*Lingua Inglese 1 SID 2018-19 Writing skill: writing a paragraph. Student texts for peer critical analysis. A sixty second idea to change the world.*

Note: the paragraph should develop a proposal + reasons for implementing the proposal.

Text 1

We should randomly switch off power supplies to households once a week because it would have many positive effects: firstly it would reminds us what it's like to live dealing with intermittent power cuts. In this way we could also free ourselves from electronic devices and become more conscious about the weight of this modern enslavement. At the same time it would lenghten our attention's span, making us more productive and able to focus both on the past and the future and not only on our present. Furthermore the environment would be protected by bringing carbon emissions to a remarkable decrease. Finally there would be a wider sense of solidarity, rediscovering the beauty of sharing and - thanks to the lack of pollution - gazing at the stars and spending more time together without distractions of any kind.

REVIEWED:

We should randomly switch off power supplies to households once a week because it would have many positive effects. Firstly, it would remind us what it's like to live, dealing with intermittent power cuts. In this way we could also free ourselves from electronic devices and become more conscious of the burden of this modern slavery. At the same time, it would lengthen our attention span, making us more productive and able to focus both on the past and the future, and not only on our present. Furthermore, the environment would be protected by significantly cutting carbon emissions. Finally, there would be a wider sense of solidarity, rediscovering the beauty of sharing and - thanks to the lack of light pollution - gazing at the stars and spending more time together, without distractions of any kind.

Text 2 with initial corrections

There are no doubts about the major impact of mass-distributed electricity and later electronic devices on mankind during the last century, resulting mostly in better living conditions for the majority of us.

Nonetheless it is undeniable that, as for everything, there are some downsides to this matter too for both mankind and the environment; furthermore it is undeniable that something should be done about it. Here’s a hypothetical solution: what about randomly shutting down electricity once a week? The benefits...?

As complex as this issue is, its drawbacks affect multiple areas of human concern, firstly, human beings are social creatures; one of the main outcomes of excessive electronic devices usage is isolation but in a most subtle way: not physical, even if this might be the case as well, but mental isolation. Self-imposed isolation most of the time. Thus, socially speaking, shutting down electricity could be enough to force people out of this cycle and into humanity and the community back again; there they will rediscover empathy towards each other on a larger scale, focusing on themselves and their needs, their past and their future hopes and concerns instead of on TVs, mobiles, etc...: the whole social structure would benefit from it.

When it comes to environmental issues this whole lightning fast lifestyle we are living is exhausting our resources, but not only: CO2 levels in the atmosphere have reached alarming levels. Shutting everything down for one day might be useful for us to remember to slow down, take a deep breath, go out and gaze at the stars.

The above text is NOT a paragraph. Furthermore, it is too busy, with uncalled for problematizations of the topic. Proposed revision:

Shutting down the power supply once a week would bring many benefits. Firstly, it would free us from the dependency on many electrical devices and help people rediscover empathy towards each other, focusing on mutual needs, on their past and their future hopes and concerns instead of always on the present. An environmental benefit would be the reduction of CO2 levels in the atmosphere, which have reached alarming levels. Finally, shutting everything down for one day might be useful for us to remember to slow down, take a deep breath, or go out and just gaze at the stars.

Text 3

**We should switch off power supplies to households**. This is a simple but powerful idea that could make a difference in our lives. According to our habits we are not used to spending days without light. On the one hand, some countries aren’t as lucky as the Western world is; on the other hand, living with just natural light like we did in the past could empower our minds and lengthen our attention span. This could allow us to focus on our future goals and to think of our past experiences. Moreover, there is also a benefit for the environment: switching off power supplies could make carbon emissions go down. Sometimes electronic devices are the main characters in our days, making us neglect social relationships that are fundamental for human beings. Finally, for this reason, cutting power supplies could even bring some social advantages: as a result of it people will have the chance to share material goods like candles but they could also spend wonderful moments together.

Paragraph 3 above works quite well in developing the main idea, but the English is a little clumsy and unnatural at times. Revised:

**We should switch off power supplies to households**. This is a simple but powerful idea that could make a difference in our lives. We are not used to spending our evenings and nights without light. Living with just natural light like we did in the past, and as many less fortunate countries still do, could empower our minds and lengthen our attention span, allowing us to focus on our future goals and to think of our past experiences. Moreover, there would also be an environmental benefit: switching off power supplies could reduce / cut carbon emissions. Sometimes electronic devices are the protagonists in our lives, making us neglect social relationships that are fundamental for human beings. Hence, cutting power supplies could even bring some social advantages: as a result of it people will have the chance to share material goods like candles, and also be able to spend wonderful moments together.

Text 4

To change the world we should switch off power supplies to households one day each week in aiming to remaind us how are the coutryes without electricity and free us from our enslavement for electric devices such us television, smartphones and social networks. This would also has social benefits: help us to share time and goods with family and friends and finally to reduce carbon emissions, wich are in excess in our atmosphere.

The above paragraph also develops the main idea reasonably well, but could benefit from some changes in sentence punctuation. There are also some quite basic English grammar and spelling mistakes. Revised:

To change the world, we should switch off power supplies to households one day each week. The aim / purpose of this would be to remind us how people in countries without electricity live, and to free us from our slavish dependency on electric devices such as television and smartphones, and on social networks. Finally, switching off the power supply would also have social and environmental benefits: it would help us to share time and goods with our family and friends, and to reduce carbon emissions in our atmosphere, which are far too high.