

Read the following passage and mark the letter A, B, C or D on your answer sheet to indicate the correct answer to each of the questions below

Increasing numbers of parents in the U.S. are choosing to teach their children at home. In fact, the U.S. Department of Education has estimated that in 1999, about 850,000 children were being **homeschooled**. Some educational experts say that the real number is double this estimate, and the ranks of homeschooled children seem to be growing at the average rate of about eleven percent every year.

At one time, there was a theory accounting for homeschooling: it was traditionally used for students who could not attend school because of behavioral or learning difficulties. Today, however, more parents are taking on the responsibility of educating their own children at home due to their **dissatisfaction** with the educational system. Many parents are unhappy about class size, as well as problems inside the classroom. Teacher shortages and lack of funding mean that, in many schools, one teacher is responsible for thirty or forty students. The children are, therefore, deprived of the attention they need. Escalating classroom violence has also motivated some parents to remove their children from school.

Although there have been a lot of arguments for and against it, homeschooling in the U.S. has become a multi-million dollar industry, and it is growing bigger and bigger. There are now plenty of websites, support groups, and conventions that help parents protect their rights and enable them to learn more about educating their children. Though once it was the only choice for troubled children, homeschooling today is an accepted alternative to an educational system that many believe is failing.

QUESTIONS:

1. The number of parents who want to teach their own children in the U.S. is _____.
A. remaining unchanged B. remaining the same
C. going up D. going down
2. The past participle **homeschooled** in the first paragraph is best equivalent to _____ at home".
A. be taught B. self-learned C. untaught D. self-studied
3. This estimated number was presented by _____.
A. a government office B. school teachers
C. the parents D. homeschooled children
4. According to some experts, the exact number of homeschooled children in the US in the last year of the 20th century must be _____.
A. 1,600,000 B. 850,000 C. 1,900,000 D. 1,700,000
5. More parents teach their children because they completely ____ the current educational system.
A. please with B. object to C. appeal to D. approve of
6. The noun **dissatisfaction** in this paragraph is best equivalent to _____.
A. disappointment B. disagreement
C. discrimination D. discouragement
7. Many parents stop their children from going to school because it is now too _____ for them.
A. explosive B. expensive C. dangerous D. humorous
8. The attitude of the author towards homeschooling can be best described as _____.
A. acceptable B. favorable C. remarkable D. unfavorable