

Section 1

#1: "Firstly, they are a major contributor to why students are so preoccupied during classes and tests. Have you ever been in an exam, finally piecing together a difficult question just to lose your train of thought due to a phone alarm? Phones simply distract students, meaning that they won't understand much of the content covered in class. There is no doubt that phones should be banned in schools due to student's lack of focus."

Strengths:

- You've used a relatable example that effectively illustrates the distraction problem
- Your argument follows a clear logical structure that connects distraction to learning outcomes

Weakness: Unsupported claim → Your final statement "There is no doubt that phones should be banned" makes a definitive conclusion without sufficient evidence. The paragraph jumps from a single example to an absolute conclusion without addressing potential counterarguments or presenting research-based evidence.

Exemplar: *"Research from Australian schools shows that 70% of students lose concentration when phones are present, suggesting that restrictions on mobile devices could significantly improve classroom focus."*

#2: "Secondly, they promote cyberbullying. By allowing students to have their phones, many people can be cyberbullied on social media platforms such as Facebook, X or Instagram. This can make them feel a loss of self-esteem, feelings of anxiety and emotional and physical harm. It can also lead to concentration and learning difficulties. It is obvious that phones can cause cyberbullying, leading to negative feelings that deeply affect the victim."

Strengths:

- You've identified a serious concern related to student wellbeing
- You've listed specific consequences of cyberbullying that impact learning

Weakness: Overgeneralisation → Your paragraph suggests that phones themselves "cause cyberbullying" rather than being tools that can be misused. The statement "It is obvious that phones can cause cyberbullying" oversimplifies a complex issue without exploring how phones might facilitate bullying that would happen in other forms anyway.

Exemplar: *"While phones can be platforms for cyberbullying, proper digital citizenship education could help students use technology responsibly while still benefiting from its educational potential."*

#3: "In conclusion, phones must be banned in schools due to the lack of concentration, cyberbullying and poor academic results it creates. In the long run, nothing good can come out of using phones in class. It is like bringing video games into class; many students will feel the need to play games or do things not related to education. I urge you to ban phones in schools, due to their overall negative impact, hindering students' learning journey."

Strengths:

- You've effectively summarised your key arguments in the conclusion
- Your comparison to video games provides a clear image that reinforces your point

Weakness: One-sided conclusion → Your conclusion contains absolute statements like "nothing good can come out of using phones" which dismisses all potential benefits without consideration. This weakens your argument by making it appear that you haven't fully explored the topic.

Exemplar: *"While the educational benefits of phones are limited compared to their potential for distraction and harm, a balanced approach might include designated technology times or supervised educational phone use rather than a complete ban."*

■ Your persuasive piece shows passion for improving the learning environment, which is commendable. However, your argument would be stronger if you considered both sides of the debate. Right now, your writing presents phones as entirely negative without acknowledging their potential benefits in education. You could strengthen your case by addressing counterarguments about educational apps or research tools, then explaining why the negatives still outweigh these benefits. Also, try to include specific examples or statistics to support your claims. For instance, when you mention academic decline, include concrete evidence connecting phone use to lower grades. Your arguments about distraction and cyberbullying would be more convincing with real-world examples or

data. Adding these elements would give your piece more depth and make your position more persuasive to readers who might be on the fence about this issue.

Overall score: 41/50

Section 2

Envision a world where students are excelling in their exams, their grades skyrocketing. Imagine the blissful quiet while students do their work, focused solely on it, without the loud, distracting PING! of a text message. This could become a reality for us if we ban phones during school time. They are devices of distraction, hubs of cyberbullying and the cause of academic downfall. Let me explain why we should ban phones in school.

#1: Firstly, they are a major contributor to why students are so preoccupied during classes and tests. Have you ever been in an exam, finally piecing together a difficult question just to lose your train of thought due to a phone alarm? Phones simply distract students, meaning that they won't understand much of the content covered in class. There is no doubt that phones should be banned in schools due to ~~student's~~ [students'] lack of focus.

Secondly, they promote cyberbullying. By allowing students to have their phones, many people can be cyberbullied on social media platforms such as Facebook, X or Instagram. This can make them feel a loss of self-esteem, feelings of anxiety and emotional and physical harm. It can also lead to concentration and learning difficulties. It is obvious that phones can cause cyberbullying, leading to negative feelings that deeply affect the victim.

Finally, they are the root of academic degradation. If you were a parent, would you like having to get out your child's report card and seeing 'F' printed in a crimson red ~~color~~ [colour]? Or would you prefer seeing a verdant green 'A' neatly copied instead? If we don't ban phones in schools, it can lead to a depletion of focus, meaning that students will do worse than what they could have done. Some may argue that phones can help students learn, but students can learn much more in class ~~then~~ [than] from phones, where they still may be distracted. It is vital that we ban phones in school due to the academic related consequences it brings.

#3: In conclusion, phones must be banned in schools due to the lack of concentration, cyberbullying and poor academic results ~~it creates~~ [they create]. In the long run, nothing good can come out of using phones in class. It is like bringing video games into class; many students will feel the need to play games or do things not related to education. I urge you to ban phones in schools, due to their overall negative impact, hindering students' learning journey.]