

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
SECONDARY ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMME
SEPTEMBER 2020

WEEK NINE: LESSON ONE

SUBJECT: English 'A'

GRADE: Eleven (11)

TOPIC: COMPREHENSION

OBJECTIVE(S): With the aid of a text students will select the correct response to the given questions.

Read the extract carefully before answering Items 1-8

When the traditional family unit is discussed, it is usually in terms of the external social changes that are threatening its existence as an institution. Little thought is given to the internal problems of normal homes. The central problem for most family members is, of course, how to get along with each other. This internal matter is not without its external implications; for only where there are orderly and peaceful families can there be an orderly and peaceful society.

Of all the social changes that have affected the family in recent years, by far the most significant has been the increases in the number of mothers of school-age children who have taken outside employment. In Canada, some 75 percent of women in this category now have full-time or part-time jobs. For the most part, economic imperatives have left women no choice but to work for money. An income sufficient to maintain an average family style took one Canadian 48 hours a week to earn in the 1950s. It takes two people 65 to 75 hours a week to earn that today.

The conflicts between work and family life and scarcity of time to devote to children have taken a personal toll on women in the form of stress and depression. Obviously, individuals under stress are harder to deal with than those who are not, so the tensions of work are carried over into tension in mother-child relationships. Men, too, report feeling 'stressed out' and squeezed between work and family obligations. Males raised in the tradition of mother doing everything in the home are inclined to be lax in doing housework and awkward in the unaccustomed role of actively nurturing children. But if a two-income family is to run smoothly and fairly, the household workload must be shared.

Another profound change in family relationships lies in the relatively high incidence of divorce and marital separations in western society. The fact that so many couples feel they must go their separate ways illustrates just how difficult it is for people to live together satisfactorily at the best of time.

1. According to paragraph 1, which of the following results from conflict between family members?
 - (A) Disorder in societies
 - (B) Anxious parents and children
 - (C) Disruptive behavior in homes
 - (D) High levels of tension between parents

2. According to the extract, all of the following threaten the existence of the family EXCEPT
 - (A) the high divorce rate in western society
 - (B) problems family members experienced in getting along
 - (C) conflicts between employers and working parents
 - (D) the increase in the number of mothers of school age children working outside of the home

3. The word that is CLOSEST in meaning “imperatives” is
 - (A) concerns
 - (B) matters
 - (C) demands
 - (D) guidelines

4. In paragraph 2, the writer compares income in the 1950s to income today to show that
 - (A) people earned more in the 1950s than today
 - (B) a single income cannot adequately support an average family
 - (C) people today do not work as hard as people in the 1950s
 - (D) people today work longer hours for the same pay as in the 1950s

5. According to the writer in paragraph 3, tensions in mother-child relationships can occur because
 - i. mothers are under stress

- ii. parents and children are under stress
 - iii. mothers are depressed and hard to deal with
- (A) I only
(B) II only
(C) I and III only
(D) II and III only
6. The writer's MAIN intention is to show that
(A) men in two-income households never help in the home
(B) two-income households always experience stress
(C) children in two-income households are neglected
(D) sharing of the workload can help a two-income family
7. The writer's main purpose to
(A) Focus on the problems experienced by men
(B) Reveal the problems experienced by men, women and children
(C) Highlight some of the internal problems threatening the existence of the family
(D) Show that single income families function better than two-income families
8. The tone of the passage may be Best described as
(A) mocking
(B) indignant
(C) complaining
(D) analytical

The Sisters

Read the passage carefully before answering Items 9 -16.

Over the years, Marta had sent many warm and friendly messages to Elana, inviting her to visit Ilora and assuring her that she'd always be welcome. But her prodigal sister never applied. From time to time, however, traders brought news that Elana's marriage to Iyako had been blessed with two sets of twins, that Iyako had succeeded his father as ruler of the Kingdom of Horses, and that their marriage was a stormy one. For a long time, there was no further news until one day, a traveler told Queen Marta that Iyako had been thrown by a wild horse and had broken his back, that Elana had lost both her beauty and her mind and, after shouting night and day that the Kingdom of Wild Horses was an accursed one, she had escaped from keepers. 'They searched high and low for her, but she had vanished without a trace' the traveler said, shaking his head sadly.

The Queen immediately summoned Leha and ordered her to send search parties to all of the countries bordering on the Kingdom of Wild Horses.

'Go to the ends of the earth if you have to, but bring my sister back Ilora. Whoever finds her will be amply rewarded' Queen Marta said to the trackers, traders and interpreters who Leha had recruited. But after years of futile searching, the search parties returned one by one and reported that they had found no trace of Elana.

'It's as if your sister has vanished from the face of the earth', Leha said. 'I hear you' Queen Marta said 'and yet I feel in my bones that she's still alive'

Leha had led one of the search parties, and when she returned her hair was streaked with grey and age had mapped her rough-hewn face with lines as delicate as spider webs.

The first time that Leha stepped into the Audience Room to report about her travels to distant places in search of Elana, she was both surprised and pleased to see how Queen Marta had aged. When their eyes made four, the smiling Leha said to herself, 'It's as if her face had beaten very gently against the years' for she could see quite clearly how time changed what was once an ugly countenance into a beautiful one. When a shaft of sunlight touched the cloud of white hair on the Queen's head, it became luminous, and a welcoming smile lighting up her dark face lifted Leha's spirits and made her heart sing. And somehow, all the hardships she had endured travelling across parched savannahs, through densely wooded valleys, over mountains and down turbulent rivers, were forgotten.

Jan Carew, The Sister and Manco's Stories, Macmillan, 2003, pp. 46-47

9. the style of writing in this extract can BEST be described as
- (A) factual
 - (B) descriptive
 - (C) narrative
 - (D) argumentative
10. “Their marriage was a stormy one” implies that
- (A) it was unpleasant
 - (B) it was fraught with difficulty
 - (C) they got married on a stormy day
 - (D) they didn’t always see eye to eye
11. The instruction “Go to the ends of the earth” implies that they should search
- (A) the Kingdom of Wild Horses
 - (B) every accessible land
 - (C) over mountains and down rivers
 - (D) through densely wooded valleys
12. The literary device used in the phrase “as delicate as spider webs” is a
- (A) pun
 - (B) metaphor
 - (C) simile
 - (D) hyperbole
13. The writer implies that Leha was
- (A) a traveler
 - (B) Maria’s sister
 - (C) a household servant
 - (D) the leader of the queen’s army
14. Which of the following is an example of contrast?
- (A) She “had lost both her beauty and her mind”
 - (B) “she had vanished without a trace”
 - (C) “her hair was streaked with grey”
 - (D) “lighting up her dark face”
15. “The cloud of white hair” is an example of
- (A) litotes
 - (B) metaphor
 - (C) oxymoron
 - (D) personification
16. The concluding sentence of the extract
- (A) suggest they had forgotten all about Elana
 - (B) indicates they had given up the search
 - (C) conveys the idea that the problems that Leha had encountered in the search were forgotten
 - (D) means that Leha would be willing to continue the search