MY SPACE AND FACEBOOK HORROR STORIES.

Social networking sites like Facebook and Myspace have become hugely popular throughout the world, and are now being used by people of all ages and professions. These sites help us to stay in touch with our friends. However, a few people have made posts that have got them into hot water.

Take party-boy Kevin Calvin, for example. This intern at the Anglo-Irish Bank in Boston e-mailed his manager saying he needed time off work to go to New York because of a “family emergency”. The next day his boss discovered photos of Calvin drunk, dressed in a colourful fairy costume and holding a beer in one hand with a sparkling wand in the other. The photo had been posted on Facebook. His “family emergency” was, in fact, a drunken Halloween Party. Calvin’s boss, Paul Davies, replied to his e-mail attaching the “fairy” photo. He copied in everyone in the office writing “Thanks for letting us know - hope everything is OK in New York. (Cool wand)”. Calvin was fired.

A store owner near Radford University, Virginia, struck it lucky when she used Facebook to identify two students from the University who had stolen articles from her shop. She looked through the Facebook site’s profile photos of students from Radford University until she recognised the culprits. One of the girls was so careless that she posted a Facebook picture of herself wearing some of the stolen clothes.

Social networking sites are great instruments for keeping in touch. However anything put into the public domain, even though only for personal use, can be seen by anyone in the world. Even when we set our profile to “private” – enabling only our friends to see what we have been up to – can get a person into hot water if there are revealing photos. These days people have more than 200 “friends”, many of whom are almost strangers. It often is these “friends” who release the embarrassing information to others.

VOCABULARY:

To make posts: put something on one’s site for everyone to see.
Wand: magic stick used by fairies, witches and wizards
Culprit: guilty, someone who has done something illegal.
To release: disseminate

Write your answers in the space provided in your exam.
1. -Are the following statements true or false? Say why. Take evidence from the text to support your answer. No marks are given for only true or false (2 points)

1.1 After the party Calvin returned to work.

1.2 Social networking sites like Facebook are not private even when we set our profile to “private”

2. -Answer the following questions in full sentences using information from the text. (2 points)

2.1 How did the shop owner find out who had stolen goods from her shop?

2.2 Why can Facebook get us into trouble easily?

3. -Vocabulary: find synonyms in the text from the words below. (2 points)

3.1 Enormously.
3.2 have caused them problems.
3.3 excellent, fantastic.
3.4 was fortunate.

4. -Write a composition of about 100 words on the following topic: (4 points)

In your opinion what does Facebook offer that makes it so popular? Give at least three reasons to support your point of view
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1. -Are the following statements true or false? Say why. Take evidence from the text to support your answer. No marks are given for only true or false. (2 points)

   1.1 After the party Calvin returned to work. **False.** After the party he didn’t return to work because he was fired.

   1.2 Social networking sites like Facebook are not private even when we set our profile to “private”. **True.** Even when we set our profile to private we can get a person into trouble if there are revealing photos. It often is our friends who release the embarrassing information.

2. -Answer the following questions in full sentences using information from the text. (2 points)

   2.1 How did the shop owner find out who had stolen goods from her shop?

   He found through Facebook’s site profile photos of students from University. One of them was wearing some of the stolen clothes.

   2.2 Why can Facebook get us into trouble easily?

   Because anybody can release embarrassing information about us, as we have been able to see in the text.

3. - Vocabulary: find synonyms in the text from the words below. (2 points)

   3.1 Enormously: hugely
   3.2 Have caused them problems: have got them into hot water.
   3.3 Excellent, fantastic: cool
   3.4 Was fortunate: struck it lucky.

4. - Write a composition of about 100 words on the following topic: (4 points)

   In your opinion what does Facebook offer that makes it so popular? Give at least three reasons to support your point of view
Clear and well organised ideas: 2 points

Grammar correctness: 1 point

Ambitious use of vocabulary: 1 point