



# READING COMPREHENSION

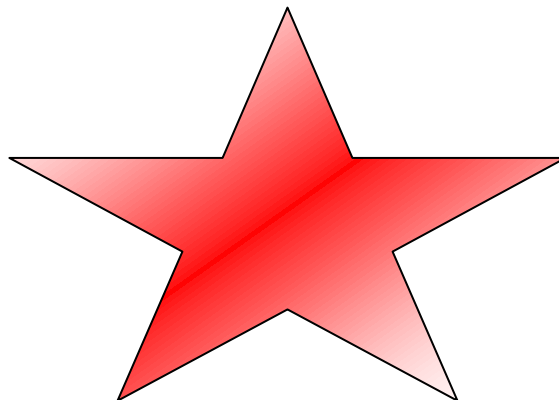
A COMPILATION  
OF TESTS  
FOR ENGLISH  
LANGUAGE TEACHERS

ASSEMBLED BY:

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- ***This work is the fruit of collaboration with many kind teachers who didn't hesitate to share their material and experience.***
- ***I genuinely would like to thank everyone who contributed to help this work see light.***
- ***Please forward this file to other English teachers you know so that we can all benefit and so that more students can learn from this work.***



READING COMPREHENSION 1

Radio versus television



VS



There are a few homes today that do not have either a radio or a television set. Both of them have become an essential part of our daily life, keeping us informed of the news of the day, instructing us in many fields of interest, and entertaining us with singing, dancing and acting. Macaroni, the Italian inventor of the radio, probably didn't realize what effects his big invention would have on the world. Radio has perhaps had much influence on the world as any other communication devices. Events of universal interest can be reported to the entire world in a few seconds after they happen. Explorers in remote areas, ships at sea, even astronauts circling the earth are able to keep in touch with civilization by means of radio.

Television is another major means of communication, permitting us to see as well as hear the performer. Since its appearance, television has had a tremendous effect on the daily life of people everywhere. Alterations of all kinds are being made in television so that reception will be as near to perfect as possible. Many programmes are now broadcast in colour. Perhaps the most recent advancement has been "satellites". This specially equipped space capsule, orbiting the globe makes it possible for the entire world to be closer than ever before. Now a family in Chicago can watch a car race in Japan, a ski tournament in Austria or a football match in South Africa.

I- Comprehension:

A- Find the synonyms of the following words:

Consequences (para 1)= ..... / Impact (para 1)= .....  
Whole (para 1)= ..... / Distant (para 1)= .....  
Huge (para 2)= ..... / New(para 2)= .....

B- Say whether these statements are true or false, justify your answer:

- 1- Macaroni was aware of the importance of his invention  
.....  
.....
- 2- Television has brought nations closer.  
.....  
.....
- 3- Radio and television have been harmful rather than useful.  
.....  
.....

**C- Answer the following questions:**

- 1- What do we need television and radio for?
- 2- In what way has the radio been the most influential means of communication?
- 3- What are some of the advantages of television? ( give 3 advantages)

READING COMPREHENSION 2

## Culture Stereotypes

By Lillian J. Lara

Some people think because I am Mexican I used to wear a long skirt and a colourful blouse while I was living in Mexico. One day, when I was in high school, a North American girl asked me, "How do Mexicans usually dress? I said, "Mexicans dress just like you do." She told me that she thought that Mexicans usually wear big hats and boots. When I heard that I felt a little disappointed, but then I explained to her that just like here in the U.S in some places like Texas people wear hats and boots but that doesn't mean that all Mexicans wear them. In my hometown, people dress like city people. I also told her that in Mexico there are a variety of people: city people, indigenous people and ranchers. I didn't want to be mean to her because I also used to think that all Americans usually wore tennis shoes, long shorts and t-shirts. It is easy to stereotype other cultures or countries from what you see in movies, magazines, TV and books. Stereotypes can help to make a picture of other countries even if you have never been there because can help you to understand other cultures.

To know more about cultural stereotypes, I interviewed Monica Salas, who is from Ecuador. She had other experiences about how other people think that Hispanic girls prepare for the future when they grow up and became adults. She remembers a North American lady who told her that Hispanic girls usually do not go to school because they just expect to grow up and get married, have many children and then wait for the husbands to pay the bills. When Monica heard that she felt disappointed and angry. She thought that it was normal that other people think in that way about Hispanic girls; however, she explained to the American lady that Hispanic girls used to think like that a long time ago but now there are many Hispanics that want to be independent and pay their own bills. In addition, Hispanic girls are educated to be part of a family because some Hispanics think that the concept of family is very important and if you decide to get married it is because you can take care of it, and it is part of the beliefs of the culture. Monica said that it will be hard to change this stereotype that other people think about Hispanic girls, but it is not impossible. The times are changing, so the stereotypes will change with the time.

Sarah Powell, a North American girl who is a student in Black Hawk College, told me that she heard that other cultures stereotype the USA like a rude country. For example, she heard that North American people do not care about elderly people. Sarah thinks that it is not because they do not care, but it is because they are trained to be independent. The older people usually do not like others to help them because they will feel useless. In addition, when the older people feel that they will need help, they prefer to go to a nursing home because they do not want to bother their family. Sarah's grandmother is living in the house with her family, but her grandmother is a person who can do everything by herself and maybe in the future if her grandmother gets sick, Sarah thinks that her grandmother will prefer to go to a home. It is because she wants to. It will be her grandmother's decision. Sarah told me that she would not like to be put in a nursing home, but she does not know what will happen in the future.

In conclusion, I think people should not judge others by what they see or hear. Even if we make stereotypes of other cultures, we should look and inform ourselves about what is true and what is not because we can be wrong and offend other people. Each country is different, and I think this is what this life is about. Making stereotypes about other cultures is not bad when you do

not offend others. What stereotypes do you have about other cultures? If they are not true, try to find out the truth! You will be fascinated!

**I- COMPREHENSION**

**A- Write true or false. Justify: (2pts)**

- 1- All Americans wear tennis shoes, long shorts and T-shirts.
- 2- Sarah's grand-mother lives in a nursing house.

**B- Read the text and complete the chart:( 3pts)**

Name	country	stereotype	comment
Sarah Powel			
Lillian Lara			

**C- Answer the questions:(3pts)**

- 1- What are the positive things about stereotypes?
- 2- How did Monica Salas feel when she heard about the stereotype about Hispanic girls? Why?
- 3- According to the author, how can we correct our stereotypes?

**D- Find in the text words or expressions meaning the same as:(2pts)**

- 1- Impolite = ..... (paragraph 3)
- 2- The notion or idea = .....(paragraph 2)

## READING COMPREHENSION 3

## Children for whom school has no point

Many children do not go to school either because their parents want them at home as carers for siblings, or simply because their parents cannot be bothered to send them. Thousands more are not registered at any school at all, because of their families' unstable lives.

Underlying this dreadful situation there are two central truths. First of all, the problem of children not going to school often has more to do with their parents than with the children themselves. Secondly, once children go to school, we need to make sure that the experience is a positive one so that they want to keep on going.

In Britain, the Ministry of Education has introduced a complex package of sticks and carrots to persuade schools to bring truants' and excluded children back into the classroom. It is paying grants so that a thousand schools can set up special units to help these children. Schools receive the grant if they bring a target number of children back to school; if they do not meet the target, the grant is withdrawn. Parents are the subject of this campaign, too: the Home Office has introduced fines for parents who fail to send their children to school, and has given the police power to pick up truants on the streets.

\*'truant = a child who does not go to school when he or she should.

## I- COMPREHENSION

1. Answer the following questions using your words. (2 points)

a) Why do many parents not send their children to school?

.....

b) How are the authorities trying to solve this problem?

.....

2. Are the following statements true (T) or false (F)? (2 points)

a) The problem of truancy is due to the stability of parents' lives.....

.....

b) It is very hard to convince children that if they go to school, they will be able to get a job.....

.....

3. Find a word or phrase in the text which, in context, is similar in meaning to: ( 2P)

a) Someone who looks after a relative at home.....

b) Brothers and sisters.....

4. Choose, a, b, or c, in each question below. Only one choice is correct. (4 P)

1. According to the text, there are thousands of children who ....

a) *stay at home doing the housework.*

b) *live in stable families\_*

c) *are not registered at any school.*

2. Part of the problem is...

a) *that people feel very emotional.*

b) *that there are not enough police to pick up truants on the streets.*

c) *that these children think education is a waste of time.*

3. The Ministry of Education will take away a school's grant if ...

- a) they do not reach their objectives.*
- b) they meet their targets.*
- c) children escape from school.*

4. The Home Office ...

- a) will give money to parents to send children to school.*
- b) will punish parents who fail to send their children to school.*
- c) has given powers to the police to pick up parents.*



Dropping out of school has always been a problem that educators understood and tried to prevent. There are many reasons why students drop out of school. One of the main reasons for students turning to it is family problems. Some parents want their children to get married early; other parents do not see the value or benefit of education and send their children to work. Low family income may be a strong reason that forces students to give up and dropout. Sometimes, students have no desire for studies, have failed some subjects or have problems with some teachers and this is a third reason.

Students who fail to graduate from high school have a more difficult time finding a job; they may live in poor neighborhoods, with poor schools, high crime rates, and a lower quality of housing. They have less medical and dental care as they may also tend to have children who have less aspiration for education, or drop out themselves. The community is also negatively affected by drop outs, especially when the percentages are high. Such a community sees higher crime rates, especially delinquency and drug related crime. They may experience other high risk behaviors such as alcohol abuse, drug use, and sexual activity.

### I- Comprehension:

#### 1. Decide whether the statements are true or false, justify your answers:

- A. Students may drop out because of problems at school.

.....

- B. The high dropout rate does not affect the community.

.....

#### 2. Answer the following questions from the text:

- A. Why do some parents encourage their children to leave school?
- B. What are some problems that face students who fail to graduate from high school?

## READING COMPREHENSION 5

## The Newspaper

The newspaper, as its name suggests, is a source of news. It gives detailed information of all the events happening in one's country and in the entire world. The newspaper publishes articles on politics, commerce, economy, sports, business, society, art and entertainment.

Today, the newspaper still holds a very important place because of the many advantages it has. First, it is very practical, people can take it with them anywhere they go and read it anytime during the day. Second, people everywhere are informed about the most important events in the world very quickly and almost at the same time. Third, the newspaper helps the development of our knowledge. By reading it, people learn many interesting things. They enrich their vocabulary, develop their minds and points of view. Fourth, the newspaper is an important means of advertisement. People can find out about jobs, houses, apartments, or objects they want to buy. Finally, people have the choice to read about different subjects and topics, such as: sports, music, science, culture, etc...

In brief, the newspaper continues to be an important means of information.

**I- Comprehension:**

1. Are the following statements true or false, justify your answers:

A. The newspaper publishes articles on different topics.  
.....

B. People are free to choose what they want to read.  
.....

2. Answer the following questions from the text:

A. How is the newspaper an important means of advertisement?

B. What are some advantages of reading the newspaper?

**II- Vocabulary / Functions:**

1. Fill in the blank with the appropriate word:

multimedia room- break time- boarding school - school yard

A. Students play in the ..... during the .....

B. .... is a school where students study and live.

C. Students can surf on the net as there is a ..... at school.

2. In your opinion what is the best means of information, TV, internet or newspaper and why? (Use expressions of opinion)

## READING COMPREHENSION 6

## E-mails: a sign of progress or of laziness?

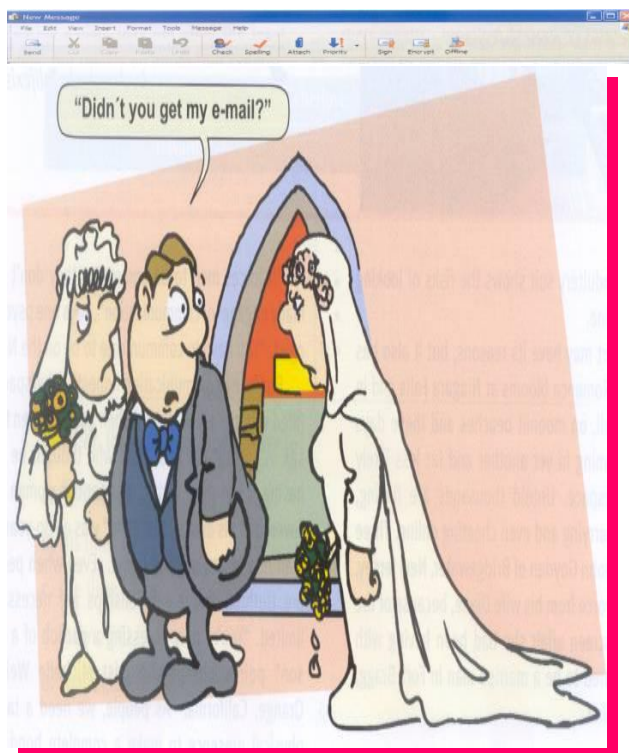
Ten years ago, e-mails were considered a very sophisticated method of communication. Nowadays, however, e-mail messaging has become a normal way of communicating, not only between working people but also between people at home. Text messaging and chatting on a mobile phone are still the most frequent methods of communication among teenagers, but e-mails are fast becoming more and more common in this age group.

This little flying yellow envelope on the screen changed the world of communication.

Words like stamps, post office or postman no longer belong to a teenager's vocabulary. New words are born: e-mail, sent items, received items, recipient, attachment... and symbols too. These words have replaced the old ones. Your pen friend, or should we say key pal, is only a click away.

Nevertheless, not everyone approves of the spread of e-mails. Teachers are in two minds. On the one hand, it is good that students spend a lot more of their free time exchanging e-mails and as a result get more practice at writing. On the other hand, there is very little attention to correct spelling, punctuation and grammar. What is more, e-mails tend to be very sloppy. Many older people, who are more used to formal business letters, feel also that the style of writing is too informal. For instance, it is quite common to use first names even though one has never met the person.

I would say that e-mails are a good invention although they will probably never replace either telephone calls or ordinary letters. As far as I am concerned, they are just another, very efficient, means of communication.



## I- Comprehension :

A. Now find in Text A words that mean the same as:

1. complex/ complicated (parag. 1)
2. a person who receives something (parag. 2)
3. the act of joining one thing to another (parag. 2)
4. increase/ expansion (parag. 3)
5. careless (parag. 3)

B. Now reread *Text A* and say whether these statements are True or False. Correct the false ones using your own words.

1. E-mail writing became a very popular method of communication as soon as it was introduced.
2. Teenagers no longer use words connected with traditional mailing.
3. The increasing use of e-mail writing is a controversial issue.
4. One of the advantages of e-mail writing for teachers is that students improve their spelling, punctuation and grammar.
5. Addressing a person we have never met before by his/her first name shows the degree of informality used in e-mail writing.

## Text 1

The flight of human capital, as it is also called, is a controversial issue in North- South debates. The fierce competition among Northern companies and universities for top researchers, engineers, medical professionals and managers has been compared to football team transfers where the star player goes to the highest bidder. In today's knowledge society, although the one-way ticket still reigns (especially to the United States), globalization has made temporary workflows almost commonplace." Brain exchange" allows sending and receiving countries alike to benefit from the specialized experience of expatriate professionals. The role of overseas Indian technicians in building Information and Communication Technology ( ICT ) industries in Bangalore, India, is a textbook example.

Source :<http://www.unesco.org/new/en/social-and-human-sciences/themes/social-transformations/international-migration/>

## Text 2

Today, although most students in our country complete school, a large number still drop out for many reasons. Most students do so because of family problems. Girls, especially, want to get married and start a family. Some parents are not interested in education and do not support their children in studying. Social problems are also a contributing factor. Education is compulsory but, despite this, some people do not take it seriously. Furthermore, jobs are available even if students do not have a good education. Another reason is work pressure. Some families are poor and need their children to work in order to increase the income. All these problems will create young people who do not have any skills, and who will not be able to improve their lives for the family and the country.

Source: <http://www.writefix.com/argument/earllyschoolleavers.htm>

## Text 3

African Heads of State and Government signalled the key role of science and technology in development by devoting their January 2007 African Union Summit to this theme. Equally notable, in its 2004 to 2007 Plan of Action, the African Union Commission aimed to promote human resource development, capacity building and science and technology as tools for socio-economic development. It also aimed at enabling Africa to harness and apply science, technology and related innovations to achieve sustainable development, and to ensure that Africa contributes to the global pool of scientific knowledge and technological innovation.

Source : [http://www.uneca.org/sciencewithafrica/swa1/content/gkp-ES\\_Statement\\_to\\_SwA-en.pdf](http://www.uneca.org/sciencewithafrica/swa1/content/gkp-ES_Statement_to_SwA-en.pdf)

## I- Comprehension :

## A. MATCH THE MAIN IDEAS WITH THE CORRESPONDING TEXTS: (3 POINTS)

Main topic	Text number
School drop out	
Brain drain	
Science and Technology in Africa	

## B. ARE THESE SENTENCES TRUE OR FALSE? CIRCLE T OR F ; AND JUSTIFY (3 POINTS)

1. The immigration of educated people is not a debatable topic between the North and South countries. (text 1)  
- T / F :

.....  
.....  
.....

2. Because some jobs are accessible, some students do not need to continue their studies.

- T / F:

.....  
.....  
.....

3. Science and technology are crucial for African development.

- T / F :

.....  
.....  
.....

**C. ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS: (4 POINTS)**

1. What do Northern companies and universities compete for? (1pt )

- .....

2. State the two objectives of the African Union Commission. (1pt)

- .....

.....

3. Do all students in Morocco complete their education? Explain (2pts)

- .....

.....

**D. FIND IN THE TEXTS WORDS OR EXPRESSIONS THAT MEAN THE SAME AS: (3 POINTS)**

1. discussions (text 1): ..... 2. accessible (text 2): .....
3. remarkable (text 3) : .....

**E. WHAT DO THE UNDERLINED WORDS IN THE TEXT REFER TO ? (2 POINTS)**

- a - **so** ( text 2, line 2) ..... b - **its** ( text 3, line 2) .....



Biologically, there is only one quality which distinguishes us from animals: the ability to laugh. In a universe which appears to be utterly devoid of humour, we enjoy this supreme luxury. And it is a luxury, for unlike any other bodily process, laughter does not seem to serve a biologically useful purpose. In a divided world, laughter is a unifying force. Human beings oppose each other on a great many issues. Nations may disagree about systems of government and human relations may be plagued by ideological factions and political camps, but we all share the ability to laugh. And laughter, in turn, depends on that most complex and subtle of all human qualities: a sense of humour. Certain comic stereotypes have a universal appeal.

Humour helps us maintain a correct sense of values. If we can see the funny side, we never make the mistake of taking ourselves too seriously. The sense of humour must be singled out as man's most important quality because it is associated with laughter. And laughter, in turn, is associated with happiness. Courage, determination, initiative - these are qualities we share with other forms of life. But the sense of humour is uniquely human. If happiness is one of the great goals of life, then it is the sense of humour that provides the key.

### I- COMPREHENSION

#### A. Answer these questions

1. Give a title to the text. .... (1 point)
2. What disturbs human relationship? (1 point)  
.....  
.....
3. What is the function of humour in our lives? (1 point)  
.....
4. What is the key for happiness? (1 point)  
.....

#### B. Are these sentences True or False? JUSTIFY.

1. To laugh is a common quality for all human beings. (1 point)  
.....
2. Being too serious is a mistake. (1 point)  
.....
3. The sense of humour is common for all creatures. (1 point)  
.....

#### C. What do the underlined words in the text refer to?

1. "it" (paragraph 2) ..... (0,5 point)
2. "these" (paragraph 2) ..... (0,5 point)

**D. Pick out from the text expressions or phrases which show that:**

1. Laughter is a human particularity (1 point)

.....

2. People do their best to be happy in life (1 point)

.....



## READING COMPREHENSION 9

## The Wise Men

One day some wise men, who were going about the country trying to find answers to some of the great questions of their time, came to Nasreddin's district and asked to see the wisest man in the place. Nasreddin was brought forward, and a big crowd gathered to listen.

The first wise man began by asking, "Where is the exact centre of the world?"

*"It is under my right heel," answered Nasreddin.*

*"How can you prove that?" asked the first wise man.*

*"If you don't believe me," answered Nasreddin, "measure and see."*

The first wise man had nothing to answer to that, so the second wise man asked his question.

*"How many stars are there in the sky?" he said.*

*"As many as there are hairs on my donkey," answered Nasreddin.*

*"What proof have you got of that?" asked the second wise man.*

*"If you don't believe me," answered Nasreddin, "count the hairs on my donkey and you will see."*

*"That's foolish talk," said the other. "How can one count the hairs on a donkey?"*

*"Well," answered Nasreddin, "how can one count the stars in the sky? If one is foolish talk, so is the other."*

*The second wise man was silent.*

The third wise man was becoming annoyed with Nasreddin and his answers, so he said, "You seem to know a lot about your donkey, so can you tell me how many hairs there are in its tail?"

*"Yes," answered Nasreddin. "There are exactly as many hairs in its tail as there are in your beard."*

*"How can you prove that?" said the other.*

*"I can prove it very easily," answered Nasreddin. "You can pull one hair out of my donkey's tail for everyone I pull out of your beard. If the hairs on my donkey's tail do not come to an end at exactly the same time as the hairs in your beard, I will admit that I was wrong."*

Of course, the third wise man was not willing to do this, so the crowd declared Nasreddin the winner of the day's arguments.

### I- COMPREHENSION:

#### I. Answer the following questions using your own words (3 points)

- ◆ How many wise men asked Nasreddin?

.....

- ◆ How many people were present at the discussion?

.....

- ◆ Is Nasreddin stupid when he was answering the wise?

.....

#### II. Are the following statements TRUE or FALSE? Justify your answer. (3 points)

- a. The wise men checked that the centre of the world was exactly under Nasreddin's right heel

.....

- b. The stars in the sky are calculated using a donkey's measure:

.....

- c. Nasreddin and the wise men had a donkey

.....

**III. Circle the right answer. Only one choice is correct. (1.5 points)**

**1. Some wise men were travelling around the country trying to find**

- a. answers to Nasreddin's questions.*
- b. answers to important issues of their age.*
- c. answers to issues on donkeys' lives.*

**2. Some wise men thought that Nasreddin was trying**

- a. to answer their questions seriously.*
- b. to answer their questions stupidly.*
- c. to answer their questions by cheating them.*

**3. According to Nasreddin, donkey's tails and beards**

- a. have the same amount of hairs.*
- b. have similar amount of hairs.*
- c. have the same amount of stars.*

READING COMPREHENSION 10

Eating Habits

Bad eating habits cause obesity. People get fat when the body takes more calories than it uses. This means that extra calories are stored as extra fat. An obese person is the one who has large amounts of extra fat. People who are obese are very overweight and at the risk of serious health problems.

So, what we eat and drink can affect our health. Thus, we all need sport to feel good. In fact, playing sports can increase our energy levels, and help us feel better emotionally. Another way to keep your body in shape is a "balanced diet." It means that we need to eat varied and rich food. In fact a balanced diet has many benefits: can help you grow properly, keep a healthy weight, and reduce the risk of getting ill.

In conclusion, both exercising and going on a diet are good ways to stay in good health.

I- Comprehension: (6 pts)

A. Are these statements true or false? justify your answer.

1. Obesity is the result of good eating habits

.....

2. Obese people are in good health

.....

3. Diet has no benefits

.....

B. Read the text and answer the following questions:

1. How can we avoid obesity?

.....  
.....  
.....

2. What does 'balanced diet' mean?

.....  
.....  
.....

3. How do people get fat?

.....  
.....  
.....

People need to be active to be healthy. Our modern lifestyle and all the conveniences we've become used to have made us sedentary - and that's dangerous for our health. Sitting around in front of the TV or the computer, riding in the car for even a short trip to the store and using elevators instead of stairs or ramps all contribute to our inactivity. Physical inactivity is as dangerous to our health as smoking! Add up your activities during the day in periods of at least 10 minutes each. Start slowly ... and build up. If you're already doing some light activities move up to more moderate ones. A little is good, but more is better if you want to achieve health benefits.

Scientists say accumulate 60 minutes of physical activity every day to stay healthy or improve your health. Time needed depends on effort - as you progress to moderate activities, you can cut down to thirty minutes, four days a week. Physical activity doesn't have to be very hard to improve your health. This goal can be reached by building physical activities into your daily routine. Just add up in periods of at least ten minutes each throughout the day. After three months of regular physical activity, you will notice a difference - people often say getting started is the hardest part.

*Physiology, Ottawa, Ontario, 1998*

### I- COMPREHENSION:

#### A/ Answer these questions :

(4.5pts)

1- Why do people need to keep healthy?

.....  
.....

2- What' s as dangerous to our health as smoking?

.....  
.....

3- How long do you need to exercise to stay healthy?

.....  
.....

#### B/ Are these sentences true or False ? Justify :

(2pts)

1- You must exercise very hard to stay healthy .....

.....

2- Modern lifestyle makes people very active .....

.....

#### C/ Find in the text words or expressions meaning the same as the following :

(2.5pts)

3- Become better : .....

4- Fit : .....

5- The most difficult : .....

6- Shop : .....

7- Begin : .....

Thanksgiving is celebrated in the USA and Canada. In The USA, it is celebrated on the fourth Thursday in November every year. The Canadians celebrate it on the second Monday in October. It is associated with giving thanks to God. In the beginning people expressed gratitude for the harvest they reaped. It used to be a religious holiday but now it has become a secular celebration. The most important part of the celebration is the dinner which includes the customary turkey served with cranberry sauce, and pumpkin. A lot of business goes on during this holiday. For example, restaurants take advantage of the holiday to sell turkey dinners.

Families and friends usually get together for a large meal or dinner during Thanksgiving and have a lot of fun. That's why, the Thanksgiving holiday weekend is considered one of the busiest travel periods of the year. Students are given a four-day or five-day weekend vacation. Thanksgiving is also a paid holiday for most workers.

### I- Comprehension :

#### A- Read the text and choose the right answer:

*The origin of the name "Thanksgiving" comes from:*

- a- thanks given to God
- b- thanks given for the help the early settlers got from each other.

#### B- Say true or false. Justify

1) Thanksgiving is a vacation for everybody.

.....  
.....

2) The main food prepared in this celebration is cranberry sauce and pumpkin.

.....  
.....

3) Thanksgiving is celebrated only in the United States.

.....  
.....

#### C- Answer these questions

1) When is thanksgiving celebrated?

.....  
.....

2) What are the activities in this celebration?

.....  
.....

3) Why is thanks giving a good period for restaurants?

.....  
.....

**D- Find in the text words meaning the same as**

- 1) moments (paragraph3)= .....
- 2) habitual (paragraph2)=.....
- 3) The feeling of being grateful and wanting to express thanks. (paragraph 1)=.....

Christmas which is celebrated on December 25th is an important Christian holiday. The origin of the word "Christmas" comes from "Christ" and the "Holy. Mass». It is believed that the day commemorates the birth of Jesus Christ although a lot of people doubt that the Day corresponds to the actual date of his birth. In spite of its Christian origin, Christmas is also celebrated by a lot of non Christian countries and the celebration includes a lot of non religious customs. People exchange gifts and greeting cards. Homes are decorated with Christmas trees, light and garlands. Dinners are planned with special food and all the families gather to have a lot of fun.

A central imaginary figure in Christmas is Father Christmas, also called Santa Claus. He is believed to fly on his sleigh bringing gifts for children. **Santa Claus**, also known as Saint Nicholas, Father Christmas, Kris Kringle, or simply "Santa", is a figure which was derived from the Dutch figure of Sinterklaas, a historical, legendary and mythological figure who in many Western cultures, is said to bring gifts to the homes of the good children during the late evening and overnight hours of Christmas Eve, December 24 or on his Feast Day, December 6 (Saint Nicholas Day). The legend is based on the tales concerning the historical figure of gift giver Saint Nicholas.

today Santa Claus is generally depicted as a plump, jolly, white-bearded man wearing a red coat with white collar and cuffs, white-cuffed red trousers, and black leather belt and boots (images of him rarely have a beard with no moustache). This image became popular in the United States and Canada in the nineteenth century.

Christmas is also an opportunity for economic growth. It has become an important period for business activity. Shops make a lot of profit and a lot of countries realized this economic impact.

### I- Comprehension:

#### A- Say true or false then Justify

1- *Christmas is celebrated only in Christian countries.*

.....  
 .....

2- *We are not sure about the exact date of the date of the birth of Christ.*

.....  
 .....

3- *Children believe that Santa Claus comes on foot?*

.....  
 .....

#### B- Answer these questions

1- *Who is Santa Claus?*

.....  
 .....

2- *What does Christmas celebrate?*

.....  
.....

3- *What does Santa Claus wear?*

.....  
.....

4- *What do people exchange in Christmas?*

.....  
.....

C- Find in the text words or expressions meaning the same as:

- *Presents (paragraph1) = .....*
- *Get together (paragrapg1) = .....*
- *Benefit (paragraph4) = .....*



READING COMPREHENSION 14

Pollution

Pollution is one of the most dangerous problems in the world. Day after day, it is growing and making a serious troublemaker for nature. It is of several types. What are its causes and its consequences?

Pollution is a serious menace threatening all creatures. It includes air pollution, water and soil one. Some air pollutants have reduced the capacity of the atmosphere to filter out the sun harmful ultraviolet radiation. This problem is a result of large quantity of gases and smoke of cars and factories. Factories always spill industrial chemicals such as metals, oils and other substances in water. These wastes harm many plants, animals, and Man in particular.

Human beings are the first victims of pollution. In many countries of the world, governments work hard to put an end to its dangers. Numerous members of international associations attempt to protect the earth resources. The important solution is to make people aware of the pollution threat. Then, to reduce using cars and all sorts of damaging technology is of equal weight.

I- COMPREHENSION:

A- Answer these questions according to the text: ( 3 pts )

1. What sorts of pollution are listed in the text?

.....  
.....  
.....

2. What are the causes of pollution?

.....  
.....  
.....

3. How can we reduce pollution?

.....  
.....  
.....

B- Find out synonyms of these words from the text: ( 2 pts )

A. Increasing = .....

B. dangerous = .....

C. hurt = .....

D. Destroying = .....

Educating girls offers many benefits to current and future generations. Yet, in many developing countries, girls illiteracy still remains a serious problem because it is often considered an obstacle to social and economic development. Over 120 million children of primary school age are not at school. The majority are girls, and Nora is one of them.

Nora can hardly read and write. The eleven-year-old girl is the youngest child in a poor family living in rural India. She left school two years ago. Her father thought it would be better for her to spent time looking after the family's sheeps and doing the housework.

Nora's previous teacher tried to convince her father to send her back to school, but the later refused. "This is the way it has always been, and it will not change", her father said. "I didn't study myself. We are poor people." Government encouragements in the form of books, scholarships, uniforms and even meals had made no difference. A lifelong fight to survive marked by poverty and ignorance has solidified their views.

The boys in the village attend school every day. They pass by Nora who walks the small road alongside her sheeps. "The boys mock me", she says, her big eyes full of sadness. She wished she could go with them. "When I was younger, I thought I'd study well and get a job. I really wanted to be a teacher. Now I just follow the sheeps."

Nora has little hope for her own future. Like her mother and her grandmother, she will spend her life working in the fields and around the house. She has seen the value of education, and has a different dream for her own children. "I will let my children study," she promised. Perhaps it is not too late even for her. Many girls in India start school at a later age. With support from programs organised by the Indian government and international institutions, she may yet one day join the boys on their daily walk to school.

### I- Comprehension:

A- Which of the following would be the best title for the passage:

- 1) The story of Nora's father.
- 2) The problem of Nora's education
- 3) Poverty in Nora's village

B- Are these statements True or False? Justify:

- 1) Nora has never attended school.

.....  
 .....

- 2) Nora's father refused sending her to school.

.....  
 .....

3) **Nora's father was illiterate**

.....  
.....

**C- Answer the following questions from the text:**

1) **What does the government offer to encourage girls to attend school?**

.....  
.....

2) **How does Nora feel when boys pass by her on their way to school?**

.....  
.....

3) **What is Nora's dream?**

.....  
.....

## READING COMPREHENSION 16

## Text:

Despite the provisions of the New Family Code, child marriages are on the rise in Morocco. The Moudawana raised the minimum marriage age from 14 to 18 and required a judge's approval for marriage with a minor. Still, five years after the Family Code became law, 33,253 females below the age of 18 got married. There were nearly 3,000 more child brides in 2009 than during the previous year, the Social Development Ministry reported.

Even though the practice is sustained by long-standing traditions, it is time for the government to take responsibility and bring an end to the phenomenon, MP Farida Naimi said at a November 23rd plenary session at the Chamber of Councillors. Justice Minister Mohamed Naciri acknowledged that the reality speaks for itself in a number of Moroccan regions where parents marry their daughters off at traditional weddings (through the ritual of fatiha). "In some places, girls aged 13 or 14 who are still single are regarded as old maids."

The problem lies not in the legal domain but in people's attitudes, according to the minister. In several cases, judges are forced to give their approval in order to legalise traditional marriages for girls who are already pregnant. As such, a solution to the problem necessitates social development, especially in terms of education.

Tradition alone doesn't explain the persistence of underage marriages. Poverty is also a factor, said sociologist Ahmed Mrani. Many parents in rural areas prefer to marry off their daughters at an early age because "it means one mouth less to feed". In his view, the better off families become, the less they will allow their young daughters to wed. To tackle this phenomenon, efforts must be made to encourage development in even the most remote regions, and access to education must be guaranteed, Mrani argued. Civil society and the media also have important roles to play in raising awareness and highlighting the damaging effects of this practice, he noted.

There are many alarming cases. At the age of 24, Salima N. is already divorced and a mother of three children aged four, six and eight. Her childhood and life were destroyed at the age of 15, she said, when she married a 38-year-old man. "I was humiliated in all sorts of ways. I didn't understand my role as a spouse or mother. After six years of marriage, I felt worn out. I dared to demand a divorce after several years of suffering," she told Magharebia.

**I- Comprehension:****A- Give a title to the text (1 point)**

.....

**B- Complete these statements from the text (2 points)**

- The new family code rose the minimum marriage age to 18; however .....

.....

- The richer families are.....

.....

**C- Are these statements true or false? Justify (2 points)**

1- In 2008, there were less child marriages than in the following year.

.....

2- The poorer parents are, the more likely they are to marry their daughters at an early age.

.....

**D- Answer the following questions from the text (2 points)**

1- List the main factors leading to underage marriage.

.....

.....

.....

2- How can the problem of underage marriage in Morocco be solved?

.....

.....

.....

**E- Pick out from the text statements which show that (2 points)**

1- Underage marriage is increasing.

.....

2- If the parents are educated, they won't marry their daughters early

.....

**F- What do the underlined words in the text refer to? (1 points)**

1- The previous year: .....

2- This practice: .....

**G- Find in the text words matching these definitions. (2 points)**

Allowed to continue (paragraph2): .....

Continuity (paragraph 4): .....

READING COMPREHENSION 17

Text:

We thought that a computer would be an ideal gift for our three-year-old son because it would be educational. My husband, Jeff, brought one home and set it up on the table in the living-room.

Switching on the machine, Jeff started to play the space-invaders game that came with it. I joined in, competing against him. It was good fun for half an hour but then I grew bored and watched TV instead. However, Jeff remained glued to the screen for the whole evening, and the next day he stayed up until 2 a.m. From then on, first thing every morning he sat at the computer, eating cornflakes while he played. At night I'd cook a meal and he'd eat it without stopping. He stopped talking to me and to our little boy, Owen, and lost interest in everything else. When he wasn't asleep or at work he played games. He'd stay up until 3 a.m. becoming exhausted but unable to tear himself away. He could hardly go to work in the morning.

One day, he arrived home unexpectedly and said he had lost his job. The factory manager had complained about his lateness and Jeff had been dismissed. Now he could play his computer games all day without work getting in the way. I struggled to do everything in the house. Jeff didn't lift a finger to help, nor did he search for work. Yet before the computer came he had been very considerate. We survived on 77 pounds a fortnight. Yet from time to time he spent 20 pounds on a new game.

I- Comprehension:

A- Answer these questions: (6pts)

1- Why was Jeff attracted by the computer?

.....  
.....

2- How did he lose his job?

.....  
.....

3- Why was it difficult for Jeff to go to work in the morning?

.....  
.....

B- ARE THESE SENTENCES TRUE OR FALSE? JUSTIFY. (3pts)

1. Jeff bought the computer for himself.

.....

2. He helped his wife from time to time.

.....

C- Complete these sentences: (3pts)

1) Jeff's wife stopped playing with him because.....

2) After being dismissed from work? Jeff could.....

READING COMPREHENSION 18

# The World Of Bees

The most active insects are bees. They live in communities in hives or in nature . There are about 50.000 bees in a hive .

Inside the hive , we can find three kinds of bees: the queen , the workers and the males(drones). There are about 200 to 300males in a hive. The queen is bigger than the others and the male is darker.

At birth, the first queen kills the other queens then flies up with a lot of males. One of them flies higher than the others and fecundates her. Then , the queen flies back to the hive and lays one egg in every cell. After 15, 21 or 24 days , the eggs become respectively queens , workers or males.

In spring , the workers are busier than in other seasons because there are a lot of flowers.

- From birth to the third day, the workers stay in the hive and clean it.
- From the third to the tenth day , they feed the young bees in the cells.
- From the eleventh to the seventeenth day , they store up pollen and honey in different cells. Then they make wax and use it to seal the cells.
- From the eighteenth day to the twentieth , they become guards.
- Finally , when they are three weeks old , they fly out and gather pollen and nectar from flowers.

There are not many males in the hive because the workers kill them in winter because they are not useful.

## I- Comprehension:

*A- Read the text and answer the questions:*

1-Where do bees live?

.....

2-How many kinds of bees are there?

.....

3-Which is more *active*, the drones or the workers?

.....

4-Who fecundates *the* queen ?

.....

*B- Read the text again and complete the table.*

	<i>Approximate number</i>	<i>activities</i>
<i>Drones.</i>	.....	.....
<i>Workers</i>	.....	..... ..... ..... ..... .....
<i>Queens</i>	.....	..... .....



Dropping out of school is a serious problem in Morocco. Each year, nearly 200,000 children leave school before completing their primary education. A new government initiative in Morocco offers some measures to reduce the number of students who withdraw from school. This initiative is part of an awareness campaign targeting parents.

Researchers and government officials largely attribute the phenomenon to the ignorance of poor parents who do not realise the importance of education. Some parents, for example, withdraw their children from school due to the competing demands for household income which often push children to work. Drop-out rates are higher among children of illiterate parents. These rates can be reduced if we sensitise parents about the importance of sending their children to school. In 2006, Morocco launched a number of awareness campaigns to address this growing problem. These campaigns aim at introducing a national programme which encourages school children to make a list of non-registered children and children who dropped out. More than 14,000 teachers and headmasters will also be responsible for implementing this plan.

The initiative is considered a logical one because it will get children who have dropped out back into the school system, and it will act as a preventive measure because it raises students' awareness to the negative consequences of dropping out. The initiative was tested last year in a few regions. Fatima Lharti, a twelve-year-old school girl from Tangiers, says she managed to stop approximately one dozen children dropping out and persuaded a number of others who had already dropped out to come back to school. "When they hear children - the same age as their own- talking about the consequences of taking their children out of school, most of them come around within a few minutes," Fatima proudly told Magharebia website reporter.

Samir El Garoumi missed a year of school to work for his family. He is now back in school and has struck a healthy balance between work and studies. In the morning, he goes to school and in the evening, he helps his father in his workshop. This year, he is taking part in the initiative to make a list of children who are not in school. He also advises parents in his family circle to allow their children to finish their education.

(Adapted from: ([www.magharebia.com](http://www.magharebia.com)))

## I- Comprehension:

### A- This text is taken from:

- 4- A magazine
- 5- The internet
- 6- A newspaper

### B- Find the synonyms of the following words:

- Minimize (para 1)= .....
- Money we get from work or an investment (para 2)= .....
- Participating (para 4)= .....

### C- Say whether these statements are true or false, justify your answer:

- 1- The programme encourages parents to make lists of children who have dropped out of school.
- .....

.....  
2- Fatima lharti convinced nearly one dozen children to stay at school.  
.....  
.....

3- Samir studies and helps his father as well.  
.....  
.....

**D- Answer the following questions:**

1- How many students drop out of primary school in Morocco every year?  
.....  
.....

2- Why do poor parents withdraw their children from school?  
.....  
.....

3- How can drop out rates be reduced?  
.....  
.....

**E- Complete the following sentences:**

1- Fatima lharti found it difficult to .....  
.....

2- As a preventive measure, the initiative aims at .....  
.....  
.....

**F- What do the following underlined words or expressions in the text refer to ?**

- 1- The phenomenon: .....
- 2- They: .....
- 3- He: .....

Preparation for citizenship has traditionally been carried out through formal educational programmes in schools and almost always through the social subjects' area of the curriculum. Citizenship education has typically been embedded in courses of study in history and civics in most nations and has for the most part focused upon developing a knowledge base about how government and other institutions in any given state work, and the rights and duties of citizens with respect to the state. It has been oriented largely toward the development of a national identity.

At one point, when the world was a simpler place, this conceptualization of citizenship may have served us well: but this is no longer the case. The complexity and interconnectedness of the challenges and issues facing us in the twenty first century simply cannot be met through conventional means. What we need is a new vision of citizenship education, one in which both the school and the communities it serves are equal partners in the education of each new generation of citizens. It calls for a citizen education which embraces many interconnected dimensions; personal, social and global.

Modern political systems depend for their successful functioning upon a conception of citizenship. It can be explicitly spelled out in constitution, a bill of rights or some similar documents, or it can be left implicit within national traditions and institutions. Usually it is a combination of both explicit prescription and implicit practice. But whichever is the case, any conception of citizenship contains a conception of the knowledge, skills, values and dispositions that, ideally, citizens should possess.

These attributes of citizenship will vary according to the nature of the political system of which they are a part, but in general terms they can be classified into five categories: (1) a sense of identity, (2) the enjoyment of certain rights, (3) the fulfillment of corresponding obligations, (4) a degree of interest and involvement in public affairs, and (5) an acceptance of basic societal values. All five are conveyed through a wide variety of institutions, both governmental and non-governmental, including the media and especially the system of schooling. Citizenship education then, in the broadest sense, is an important task in all contemporary societies.

**I) Comprehension: (15pts)**

**A. Say whether the following statements are TRUE or FALSE. Justify your answer. (3pts)**

1. The writer thinks that the way citizenship has been taught is not suitable at present.

.....  
.....  
.....

2. Schools and communities are not of the same importance in serving citizens.

.....  
.....  
.....

3. The attributes of citizenships are the same for all the political systems.

.....  
.....  
.....

**B. Find words in the text that mean the same as: (4pts)**

1. **Conservative** (paragraph 2): .....
2. **At the same time** (paragraph 2): .....
3. **Notion** (paragraph 3): .....
4. **Qualities** (paragraph 4): .....

**C. Complete the following sentences according to the ideas contained in the text. (3pts)**

1. In the past citizenship used to .....some school subjects.
2. Because the world is a no simpler place .....
3. Citizenship must be responsible for .....  
concerning politics.

**D. Answer the following question using your own words. (3pts)**

4. What school subjects has citizenship been included?
5. What new vision of citizenship the writer thinks is needed in our contemporary world?
6. Why do you think citizenship education is very important?

**E. What do the underlined words refer to? (2pts)**

1. It (paragraph 2)
2. They (paragraph 4)

## READING COMPREHENSION 21

## Television: Benefits and side Effects

## TEXT 1

Steve, 13

I love TV. The first thing I do when I wake up is to switch it on. My favourite channel is the Cartoon Network.

I watch TV three to four hours a day. My parents think it is too much and they are always telling me to do something else like studying, reading or doing a sport, but TV is my favourite hobby and I don't feel like doing anything else. Of course I know that my marks at school would be better if I concentrated more on schoolwork and took more time to do my homework, but I guess I'm addicted to my favourite programmes. Anyway, I have already promised my parents to watch less TV every day. I guess I'll have to go earlier to bed...

## TEXT 2

Kate, 14

I think TV has become a great source of information. I know most teens don't like watching the news, but I do. I like to know what is happening around our world. I also enjoy documentaries, especially about wildlife. I'm very curious about the way animals live and what is being done to preserve their species. I always have a lot of fun watching TV. Another great thing about TV is that I can listen to my favourite music and watch the video clips at the same time. I also enjoy watching live shows and films, mostly comedy and thrillers, though I also like watching dramas now and then. I watch TV two to three hours a day.

## TEXT 3

Rachel, 17

I like TV as everybody else, but since I have done some research work for school I've become more selective about the programmes I watch. I like watching the news and some game shows like "Who wants to be a millionaire?", so I don't really spend too much time in front of the box, an hour or two a day... I'm more aware now of the good and not so good effects of TV. Some programmes are educational and help us to develop and use our imagination, but many are full of violence. There are also so many soaps and reality shows that make people forget that there is a real world out there to experience.

## I- Comprehension:

A. Go through the texts and say who these statements refer to by ticking [] the appropriate box(es).

	STEVE	KATE	RACHEL
1) He/She is a selective viewer.			
2) He/She refers to the positive and negative effects of TV.			
3) He/She watches the news.			
4) He/She is the one who spends more hours a day watching TV.			
5) He/she loves watching her/his favourite singers/bands on TV.			
6) He/she could be a better student if he/she watched less TV.			

B. Now reread Steve's opinion and choose the right option according to the text.

1. Steve \_\_\_ watching cartoons.

- a) doesn't mind
- b) loves
- c) hates



2. Steve's parents would like him to \_\_\_.

- a) find another hobby besides TV
- b) spend some more time with watching educational programmes
- c) go to bed earlier

3. He \_\_\_ because he can't miss his favourite programmes.

- a) finds it easy to concentrate on schoolwork
- b) finds it difficult to concentrate on his studies
- c) doesn't want to go to school

4. From now on, Steve \_\_\_.

- a) won't watch so much TV
- b) will watch even more TV
- c) will spend the same number of hours in front of the box

D. Re-read Kate and Rachel's opinions and complete these sentences.

1. Kate enjoys \_\_\_\_\_ although most teens \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. She also loves watching documentaries on wildlife because \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ are Kate's favourite types of films.

4. The research work Rachel has done for school influenced \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Of the three teenagers, Rachel is the one who \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

6. In Rachel's opinion, one of the benefits of TV is that

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ ; however, it also has disadvantages, as for example,

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

E. Reread Kate's opinion and find words/expressions in the text that mean the same as these.

1. excellent = .....
2. aren't keen on = .....
3. be informed about = .....
4. interested in = .....
5. crime stories = .....
6. once in a while = .....

F. Now reread Steve's opinion and say what these words refer to in the text.

1. it (line 1) .....
2. it (line 3) .....
3. me (line 4) .....
4. my (line 8) .....



## TEXT 1

Chloe, 14

I used to spend like 3 hours every day using IM to speak with my friends on the Internet before I accepted the challenge. I also used to do all the research for any school project on the Internet and play virtual games. So you can certainly say it has been extremely difficult for me to live without my laptop! It's been a week since the start of the challenge and I haven't talked to my friends in Australia and Canada. I haven't fed my virtual horses for a week. But there are three positive things: I've already read two books and I've found out that the school library is a great place to do research and be with friends. And of course I've spent more time with my family!

## TEXT 2

David, 14

I wanted to show my parents that it was easy for me to forget about my iPod for a fortnight. Well... it hasn't been a piece of cake! I used to do everything while listening to music: homework, football practice, studying, going to school... I used to listen to singers and bands I liked. Now it's impossible because we can't exactly choose the music on the radio or the TV channel! I'm going to give up the challenge, but I haven't called the magazine yet.

## TEXT 3

Lucas, 15

I've a mobile phone since I was 8 years old. I do lots of things with it: play games, listen to music and the radio, take pictures and make videos... I also talk to my friends but mainly I send and receive messages! Texting friends is a lot cheaper than calling them. The first week of the challenge was hard! But I've just found the perfect way to win the challenge: I've told my friends to come to my house after school and for the weekend too. It's been great because now I know that being with my friends is a lot better than texting them!

**I- Comprehension:**

**A. Go through the texts and say who these statements refer to by ticking [] the appropriate box(es).**

	CHOLE	DAVID	LUCAS
1) He/She accepted the challenge to prove his parents that he could live without his favourite electronic device			
2) He/She used to spend a few hours a day chatting with his/her friends on Messenger.			
3) He/She has found out other good things to do.			
4) He/She no longer finds it difficult to be without his/her favourite gadget.			
5) He/she has friends abroad.			
6) He/she wants to be out of the challenge.			



**C. Re-read the text and complete these sentences.**

1. Chloe used the Internet for \_\_\_\_\_

2. In addition to going to the library, Chloe \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ because he can't choose the music he likes.

4. For Lucas, the great advantage of texting \_\_\_\_\_

5. Lucas \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ to make it easier for him \_\_\_\_\_

**D. Reread Chloe's opinion and find words/expressions in the text that mean the same as these.**

1. talk to = .....
2. investigation = .....
3. definitely = .....
4. hard = .....
5. beginning = .....
6. given food to = .....
7. given food to = .....

**E. Now reread David and Lucas's opinions and say what these words refer to in the text.**

1. it (line 2) \_\_\_\_\_

2. I (line 2) \_\_\_\_\_

**Lucas**

5. it (line 1) \_\_\_\_\_

6. my (line 3) \_\_\_\_\_

**Storyline:** *Jon thinks that his roommate is taking advantage of him. Terri suggests that Jon have a talk with his roommate to get things straight.*

Terri: How are things going with you and your roommate?

Jon: Not very well. We're supposed to share the groceries, but I end up feeding him three meals a day. My grocery bill is huge, you know. I really can't afford it any longer.

Terri: I know how you feel. I used to have a roommate like that. He never offered to pay for anything.

Jon: I'm really fed up with his freeloading, but I just don't know how to tell him that he should come up with half the grocery bill, because sometimes he treats me to a meal in a restaurant.

Terri: Well, honesty is the best policy. Maybe you just want to have a heart-to-heart, friend-to-friend talk with him. If he refuses to mend his ways, then ask him to move out. You can't let him wear out his welcome.

### I- Comprehension:

1) John has a problem with his friend because:

- a- He doesn't help in doing the housework
- b- He arrives late every night
- c- He doesn't pay his share

2) What is John doing in this dialogue?

- a/ apologizing    b/ complaining    c/ giving opinion

3) What is Jon complaining of?

4) Underline the things you find at the grocer's:

Spice – shoes – sugar- apples– vegetables - milk – salt – clothes - eggs – cleaning products – mobiles – candies

5) Fill in the chart with the right words:

Synonyms	opposites
a- Give food = .....	a- <b>Accept</b> ≠ .....
b- Profit = .....	b- Excited ≠ .....
c- A discussion = .....	c- Small ≠ .....
d- Bored = .....	
e- Improve = .....	

6) What are the things that usually make you fed up?

Respect of privacy underlies many aspects of British life. It is not just Privacy in your own home which is important, but the individual's right to keep information about himself or herself private is also important. Despite the increase in informality, it is still seen as rude to ask people what are called « personal » questions (for example, about how much money they earn or about their family life) unless you know **them** very well. Notice that conventional formula on being introduced to someone in Britain, « how do you do? » is not interpreted as a real request for information at all; the conventional reply is not to « answer the question » but to reply by saying « how do you do?».

The British are always talking about the weather. Unlike many people, **this stereotype** is actually true to life. But constant remarks about the weather at chance meetings are not the result of polite conventions. They are not obligatory. . Rather, they are the result of the fact that, on the one hand, to ask personal questions would be rude while, at the same time, silence also would be rude. The weather is a very convenient topic with which to « fill the gap ».

British people give a relatively high value to the everyday personal contacts that they make. It is certainly true that working man's club, or the numerous other clubs devoted to various sports and pastimes play a very important part in many people's lives. In **these places** people make contacts with other people who share some of the same interests and attitudes. For many people these contacts are an important part of their social identity. Another factor is work.. Many people make their social contacts through work and, partly as a result of this the profession or skill which they practise is also an important aspect of their sense of identity.

### I- Comprehension:

#### A- Are these sentences true or false? Justify (3 points)

- 1) Most British people are reserved.
- 2) Talking about the weather is a good way to start conversations in Britain
- 3) Personal contacts are not an example of British culture

#### B- Answer these questions according to the text: (3 points)

- 1) Why do British give priority to privacy?
- 2) For what reason do British people go to clubs?
- 3) In your opinion, do British people inside clubs talk about personal issues? why?

#### C -Complete the following sentences: (3 points)

- 1) In Britain the question « How do you do? » doesn't require..... .
- 2) In Britain, Keeping silent is also .....
- 3) British people make social contacts through.....and .....

**D- What do the underlined words in the text refer to? (3 points)**

- 1) them
- 2) this stereotype
- 3) these places

**V- Find in the text words or expressions meaning the same as (3 points)**

- 1) impolite ( paragraph 1)
- 2) answer ( paragraph 1)
- 3) component ( paragraph 3)

## READING COMPREHENSION 25

## Text

I am astonished every morning when I see the army of pre-school children, even infants, leaving their homes to be dropped off at day-care centers while their parents work. What has happened to the traditional family values of raising young children at home with a loving mother? In a single generation, most young mothers have gone off to work.

Today, new-borns are spending their waking hours cared for by workers who are not well paid and who have too many other children to take care of. Generally, the quality of day care is poor. And even when the children are sick, they are regularly sent to day care centers because no one is at home to take care of them; little children have to sit in front of a TV set all day.

Certainly, there are some circumstances, as in a single-parent family, where it is necessary for the mother to work and find someone else to care for a young child. More often, both parents are working not because they have to, but because they want a second car, a bigger house or apartment, an extravagant vacation ... The little children suffer as a result.

Psychologists tell us that the quality of nurturing during the child's earliest months and years determines the emotional health of the child and the adult he or she will become. For children to be separated from their parents is an emotional trauma. I fear for what this day-care generation will be like as adults and even as teenagers. I hope that the parents of young children will reconsider their consumer desires and go back to the traditional American family values. Young children belong at home with love, warmth, and the security of a parent to care for them.

**I- Comprehension:****A/ ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS. (5 pts)**

1- What do most parents do every morning before they go to work? (1 pt)

.....

2- Why is the quality of day care poor? (2 pts)

.....

3- According to the writer, is it necessary for all those parents to go out to work? Explain. (2 pts)

.....

**B/ ARE THESE SENTENCES TRUE OR FALSE? JUSTIFY. (2 pts)**

1- In a single-parent family, the mother needs someone to look after her young child.

.....

2- The writer is against keeping the traditional American family values.

.....

**C/ COMPLETE THESE SENTENCES. (2 pts)**

1-As there is no one to look after them, even sick children.....

2- According to psychologists, the child's emotional health depends on.....

**D/ WHAT DO THE UNDERLINED WORDS IN THE TEXT REFER TO? (4 pts)**

1. their (paragraph 1) refers to .....

2. they (paragraph 2) refers to .....

3. where (paragraph 3) refers to .....

4. he or she (paragraph 4) refers to .....

**E/ FIND EXPRESSIONS IN THE TEXT THAT MEAN THE SAME AS THE FOLLOWING. (2 pts)**

1. bringing up (paragraph 1) .....

2. look after (paragraph 2) .....

3. consequently (paragraph 3) .....

4. rethink (paragraph 4) .....

Twenty years ago, many university students believed that once they had graduated, their education was complete. They would get a job and all they had to do was to work hard with the same employer until it was time to retire and rest after long years of work. Today, work isn't like that. In the modern world, most young people must expect to change employers several times in their working lives. Many of them will possibly become self-employed, running their own businesses.

This means that throughout people's lives they will need to acquire new knowledge and skills from the time they leave full-time education until after they retire. This lifelong learning is necessary because the world of work is changing a lot faster than it used to. For example, nowadays employers often only employ staff on short-term contracts to complete a certain job. This keeps their costs down. Once the job is over, the employees have to look for another organization to employ them on other jobs.

Aisha, who is married with two teenage children. She has a BSc in Information Technology (IT) and she would like to go back to work when her children leave home. She wants to catch up with the latest developments in IT and wants to get a Master's degree in the subject. She can't leave her family and become a student at a university abroad. What can she do? The answer for Aisha is "distance learning".

Aisha heard of an organization that offered distance learning to students all over the world. The teacher and student are in different places. She enrolled on one of its MSc courses and was delighted with the teaching methods. Aisha's professors communicated regularly. In the next two years Aisha hopes to get her Master's degree via using email and video conferencing to get her degree.

## I. COMPREHENSION

### A. Circle the main idea of the passage:

- Full-time education.
- Information Technology.
- Lifelong learning.

### B. Are these sentences TRUE or FALSE? Justify.

- People won't have the same job all their life . .....
- Employers save money by recruiting workers for a limited period of time.....

### C. Answer these questions .

- What is "distance learning" ?

.....

- How does Aisha interact with her teachers ?

.....

### D. Complete these sentences from the text .

- ..... is learning that goes on for life, from the time you leave full-time education until after you retire.
- Aisha is studying again so as to.....and to.....

**E. What do the underlined words in the text refer to ?**

a. they ( p.1) b. the subject ( p.3)

**F. Find words in the text that mean the same as :**

1. Think or believe something will happen (p.1)
2. be a member of a course, college ( p.4)



Our planet is probably getting warmer. The 1980s saw the six warmest years in weather records. Burning fuels put polluting gases into the air. These gases then act like the glass in a greenhouse and keep the heat in. This is called the greenhouse effect and it leads to global warming. Carbon dioxide is the most important greenhouse gas, and millions of tonnes of it are produced by the petrol, gas and coal we burn every day.

Would we benefit from a warmer world? Could we not grow more crops in a wider area? Perhaps we could in some areas, but what worries scientists most is the changes that could occur in the planet's weather patterns. Scientists make use of supercomputers, costing many millions of pounds each, in order to predict what the weather will be like in the next century. So what are the predictions?

Destructive droughts could strike more often and places which grow crops at the moment could turn semi-desert. Forests could decline and change, and wildlife would have to find new habitats. As ice on Greenland and Antarctica melts, the world oceans could creep higher onto the land. Large parts of Low Countries, such as Bangladesh- already swept by floods and typhoons- could be submerged. Cities like Miami, Venice and New York would need to be protected from the sea.

But these are only predictions. Scientists know that the Earth is warming up, but they don't know how this will affect our weather. Some scientists think that rich as well as poor countries should act now to slow down the earth's warming. They argue that the longer we wait, the more difficult it might be to solve the problem.

The future may lie in the use of alternative ways of getting energy that does not involve the use of fossil fuels. Solar and wind energy are examples.

## I-COMPREHENSION

### A. ARE THESE SENTENCES TRUE OR FALSE ? JUSTIFY

1. Scientists think that the sooner we find a solution to global warming , the better .
2. Animals won't be affected by global warming .

### B. ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS

1. Where does CO<sub>2</sub> come from?
2. Find two examples of the devastating consequences of global warming according to scientists .

### C. FIND IN THE TEXT WORDS OR EXPRESSIONS THAT MEAN THE SAME AS

1. become less (paragraph3) .....
2. move slowly (paragraph 3 ) .....

### D. PICK OUT FROM THE TEXT SENTENCES OR EXPRESSIONS WHICH SHOW THAT

1. Scientists think that the world nations must be do something to prevent global warming .
2. The level of water the sea will probably increase due to global warming

### E. WHAT DO THE UNDERLINED WORDS IN THE TEXT REFER TO ?

1. it (paragraph 1 )
2. this (paragraph)

**F. COMPLETE THESE SENTENCES FROM THE TEXT .**

1. Scientists predict that floods and typhoons would hit .....areas .
2. Alternative energy from the .....and the .....will probably replace energy from .....in the future .

*Educate a boy you educate a man. Educate a girl you educate a generation.*

Of the one billion people worldwide who are unable to read, 2/3 are women. In most societies, girls are given less chance to complete their schooling. If money for school fees is short, priority will nearly always go to boys. Parents reason that boys are more likely to find work and continue working than girls, who are expected to marry and have children.

However, surveys have shown that in fact it is the mother's education rather than the father's that has the greater long-term effect both on her own health and that of her family. Research shows that educated mothers are more likely to use health clinics and are more likely to return to the clinic if their children's health does not improve. Educated women tend to have fewer, healthier children. They also tend to begin their families at a later age. Researchers for the United Nations, studying 46 countries, found that a 1 % rise in women's literacy is three times more likely to reduce deaths in children than a 1 % rise in the number of doctors. They also found that four to six years of education for women led to a 20 % drop in infant deaths.

A girl who grows up healthily and confident in her own ability has much better chance of safe motherhood, and of raising her own children to meet their full potential. Women with more education have better health and nutrition. They feel they can influence their own lives and those of their children. The families of women with some education tend to have better water and sanitation, income, housing and clothing. Literacy programmes can therefore have far reaching effects on health.

If women are given access to literacy and better education, they will be able to make their own choices to improve their lives.

## I-COMPREHENSION

### A// Answer these questions :

1- Why do parents in most countries give priority to boy's education ?

.....

2- According to the United Nations researchers, which is more important, educating a woman or having more doctors ?

.....

3- What should we do to improve families' health and nutrition ?

.....

### B/ Are these sentences true or False ? Justify :

1- 50 % of people all over the world who can't read are women.

.....

2- Educated women get married at an early age ?

.....

3- Women's education reduces infant deaths.

.....

### C/ Find in the text words or expressions meaning the same as the following :

1- not enough (paragraph 1) : .....

2- Get better ( paragraph 2) : .....

### D/ What do the underlined words in the text refer to ?

1- Who : ..... 2- They : ..... 3- Those : .....

Why should we learn a foreign language? After all, the whole world speaks English! Ladies and Gentlemen, there's some truth in this argument - but only some! Allow me to give an example from the area which I can perhaps judge well: diplomacy. British diplomats generally have an excellent reputation as extremely professional and efficient. And that specifically includes language skills. Before they're posted to a new country, British diplomats are trained in its language, sometimes for up to a year. Why do they do that? When you come to a new post, you can only really make full use of your professionalism and efficiency in your host country's language. You can't just rely on English. So having a foreign language in addition to English is vital - as indeed it is in so many other professions.

Learning a foreign language at the earliest possible age - that is, at nursery and primary school - opens up a whole new dimension for children: it greatly benefits their reading and writing in their own language; there's evidence that, like musical education, it contributes significantly to the development of individual intelligence; and concretely it improves overall results at school.

A new language opens up a whole new culture. A foreign language gives us access to another culture, and our lives take on a new dimension. The great German poet, Johan Wolfgang von Goethe, said in 1827: "Whoever is not acquainted with foreign languages knows nothing of his own." Seen like that, learning a language is almost comparable to a journey of discovery.

Conversely, to lose a language is to lose a whole culture. This realisation has led to determined efforts to preserve minority languages, including, for example, in Britain, with the renaissance of the Welsh and Gaelic languages. There are similar widespread efforts in Britain to promote community languages, for example by providing application forms in Urdu or other languages. It is a fundamental truth that cultures define themselves through languages.

adapted from <http://www.kwintessential.co.uk/cultural-services/articles/learn-language.html>

## I-COMPREHENSION

### A. Answer these questions. Write only the numbers and the appropriate answers ( 5pts )

1. How long does the training for a British diplomat take?
2. Why should they undergo that training, in your opinion?

### B. Are these sentences TRUE or FALSE? JUSTIFY. ( 5pts )

1. British diplomats rely heavily on English when they are appointed to the host country.
2. To learn a foreign language helps understand one's own.

### C. Find out the approximate synonyms of these words from the text: ( 5pts )

- a- field
- b- count on
- c- crucial
- d- familiar
- e- trip

Human rights are the basic rights and freedoms entitled to any person, regardless of economic status, nationality, jurisdiction, age, ability, ethnicity, and sex. These basic rights are the right to life, freedom, equality, justice, and freedom of thought and expression. Gender inequality is present in every society and remains a major obstacle for development. **It** results from cultural traditions, beliefs, and political interests that promote rigid gender roles and encourage the unequal treatment of women.

Critical issues for women differ drastically by region and country, and women who are disadvantaged by economic status, racism, homophobia, ableism (discrimination against people with disabilities) and other factors, face multiple oppressions. Although inequalities exist among women too, women share in the lived experience of sexism (discrimination and stereotyping that oppresses women) and patriarchy (a system where males are dominant). Feminists are people working to end sexism and put an end to discrimination against women

The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) is an important international human rights treaty adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1979. CEDAW defines discrimination against women and sets an agenda for national action to end such discrimination. However, women have been fighting for gender equality in organized ways for years. As early as the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century, Western feminists fought for the recognition of women as "persons" entitled to vote in elections, or to receive an advanced education; later, feminists fought for shared responsibility of unpaid housework and childrearing, for non-discrimination in the workplace and to earn equal pay for equal work, for women's autonomy and reproductive rights, proper health care, and an end to widespread violence against women. Today, women's rights organizations continue to do important work in these areas.

Women's rights are human rights and progress in human rights will not be made until one half of the population's rights are met. The achievement of human rights for all is an ongoing battle, it is the role of citizens, communities, grassroots organizations, and governments, as well as the United Nations, to prevent human rights violations, raise awareness of human rights and responsibilities, secure respect for all human rights, and promote international cooperation to protect human rights.

## I- Comprehension (14- points)

*Base all your answers on the text*

### A. Choose the right answer

#### 1. Choose a title text

#### 2. Find in the text words or phrases which mean

- Women and power
- women's rights are human rights
- women's' rights
- The role of women

### B. Answer true or false and justify

- Discrimination against women is only limited to some underdeveloped societies
- Western feminist first defended women right as human being then started asking for equal treatments
- Women alone are responsible to defend Women' s rights

**C. Answer these questions**

1. What types of discrimination are mentioned in the text?
2. What is the ultimate goal of feminism?
3. Give three examples of women's rights from the text ?
4. Who is responsible for the protection of both women' rights and human rights?

**D what do the underlined words in the text refer to?**

1. it
2. these areas
3. one half of the population



Dear Editor,

In the previous issue, you argued that disabled people have no reason to complain. You claimed that they enjoy the same rights as the other normal citizens. You may be right at some point. But, the situation of the disabled is still far from being perfect. My name is Alice and here is my story.

1. When I left university, most people weren't bothered by the fact that disabled people often couldn't find jobs. Anti-discrimination laws relating to disability were only introduced in 1996. But I managed to find employment as a computer programmer and worked my way up. After 10 years, I did an MBA- a business qualification but then I couldn't get work because of the economic depression in the early 1990s. I got so frustrated at being beaten up by people who were less qualified than me. One company turned me down, saying their building wasn't suitable for someone in a wheelchair. But when the person they appointed didn't work out, **they** came back to me. I was short of money and in an urgent need for work but I didn't take the job. The building hadn't changed, so what suddenly made it suitable?

2. Eventually, I set up a small business with my sister, a legal adviser who also used a wheelchair. I had four good years before moving back into the commercial sector. Then, I saw the Railtrack job advertised, went for it and here I am. My role at Railtrack is to improve the train service so that it would be easier for disabled people to use trains. As a wheelchair user, I understand how it feels to be abandoned on the platform.

3. Nowadays, employers are less likely to discriminate unthinkingly. However, discrimination still exists although it is difficult to pinpoint because no one wants to be prejudiced. They wouldn't turn your application down in a frank way. **They** prefer to point out potential problems, saying such things as "Where are you going to park?" and "We have heavy doors or high stairs here."

4. I don't think there's anything special about me, but I hope I'm making life easier for disabled people. The future will be brighter for all of us as anti-discrimination laws are being implemented and public places have become more accessible for disabled people. I'm confident the description "normal" will one day be broadened to include **us** as equals in society.

With best regards

Alice Maynard

*(adapted from Women's Own 2002)*

## I. COMPREHENSION:

**Read the letter and answer the questions.**

**A. Which one of these three questions is Alice answering in the text? Tick the correct option. (1 point)**

1. How has your handicap affected your career?
2. How did you become a handicapped person?
3. What advice would you give to disabled people?

**B. Reorder these statements according to the sequence of events in the text.**

**Write the suitable number from 1 to 6 in front of each statement. (3 points)**

1. Alice started a family business.
2. Alice left university.
3. Alice found a job with Railtrack.

4. Alice was denied a job because she was handicapped.
5. Alice got a second degree.
6. Alice was offered a job but she turned it down.

**C. Are these statements true or false? Justify. (4 points)**

1. Alice is a proud person.

.....

2. Alice is the only handicapped person in her family.

.....

3. Alice thinks the handicapped are nowadays treated as normal people.

.....

4. Alice is optimistic about the future of the disabled.

.....

**D. Complete this summary with reference to paragraph one. (3 points)**

In spite of her handicap, Alice was able to .....

But during the 1990s depression, a company claimed that they could not employ

Alice because .....

However, the real reason was .....

**E. Find in the text words or phrases meaning nearly the same as: (2 points)**

1. got a higher position at work (paragraph 1) = .....

2. established, created (paragraph 2) = .....

3. to find or define exactly (paragraph 3) = .....

4. sure; convinced (paragraph 4) = .....

**E. What do the underlined words in the text refer to? (2 points)**

1. **they** (paragraph 1) = .....

2. **it** (paragraph 2) = .....

3. **they** (paragraph 3) = .....

4. **us** (paragraph 4) = .....



An English report has recently revealed that children are becoming so fanatical with the Internet that really half prefer their computers to their friends. It claimed that a generation is growing up using the internet at an early age.

Forty-six per cent of British parents believe their children are so busy playing with computers that they spend less time with their friends. At the same time, 55 per cent of parents fear their children will become info-addicted.

The report cites the example of Alexander Feldman, 13, from west London, who switches on his P.C. as soon as he returns from school, often spending several hours, staying up late to take part in chat groups on the Internet.

Alexander said: «There's so much interesting information on the Internet that it is sometimes hard to switch off. It is an easy way to make friends and stay in touch with people I know in different countries.» But he denied that he was addicted to the Net. « I could stop but I would be frustrated and upset about it because I have friends all over the world and like to communicate with them.»

Author Mark Griffiths, psychology lecturer at Nottingham Trent University, claimed the report showed that information is becoming "the drug of the third millennium." He added: "Have we become fact-fanatics and info-junkies? There is a very fine line between having enough information and getting too much. As well as computer skills, children should be able to relate to each other, communicate and get the physical exercise they need to develop."

The survey of business people found that 53 per cent longed for electronic information and 5 per cent got a « high » when they found what they wanted. Sixty-one per cent believed they were victims of information overload while 80 per cent of managers gather more facts than they use.

The Express. December 2006

## I. COMPREHENSION:

### Base your answers on the text

#### A. Are these statements true or false? Justify. (6 point)

- All British parents worry about their sons playing with the computer for a long time.
- Alexander refused to say that he was obsessed by the Internet.
- The survey found that few Internet users suffer from information excess.

#### B. Fill in the chart with the right information from the text. (3 points)

Cause	Effect
.....	Children prefer their computers to their friends
Children are busy playing with computers.	.....
There is so much information on the internet.	.....

#### C. Choose the right answer from the list given. (1 point)

- Third millennium invention.
- an electronic means of information.
- a modern addiction.

**D. What do the underlined words in the text refer to? (2 points)**

1. It (paragraph 1): .....
2. I ( paragraph 4): .....

**E. Find words in the text meaning approximately the same as: (3 points)**

1. *excessively enthusiastic* (paragraph 1): .....
2. *defeated or disappointed* (paragraph 4): .....
3. *collect* (paragraph 6): .....

**اللهم وفقنا لما تحبه وترضاه . اللهم ارزقنا الإخلاص في العمل والصدق**

**في القول. اللهم تقبل منا هذا العمل و اجعله حسنة جارية تنفعنا عند**

**لقائك. اللهم ارحم كل من ساهم في إنجازه أو نشره تميمًا للفائدة.**

**والصلاة والسلام على سيدنا محمد أشرف المخلوقين.**