

92050R



Mana Tohu Mātauranga o Aotearoa  
New Zealand Qualifications Authority

## Level 1 Social Studies 2024

**92050 Demonstrate understanding of decisions made in relation to a contemporary social issue**

Credits: Five

### RESOURCE BOOKLET

Refer to this booklet to answer the questions for Social Studies 92050.

Check that this booklet has pages 2–8 in the correct order and that none of these pages is blank.

**YOU MAY KEEP THIS BOOKLET AT THE END OF THE EXAMINATION.**

## THE CONTEMPORARY SOCIAL ISSUE: SHARENTING

### Relevant ethical considerations

<b>Children's rights</b>	An ethical consideration valuing the rights of children, including their privacy and the right to consent (willingly agree), to the information about them being made publicly available. This could also include the right to protection from harm.
<b>Digital footprint</b>	The information about a particular person that exists on the internet because of their online activity.
<b>Parental rights</b>	An ethical consideration valuing the rights of parents to make decisions regarding their children. In this instance, sharenting allows parents to share their experiences and pride, and maintain family ties. Parental rights could also include the right to freedom of expression.

## INTRODUCTION: What is sharenting?



It's become the norm for people to share every update and photo of their children's lives on social media.



Sharing children's moments online allows parents and guardians to connect with family and friends. It also helps them to seek support in their parenting journey, and create a sense of community. On the other hand, sharenting has created a debate around a child's privacy and security, as a child's digital footprint can be used in ways that parents and guardians don't anticipate.

## DECISIONS MADE IN RELATION TO SHARENTING

### RESOURCE A: Deciding to sharent

#### Why do parents sharent?

For many parents and guardians, sharenting is a way to update everyone on their child's growth and development. Sharing their child's milestones and achievements with friends and family online helps them to feel connected.





[REDACTED]

“It hit me like a tonne of bricks, I thought just because this person is by face value a nice, well-meaning person, doesn't mean every person who recognises my kids is going to be a nice, well-meaning person.”

Privacy law expert Nikki Chamberlain urges parents to think twice before sharenting. “We do need to question ourselves if it is in the best interest of the child. Lots of times when parents post on social media, the positive response they are eliciting is for themselves.”

### Well-being

Potential negative impacts of sharenting on young people include online trolling and cyberbullying, in-person harassment at school, and the possible psychological impacts of depression, anxiety, and social alienation. Online photographs and information could also be used for harmful purposes, such as fraud, identity theft, or deepfakes and image manipulation.



In 2020, the child of an Instagram influencer wrote an anonymous Reddit post vocalising concerns about the images posted by their mother. “It sucks because there’s so much out there about us and it’s what’s gonna come up when I’m looking for a job, when I’m dating, when anyone looks up my name,” wrote the user, before detailing a plan to stop the mother being able to take pictures: wearing hoodies printed with slogans such as, “I do not consent to be photographed” and “No profiting off my image”.

**RESOURCE B: Deciding not to sharent****France debating law to ban sharenting**

Parents in France will be liable for punishment if they share photos of their children on social media.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

*It is important to note that the bill still needs to be passed by the French Senate and made official by the president, after which it will become a law in France.*

**Parental reaction**

Asked if Aotearoa should legislate against sharing images of minors online, a New Zealand influencer who used to post photos of her young children online said it's subjective, and if one person posts a couple of photos of their kids, it's not the same as another person dedicating a whole TikTok account to content of their children.

[REDACTED]

Another Kiwi influencer, who shares content of her kids on her Instagram with over 45,000 followers, believes that if New Zealand introduced laws stopping parents from posting their kids online, she and other influencers would adapt.

“I completely understand the bill that’s trying to be passed, but then at the same time, when you think about it, it’s kind of taking away the discretion of the parent, taking away that decision from a parent.”

“Obviously, there’s a point where someone needs to step in if a child’s best interests are not at the forefront, but then I guess where do you draw the line.”

### **Future legal cases**

“All the way around the world, people are talking about sharenting,” says Claire Bessant, an associate professor at Northumbria Law School, who is currently working on a project examining the legal protections for children of British ‘sharents’.

“There could be pictures being taken today that will at some point potentially be the basis of future court action, and if this happens, the parents will need to be able to explain how those pictures were published in the child’s best interests.”

## Acknowledgements

Material from the following sources has been adapted for use in this examination (accessed 20 March 2024).

### Introduction

Page 3: <https://www.aljazeera.com/features/2020/10/11/facing-the-music-the-parents-who-share-too-much> (image)  
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sharenting> (definition)  
<https://netsafe.org.nz/blog/index.php/2023/03/29/what-you-need-to-know-about-sharenting/> (text)  
<https://www.newstatesman.com/science-tech/2015/10/defence-over-sharenting-post-many-baby-updates-online-you> (text)

### Resource A

Pages 4 and 5: <https://www.parents.com/parenting/better-parenting/sharenting-meaning-and-when-it-might-be-dangerous/> (text)  
<https://www.newstatesman.com/science-tech/2015/10/defence-over-sharenting-post-many-baby-updates-online-you> (text)  
<https://www.rnz.co.nz/national/programmes/ninetoonoon/audio/2018847605/the-harms-of-sharenting-and-how-to-protect-children-online> (text)  
<https://metro.co.uk/2023/03/07/french-parents-could-be-prosecuted-for-exploiting-their-kids-online-18398115/> (text)  
<https://www.1news.co.nz/2023/03/21/france-may-limit-parents-oversharing-kids-online-should-nz-follow/> (text)  
<https://newsroom.co.nz/2022/06/21/parental-oversharing-risks-nz-kids-privacy/> (text)  
<https://www.aljazeera.com/features/2020/10/11/facing-the-music-the-parents-who-share-too-much> (text and image)

### Resource B

Pages 6 and 7: <https://www.indiatoday.in/technology/news/story/parents-in-france-now-liable-for-punishment-if-they-share-photos-of-their-children-on-social-media-2349725-2023-03-21> (text)  
<https://nz.finance.yahoo.com/news/parents-in-france-could-face-jail-for-posting-152518857.html> (text)  
<https://www.1news.co.nz/2023/03/21/france-may-limit-parents-oversharing-kids-online-should-nz-follow/> (text)  
<https://www.aljazeera.com/features/2020/10/11/facing-the-music-the-parents-who-share-too-much> (text and image)