IQM3002 A2 Teacher Exercise

Fictional AI-generated internal material for proposed marking and teacher exercise use. Not a candidate submission or human standardisation outcome.

Research question: To what extent does social media use affect subjective well-being in young adults?

Controlled sources: IQM3002_A2_2026-S_Candidate Task Brief.pdf — SHA-256 c3eaa3bc74155a6c60d5cc793347ee90c120e92783f9a1e885190c7e62e6dc05; IQM3002_A2_2026-S_Assessment Rubric.pdf — SHA-256 0a987f6eaf5dbfa928bbf3b25e6946d1b680ceaacd963955b0bc3ee89bea1be4.

Use this exercise to compare three fictional AI-generated scripts against the A2 rubric. Do not treat the extracts or blank fields as an official mark or standardisation record.

Exercise extract Strong

Why average time is an insufficient measure
An hour of messaging a close friend is not psychologically equivalent to an hour of scrolling through strangers' posts. Verduyn et al. (2017) distinguish active use, such as commenting and sending messages, from passive use, such as browsing without interaction. Their critical review proposes that active use may build social capital, while passive use can trigger social comparison and envy. This distinction is valuable because it explains why simple correlations between screen time and well-being can be weak: the same total duration can contain very different experiences. The review is a synthesis rather than a new dataset, so its mechanisms should be treated as plausible explanations, not as estimates of an individual effect.

Provisional exercise fields: AO2 band/evidence: _____ AO4 band/evidence: _____

Do not enter final AO2/AO4 marks from this extract alone. Complete marks require the full script in IQM3002_A2_Internal_responses.docx; if the full pack is unavailable, record only a provisional band judgement.

Evidence for AO2: _____

Evidence for AO4: _____

Band decision and rationale: _____

Exercise extract Middle

The result can be explained by social comparison. On social media people often show holidays, success and happy relationships. A person looking at these posts might compare them with their own ordinary day and feel that they are doing badly. Verduyn et al. (2017) discuss passive use as a possible reason social network sites undermine well-being. Their review says that looking without communicating can reduce well-being, although the result is not always negative. The review is useful because it compares lots of studies and explains the active and passive difference. It is less direct than a primary study because it is based on the results of other researchers.

Provisional exercise fields: AO2 band/evidence: _____ AO4 band/evidence: _____

Do not enter final AO2/AO4 marks from this extract alone. Complete marks require the full script in IQM3002_A2_Internal_responses.docx; if the full pack is unavailable, record only a provisional band judgement.

Evidence for AO2: _____

Evidence for AO4: _____

Band decision and rationale: _____

Exercise extract Weaker

People also use social media when they are already unhappy. Kross et al. tried to show that use came before the decline, but there can still be other reasons. For example, somebody might have a stressful day and use Facebook because of this. The study did not make participants stop using Facebook, so it is not a full experiment. It gives a strong warning about social media, but it does not prove that every use makes people unhappy.

Provisional exercise fields: AO2 band/evidence: _____ AO4 band/evidence: _____

Do not enter final AO2/AO4 marks from this extract alone. Complete marks require the full script in IQM3002_A2_Internal_responses.docx; if the full pack is unavailable, record only a provisional band judgement.

Evidence for AO2: _____

Evidence for AO4: _____

Band decision and rationale: _____