UNIT 2. EXTRA READING

Read the passage and choose the best answer for each question:

The United States has been criticized for its treatment of its elderly citizens. Although in many other countries the elderly usually live with their children's family, many older Americans live alone, without the close companionship of their children. This situation is sometimes blamed on the "selfishness" of the younger generation, but a closer look shows that many of the elderly prefer to maintain their independent lives.

Research on the situation of the elderly in America has shown that while grandparents are delighted to be visited periodically by their children and grandchildren, they prefer to continue living in the surroundings that they are familiar with. This suggests that children should permit their parents to live alone if they wish to and should encourage them to maintain close ties to the rest of the family. Another surprising result of the research on the elderly in the United States has been the very positive influence which pets have been found to have on the elderly people that they live with. It has been shown that elderly people who care for small pets, such as cats and dogs, live longer, are healthier and have better attitudes towards their lives than similar elderly people without these companions.

1. Many elderly Americans live _____

   A. without satisfaction B. by themselves C. a lonely life D. a simple life

2. What do some people see as the cause of this situation?

   A. The society of the USA treats its elderly people as troubles.
   B. The young people usually trouble the elderly of their own.
   C. The government concerns hardly about the elderly people.
   D. The young people are too selfish.

3. Many of the elderly Americans want to _____.

   A. keep living in their well-known places and conditions
   B. remain with the grandchildren in their houses
   C. remove to their sons' or daughters' homes
   D. live with their friends in their hometown

4. The author advises the young people to _____.

   A. keep close ties with the elderly of their own
   B. let the elderly of their families live by themselves
   C. respect the wishes of their elderly parents
   D. permit their elderly relatives to raise some pets

5. The author's main thought is that _____.

   A. the elderly who care for some pets live together
   B. the social practice in the USA makes the elderly live alone
   C. the elderly people should have better attitudes towards their lives
   D. it is a social tradition that the elderly Americans enjoy the self-directing lives

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Read the passage and do the task that follows/do the tasks that follow.

Generally, friendship exists for three reasons: virtue; usefulness; or pleasure. When virtue is the reason, friendship exists for the sake of friendship; where both like each other and cherish each other for some creditable values in the other's personality. You know that you would even die to swear your friendship for that person. You also know that the other would make you live than die for him/her regardless of intelligence, handsomeness, utility or the capability of giving pleasure.

A friendship of the second kind is formed for the practical value of it. How useful so and so is to me? What can I benefit from him? Will he use his reputation and influence to fetch me a good job? Thus a person may maintain relationship for practical, professional, and political reasons. However, once we **do away with** the usefulness, the friendship eventually dies.

Friendship of the third kind is formed essentially on account of the pleasure the relationship can give. He is a joker. The moment he enters, you forget all your worries. She is cute, intelligent and charming. The very notion that she is your friend makes you feel proud. The point rests here: How good is he/she in giving me pleasure physically, emotionally, mentally and materially?

Now to the question: Which of the three is good? The second type is good, yet since basing on **utility**, it falls short of longevity and quality. The third type is good too, but how long one enjoys only pleasure in life? But the first type, virtue-based friendship is fantastic for this reason: it lasts till the end of this universe.

1. From paragraph 1, we can infer that _____.
   A. Real friendship does not count one person's cleverness, appearance, utility and his/her aptitude for creating fun.
   B. You have to die in order to prove your friendship.
   C. Personality is not an important factor in choosing a friend.
   D. There are two main motives for friendship.
2. Which of the following has the closet meaning to "**do away with**" in paragraph 2?
   A. kill B. escape C. get rid of D. ask for
3. Which of the following is NOT mentioned in the reading passage?
   A. Friendship basing on the capacity for creating pleasure still possesses some uncertainty
   B. Friendship requires a lot of patience and efforts from both sides
   C. Friendship usually does not last long if it is built on materialistic need
   D. Virtue-based friendship's core is a friend's creditable traits in his or her personality
4. Synonym(s) of **utility** in paragraph 4 can be found in:
   A. paragraph 1 B. paragraph 2 C. paragraph 3 D. paragraph 4
5. Which kind of friendship is most unshakable?
   A. The first B. The second C. The third D. Not mentioned

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