



Teenage Life

Short-answer questions: UNICEF U-Report | Cambridge IGCSE ESL 0510/0511

1. Lead-in discussion

Talk with a partner before you read.

1. Do teenagers have enough chances to share their opinions?
2. Would you answer a poll about problems in your community?
3. How can phones help young people speak to decision-makers?
4. What topics should adults ask teenagers about?

Exercise 1 at a glance

Read one factual text. Answers are in the text. Copy exact words and check the question carefully before choosing your answer.

2. Read for overall understanding

Read the text. How does U-Report help young people take part in public discussion?

UNICEF U-Report

U-Report is a digital platform created by UNICEF to help young people share opinions on issues that affect them. It works through messaging tools such as SMS and social media. Young people who join are often called U-Reporters, and they can answer polls, receive information and see results from other participants.

The platform is used in many countries, but the exact topics can vary. A poll might ask young people about education, health, safety, climate change or employment. Because responses can be collected quickly, organisations can hear from large numbers of young people without holding a meeting in every town.

U-Report is not meant to replace elections or formal youth councils. Instead, it gives young people another way to express views, especially if they live far from decision-makers or feel nervous about speaking in public. The format can be useful for teenagers who are already comfortable using phones.

Polls can be short, but the information they collect may still be useful. If many young people say they feel unsafe on the way to school, local organisations can investigate transport, lighting or bullying. If teenagers say they lack information about health services, a campaign can be designed in language that is easier for them to understand.

The platform can also make young people feel less isolated. When results are shared, participants can see whether others have similar worries or priorities. This can be important for teenagers who think they are the only ones concerned about a problem such as exam pressure, unemployment or online safety.

Adults can also learn from the results. A school, charity or local authority may discover that young people describe a problem differently from adults. This can lead to better questions, clearer advice and services that match teenagers' real experiences.

The platform can also share information. During a health campaign, for example, young people may receive messages about services or safety advice. In an emergency, quick communication can help communities understand what support is available and where to find it.

There are limits. A digital poll only reaches people who have access to a phone or the internet. Questions must also be written clearly, or the results may be confusing. Adults using the results need to remember that a poll shows the views of those who responded, not every young person in a country.

Even with these limits, U-Report shows how teenage voices can be included in public life. When young people are asked about real issues and see that their answers matter, they may feel more confident about taking part in their communities.

3. Strategy focus

Check the action

Questions may ask what young people do, what the platform sends, or how results are used. Match the action to the right person or tool.

4. Exam-style short-answer questions

Answer the questions using words from the text.

1. Which messaging tools can U-Report work through? Give one. [1]

2. What are young people who join often called? [1]

3. What can be collected quickly through U-Report? [1]

4. Who might live far from decision-makers? [1]

5. What may young people receive during a health campaign? Give one detail. [1]

6. According to the text, what are three limits or cautions connected to U-Report? [3]

5. Vocabulary notebook

Underline five useful words or phrases. Check their meaning, then record them in your vocabulary notebook.

6. Follow-up tasks

1. Discussion: What issue should young people be asked about first?
2. Summary: Summarise U-Report in about 50 words.
3. Creative task: Write three poll questions for teenagers.
4. Research: Find one youth survey or youth council in your country.

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4. Exam-style short-answer questions

1. Any one from: SMS; social media.
2. U-Reporters
3. responses
4. young people
5. Any one from: messages about services; safety advice.
6. Any three from: only reaches people who have access to a phone or the internet; questions must be written clearly; results may be confusing; poll shows the views of those who responded, not every young person.

Notes for checking

1. Answers should be short and clearly based on the text.
2. Accept bracketed or optional wording if the meaning is clear.
3. For the final question, learners need three separate details.