



## Section One Reading

### ARTICLE A

#### Online Dating

1. Would you be willing to try online dating? Recent research shows that it is an excellent way of meeting people, but it is still considered a 'taboo' by many. Read the article below and then decide whether the following statements are true or false.  
*By Caroline Devane*
2. It has long been seen as a less romantic way of meeting **Mr. Right**. But finding love over the internet is a good way of meeting a marriage partner, research has showed. It found that one in five of those who have used dating sites to find their perfect partner have gone on to marry someone they met over the web.
3. The study, by **consumer group** *Which?*, also revealed that more than half of the 1,504 people questioned had been on a date with someone they met in cyberspace. Sixty-two per cent agreed that it was easier to meet someone on a dating site than in other ways, such as in a pub or club, or through friends. At the same time, the under-35s were more likely to know someone who had been on a date or had a long-term relationship with someone they met through online dating.
4. Jess Ross, editor of *which.co.uk*, said: 'Online dating is **revolutionizing** the way people meet each other. Switching the computer on could be the first step to success.' According to industry surveys, more than 22million people visited dating websites in 2007, and more than two million **Britons** are signed up to singles sites.
5. Of the 147 couples who took part in the study, 61 per cent said their relationships had high levels of these three **components**. The researchers also found that men were more likely to find true love on the internet than women.
6. Dr Jeff Gavin, who led the team, said: 'To date, there has been no **systematic** study of love in the context-of relationships formed via online dating sites. 'But with the popularity of online dating, it is **imperative** we understand the factors that influence satisfaction in relationships formed in this way.'
7. Charlotte Harper, of Match.com, said: 'We were thrilled to find so many of our former members have found love. 'It supports our belief that the internet does in fact encourage old-fashioned **courtship**

### Useful Vocabulary

**Mr. Right** - (*slang*) The man who would make the perfect husband.

**Consumer group** - (*noun*) Organization that works to protect consumers. To make sure people are treated fairly by businesses.

**Revolutionizing** - (*Verb*) Changing something in a short period of time. The noun is 'revolution'.

**Britons** - (*collective noun*) People who live in Great Britain.

**Component** - (*noun*) A small part of a large thing.

**Systematic** - (*adjective*) Using a fixed and organized plan.

**Imperative** - (*adjective*) Extremely important.

**Courtship** - (*noun*) The time when people have a romantic relationship with the intention of getting married.

#### Now decide if the statements are true or false:

1. Online dating is seen as modern romance.
2. Research has shown that online dating is not a good way of meeting people.
3. Most people who took part in the survey said it is easier to meet people online than elsewhere.



4. Jess Ross thinks online dating is changing the way people meet each other.
5. Less than 20 million people visited dating websites in 2007.
6. Women are more likely to find their ideal partner online than men.
7. Many members of match.com have found love.

## ARTICLE B

### Four positive books about the world

#### *Factfulness* – Hans Rosling with Ola Rosling and Anna Rosling Rönnlund

1. In *Factfulness*, Professor Hans Rosling, along with two collaborators, asks simple questions about the world. Questions like 'How many girls finish school?' and 'What percentage of the world's population is poor?' It turns out the majority of us get the answers to these questions completely wrong. Why does this happen? *Factfulness* sets out to explain why, showing that there are several instincts humans have that distort our perspective.

For example, most people divide the world into US and THEM. In addition, we often believe that things are getting worse. And we are consuming large amounts of media that use a sales model based on making us afraid.

But according to the authors, the world isn't as bad as we think. Yes, there are real concerns. But we should adopt a mindset of factfulness – only carrying opinions that are supported by strong facts. This book is not concerned with the underlying reasons for poverty or progress, or what should be done about these issues. It focuses on our instinctive biases, offering practical advice to help us see the good as well as the bad in the world.

#### *Enlightenment Now* – Steven Pinker

Are things getting worse every day? Is progress an impossible goal? In *Enlightenment Now*, Steven Pinker looks at the big picture of human progress and finds good news. We are living longer, healthier, freer and happier lives.

Pinker asks us to stop paying so much attention to negative headlines and news that declares the end of the world. Instead, he shows us some carefully selected data. In 75 surprising graphs, we see that safety, peace, knowledge and health are getting better all over the world. When the evidence does not support his argument, however, he dismisses it. Economic inequality, he claims, is not really a problem, because it is not actually that important for human well-being. One cannot help wondering how many people actually living in poverty would agree.

The real problem, Pinker argues, is that the Enlightenment values of reason and science are under attack. When commentators and demagogues appeal to people's tribalism, fatalism and distrust, then we are in danger of causing irreparable damage to important institutions like democracy and world co-operation.

#### *The Rational Optimist* – Matt Ridley

For more than two hundred years the pessimists have been winning the public debate. They tell us that things are getting worse. But in fact, life is getting better. Income, food availability and lifespan are rising; disease, violence and child mortality are falling. These trends are happening all around the world. Africa is slowly coming out of poverty, just as Asia did before. The internet, mobile phones and worldwide trade are making the lives of millions of people much better.

Best-selling author Matt Ridley doesn't only explain how things are getting better; he gives us reasons why as well. He shows us how human culture evolves in a positive direction thanks to the exchange of ideas and specialisation. This bold book looks at the entirety of human history – from the Stone Age to the 21st century – and changes the notion that it's all going downhill. The glass really is half-full.

#### *The Great Surge* – Steven Radelet

The majority of people believe that developing countries are in a terrible situation: suffering from incredible poverty, governed by dictators and with little hope for any meaningful change. But, surprisingly, this is far from the truth. The reality is that a great transformation is occurring. Over the past 20 years, more than 700 million people have increased their income and come out of poverty. Additionally, six million fewer children die every year from disease, millions more girls are in school and millions of people have access to clean water.



This is happening across developing countries around the world. The end of the Cold War, the development of new technologies and brave new leadership have helped to improve the lives of hundreds of millions of people in poor countries.

*The Great Surge* describes how all of this is happening and, more importantly, it shows us how we can accelerate the process.

### Task 1: answer the questions according to the options on the right.

1. Which book talks about how we can continue to make things even better?
2. Which book covers a long period of human history?
3. Which book claims that human intuition negatively affects the way people think about the world?
4. Which book says that current establishments are under threat from politics?
5. Which book explains that we tend to mentally divide humans into two clear groups?
6. Which book claims that trade has helped make life better around the world?
7. Which book makes the claim that unfair distribution of wealth does not affect happiness as much as people think?
8. Which book focuses primarily on developing countries?

- a. Factfulness
- b. Enlightenment Now
- c. The Rational Optimist
- d. The Great Surge

### Task 2 Complete the sentences with words below.

*Consume - make - adopt - progress - lead - public - access irreparable*

1. Innovation is one of the most important factors in human \_\_\_\_\_ across history.
2. Many people \_\_\_\_\_ all their media on smartphones.
3. The young politician is trying to get people to \_\_\_\_\_ a positive mindset about coping with climate change.
4. Pinker thinks that now is the time to \_\_\_\_\_ the case for science and reason.
5. The details of the law were agreed after lengthy \_\_\_\_\_ debate in the media.
6. Millions of people simply do not have \_\_\_\_\_ to clean water.
7. The United Nations said that everyone should have the same chance to \_\_\_\_\_ a healthy life.
8. We have caused \_\_\_\_\_ damage to our rivers and lakes.

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<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/femail/article-1144129/Online-dating-CAN-help-perfect-partner-research-shows.html>