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MATERIA: Inglés

Legal move to ban iPods from streets

The modern condition of "iPod oblivion", which reduces people with little white headphones stuffed into their ears to a zombie-like state, could become an offence in New York.

Alarmed by a surge of deaths in the city caused by iPod wearers inadvertently stepping into oncoming traffic, a New York senator is introducing legislation this week that would make it an offence, punishable by a €100 fine, to use any electronic device while crossing a street.

Cark Kruger, a senator for Brooklyn, wants the ban proposed in his "distracted walking" bill to be extended to mobile phones, handheld emailing devices such as Blackberries and video games.

So far, the legislation is only proposed for larger cities in the state, including New York City. The offence, which would apply to walking, jogging and cycling would involve a criminal court summons. The offenders would have to appear in court to pay the fine rather than simply posting it.

Mr Kruger said he knew of three iPod-related traffic deaths in Manhattan and Brooklyn since September. He added: "We have a major public safety crisis. If you're so involved in your electronic device that you can't see or hear a car coming, this is indicative of a larger problem that requires some sort of enforcement beyond the application of common sense," He urged iPod users to limit their activities to parks.

(Adapted from The Daily Telegraph, 9 February 2007)

A) Answer these questions from the text in your own words. (No points will be given for answers copied from the text.)

1. What is this New York Senator's proposal?
2. What is the punishment he proposes?
3. Why does the Senator think this measure is necessary?

B) Explain the meaning of the following words or expressions from the text.

- 1, offence
- 2, ban
3. so far

C) Composition:

Write a 120 word composition on the following topic: How do electronic devices affect your daily life? Explain the advantages and disadvantages of modern electronic devices.