1   *This picture shows seven people with smartphones, tablets and a laptop. It seems that they are using social media. The picture is very colourful. They are sitting in a public place.*

2   *Nothing special comes to my mind when I see this picture; it seems quite normal to me. You can see a lot of (probably young) people who are using several electronical devices. It reminds me of my history lessons, when we have to do research for our presentations. People of my age spend a lot of time on their mobile / computer / tablet, and social media has become a big thing.*

3   *In times of social media, social networking, etc. the situation seems to be pretty normal to me. In the 21st century it is normal to communicate via notebooks and smartphones and to use the gigantic network of social media.*
    I view this critically, since the communication via social networks is not the same as communication in reality. Social networking seems to be a good possibility to get into contact, but the real contact between different groups is more important than that.

4   *It seems that these people are not talking to each other. They are just staring at their tablets and cellphones. Furthermore they look pretty relaxed. The picture as a whole is very colourful and friendly. We can't really say if they interact or not because their faces are cut out of the picture.*

5   *Today's society and generation suffers from a lot of different challenges and problems. Many of them are directly linked to the digital revolution, and the internet changed the way we live and think completely. For one it holds great opportunities and improvements, but on the other hand there are challenges: As shown on the picture, young people tend to be less social and sometimes focus on technology. Interestingly the faces of the persons are cut out which may suggest the disappearance of the individual nowadays.*

6   *Diversity and living as an individual seems to be very important in today's society. Clothing and outward appearance thus plays a major role. This picture only focuses on the appearance of these young people. We don't see their faces and emotions.*

7   *These young people sitting on a bench are using different mobile devices, smartphones and tablets. Their heads are not in the picture. This suggests that it is not important who they are and that they could be anyone. Everybody is occupied with his/her device and they seem to be isolated, even though they are sitting next to each other.*

1   *Considering "education" while looking at this picture, it comes to my mind that phones/tablets are a new way to receive information at any time and any place. Even though this is certainly a good thing, modern technology also provokes isolation and therefore a lack of 'social education'.*

2   *The different clothes and varied colours they are wearing express diversity. Nevertheless they are all using mobile devices and look similar. The two persons in the middle are sharing a laptop. This could indicate a form of community as offered in 'religion'.*

3   *Religion: There doesn't seem to be any connection to religion in this picture.*
    Diversity: There is a lot of diversity shown in this picture.
    Ethics: This has nothing to do with ethics. There are just some teenagers with their technical devices.
    Education: They see to be pretty educated.

4   *Religion? Diversity? Ethics? Education? No connection.*

5   *The media give us a lot of information about things we otherwise wouldn't know. This is positive, because e.g. without knowledge about different religions and convictions we may have more distance to each other than necessary. People always are afraid of foreign things. So maybe the media help to connect us with each other. But in my opinion it would be so much better, if we could talk to each other and asked each other questions instead of sitting in front of laptops.*
    This for me also means that different religions should be taught in the classroom. We have to be open-minded and tolerate each other – no matter what our religion or conviction might be.

6   *The challenge for ethics is in getting away from the devices for a minute and to talk to the individuals or groups around oneself. This is the only way of making authentic social contact. Afterward we can return to our devices and media.*

7   *New technologies and social media might become a problem for religion, ethics and education. All these parts of life are very much tradition orientated and less interesting than e.g. social media. But as religion, ethics and education change and adapt to the situation, new technologies can also be a chance and opportunity: online dictionaries, online tutoring, for example. And in developing countries digital media often will be the only access to education. So internet should be used to make religions, ethics and education more interesting for young people.*

8   *The religious should work more with media and internet, in order to make religion more interesting for younger people. It is a new and good way to get information about other religions and to ask others about their beliefs. Today, everybody has access to information for himself and can choose which religion seems best to him or why he doesn't want to belong to a religion at all.*

9   *There is also the problem of the so called "fake news", wrong information being spread by the social media. This can influence people in a dangerous way. And the world of the internet is anonymous. So it is much easier to criticize people or to hurt them. There are no rules. Ethics can be forgotten.*
Maybe the persons sitting on that bench are fighting via internet with each other, although they don't know each other personally. The question is how and whether religions should adapt or react to this development. Ethics are an important aspect of religion.

10   *Today we are able to get information about any religion within seconds. We can communicate with people almost anywhere in the world. 100 years ago religion was part of many people's lives. Not because it was their personal decision, but because it was the tradition. Today we question traditions. We should we do certain things? Isn't religion a bit old-fashioned?*

11   *Communication technology connects people and is therefore a great opportunity for everyone. In times of globalization people are breaking down barriers more and more. The want to know about different values and ways of living.*

12   *Will education look like this in the future? […] For me the big question is how religion and ethics can be brought together with this new, modern world of media.*

13   *For me the most important challenge when facing the topic of social media is how to save our cultural values. We were and are used to talking to each other. What happens to honesty, looking in each other's eyes? When we face each other we see how people are reacting to our words, we can interact spontaneously and we can more easily trust each other.*
Research found out that people are more likely to be bullied via internet because people feel less connected to the "victim". This is a big problem which has to be worked on.

14   *The challenge will be to find a way to strengthen social networking and the use of media, but at the time to focus on real life interaction. This is what people really need.*

15   *If you see the technical devices as a metaphor for the new digital age in general, I think religion is going to have a hard time.*

16   *Diversity: You can see a lot of diversity in the picture, but nevertheless all are doing the same thing. Religion: Is there any time for religion in this world? Education: Education will change completely; with this kind of technology you have other possibilities to teach and learn.*

Upper secondary class, Protestant RE, Uhland-Gymnasium Tübingen / Germany, 09-02-2017. The students commented in a first step only the picture, then, in a second step, the picture with the terms "religion", "ethics", "education" and "diversity".