends, coworkers, and even complete strangers. Facebook has over 500 million active users and every month over 700 billion minutes are spent on Facebook. Among U.S. college students, 96% have a Facebook account. Given the popularity of online social networking sites, Facebook in particular, the current study was designed to investigate the relationship between Facebook use, the importance of quality of friendships to self-esteem, and personality in college students.

Social relationships are considered by many to be the most important component of human life. With the expansion of the Internet and social networking sites, more people are using technology to communicate with their friends and family online and maintain these interpersonal connections in novel ways that were not available in previous generations. Some researchers initially believed online activities negatively impacted relationships and feared that virtual communication would replace face-to-face interactions and deteriorate social bonds. Others, however, have found support for the idea that social networking sites and the Internet have expanded methods of staying socially connected with others and increased relationship closeness and connectedness. Social networking sites, such as Facebook, allow users to add "friends" and keep track of their status, interests, photos, "likes," and updates of others' personal information in cyberspace.

Internet use is related to both positive and negative psychological and social factors, but the key to understanding these outcomes is through examining specific types of Internet use instead of simply the amount of time spent online. While using social media can have positive benefits associated with community engagement, education, social connectedness, and identity development, it can also lead to risks linked to social rejection, cyberbullying, depression, exposure to inappropriate content, and other negative consequences related to general well-being. For example, a negative relationship has been found between time spent using electronic media, including social networking sites, and college grades. In college, upper-class students with more Facebook friends reported high levels of social adjustment and stronger attachment to the college than students with less Facebook friends, although freshmen did not benefit from having more Facebook friends and actually reported decreased social and emotional adjustment.

With respect to self-esteem, the research is also mixed, especially considering the different types of self-esteem. In certain cases, excessive Facebook use may be related to lower general self-esteem. For example, Mehdizadeh (2010) found a significant negative correlation between self-esteem and the number of times students checked Facebook per day and between self-esteem and the time spent on Facebook per session. Those with lower self-esteem also presented less self-promoting content on Facebook pages. However, Facebook can enhance self-esteem specifically related to the social functions of the self (social self-esteem) when individuals receive positive comments and feedback from their friends online. In addition, researchers have found that introverted individuals and individuals with low self-esteem may benefit from the social opportunities provided by the Facebook interface, without the anxiety of interacting face-to-face.

Facebook provides an opportunity for individuals who value their friendships to stay informed about social events and this technology may be particularly important and highly utilized by individuals whose value of themselves is contingent on how well their relationships with friends are succeeding... Related to the current investigation, the quality of friendships and how this quality affects self-esteem may be correlated with the frequency and intensity in which individuals engage in social networking. Individuals who value their friendships and see these friendships as important dimensions of themselves may engage in increased social networking behaviors to provide additional means for keeping connected with friends and sharing personal activities.

CONTINUE ▶

Percentage of users who answered that they write about the given topic to a high degree

Percentage of users who answered that they write about the given topic to a high degree
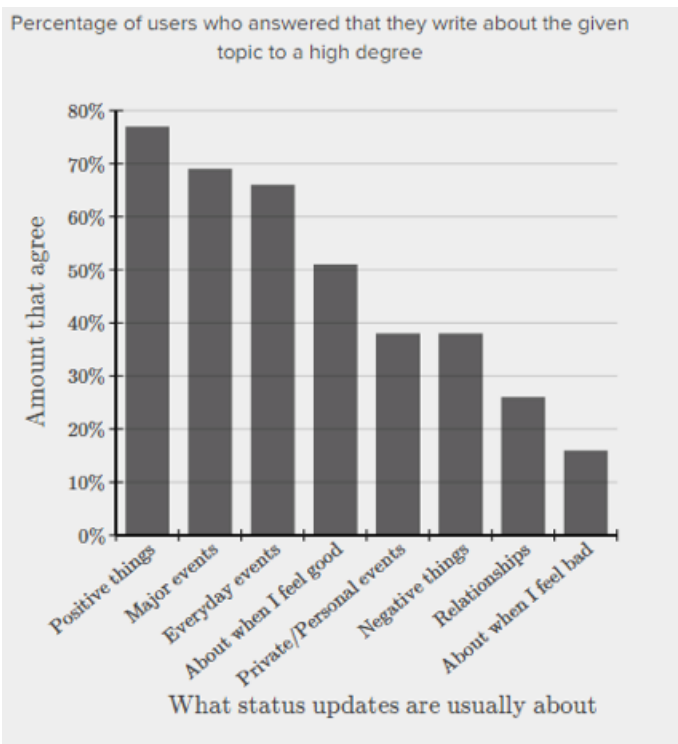
Source: Adapted from Tuncay Dilci, et al. "The Views of Primary School Students on Use of Riddles in the Process of Education and Training," Middle-East Journal of Scientific Research, 12(1): 23-20, 2012.

1

The primary purpose of the passage is to
A) discuss the benefits and drawbacks of using social media to maintain relationships.
B) debate the merits of using social media as a primary form of interpersonal communication.
C) emphasize the positive aspects behind the use of social media to cultivate relationships.
D) raise questions about research findings regarding the negative impact of online activities on relationships.

2

The author implies that studying online social networks is important to the field of psychology because
A) online social networks can reveal new connections between social media use and self-regard.
B) online social networks are becoming increasingly relevant modes of communication.
C) online social networks are used by a large percentage of college students to maintain friendships.
D) online social networks shed light on how college students create and preserve relationships online.

3

Which choice provides the best evidence for the answer to the previous question?
A) lines 1–4 ("Online . . . psychology")
B) lines 4–6 ("Facebook . . . strangers")
C) lines 6–9 ("Facebook . . . account")
D) lines 9–13 ("Given . . . students")

4

In line 12, "quality" most nearly means
A) condition.
B) affirmation.
C) individuality.
D) endowment.

5

The sentence "Some researchers initially believed online activities negatively impacted relationships" in lines 20–21 primarily serves to
A) introduce a conflicting argument to the study's main findings.
B) provide support for the claim that most online social interactions lead to bullying.
C) offer evidence that early studies of social media use are outdated.
D) warn readers about the dangers of using social media as a form of communication.

6

Based on the passage, the connection between social media use and self-esteem is
A) complicated due to the many variables that must be accounted for.
B) strongly linked because social media can reveal self-perception.
C) inconsistent although multiple studies suggest there is a correlation.
D) contradictory because not enough research has been undertaken.

7

Which choice provides the best evidence for the answer to the previous question?
A) lines 49–52 ("With . . . self-esteem")
B) lines 52–56 ("For . . . session")
C) lines 57–61 ("However . . . online")
D) lines 61–65 ("In . . . face-to-face")

146

CONTINUE

8

In line 67, "value" most nearly means
A) commend.
B) appreciate.
C) glorify.
D) honor.

9

How does the graph relate to the passage?
A) It illustrates the point that self-esteem is correlated with how often users engage with social media.
B) It provides context for the claim that excessive Facebook use leads to lower self-esteem.
C) It supports the study's findings that content updates cover a range of topics and emotions.
D) It demonstrates the disparity between different categories of social media updates and their content.

10

The passage and the graph agree that
A) people post about negative things fairly infrequently.
B) people post about personal events more than half the time.
C) people post about everyday events rarely.
D) people post about relationships most often.

11

According to the graph, which two kinds of status updates are written with equal frequency?
A) Positive things and major events.
B) Private/personal events and negative things.
C) Major events and everyday events.
D) Negative things and relationships.

CONTINUE