

Unit 9. Social issues

VOCABULARY

I. Complete the sentences with the correct forms of the words in brackets.

1. Many parents complain about the increasing (violent) _____ posted on social networks.
2. Having been (bully) _____ several times, the boy doesn't want to go to school.
3. At present, a lot of children still live in (poor) _____ and get little access to education.
4. A number of policemen were injured when arresting the violent (crime) _____.
5. Teenagers are not allowed to buy or use (alcohol) _____ drinks.
6. A lot of (campaign) _____ have been launched to raise people's awareness about overpopulation.
7. Body shaming can result in (depress) _____ and low self-confidence.

II. Complete the sentences with the correct forms of the words in the box.

overpopulation	peer pressure	violent	bully
alcohol	poor	self-confident	

1. Teenagers are more likely to suffer _____ than older people.
2. _____ drinks are not allowed in parties for teenagers.
3. One of the problems in big cities is _____ because many people want to live and work there.
4. There is too much _____ in this film, so it is not appropriate for teenagers to watch.
5. He was _____ by a group of students in his school, so his parents had to transfer him to a new school.
6. Parents' strict controls may result in low _____ in their teenage children.
7. Hunger and _____ are still the biggest concerns in many developing countries.

III. Mark the letter A, B, C, or D to indicate the word(s) CLOSEST in meaning to the underlined word(s) in each of the following sentences.

1. Having been bullied many times, he became depressed and didn't want to go to school.
A. discouraged B. dishonest C. active D. positive
2. Although peer pressure badly affects teenagers, it is not easy for them to stand up to peer pressure.
A. to follow B. to develop C. to accept D. to resist

IV. Mark the letter A, B, C, or D to indicate the word(s) OPPOSITE in meaning to the underlined word(s) in each of the following sentences.

1. In some cases, it is better to tell a white lie so as not to hurt someone.
A. harmless untruth B. near truth C. harmful untruth D. little truth
2. Working with teenagers is hard, and we need to struggle on for some time.
A. fight against B. stop due to difficulties
C. try our best D. continue despite problems

GRAMMAR

V. Choose the best options to connect the following sentences.

1. Bullying is forbidden at school. _____, an increasing number of school students are often bullied.

- A. However B. As a result C. In addition
2. A lot of people want to live and work in urban areas. _____, these areas become overpopulated.
A. By contrast B. As a result C. In addition
3. Bullying is a big concern at school. _____, it is a worrying problem at work.
A. Although B. Therefore C. In addition
4. We are preparing to start a very big campaign to raise awareness of alcoholic drinks. _____, we will need a lot of volunteers.
A. Besides B. Therefore C. By contrast
5. There have been a number of projects to move people out of the old streets. _____, little improvement has been seen.
A. However B. Therefore C. In addition

VI. Choose the best answer to complete each of the sentences.

1. My father doesn't like some of my friends _____ he thinks they have a bad influence on me.
A. because B. due to C. so D. but
2. He didn't want to be 'the odd one out' among his friends; _____, he joined all their activities.
A. in addition B. therefore C. however D. nevertheless
3. At school, we are not allowed to colour hair; _____, some girls in my class still have their hair coloured.
A. furthermore B. in addition C. however D. because
4. Overpopulation is a big problem in big cities; _____, air pollution is another worrying concern.
A. so B. because C. but D. in addition
5. It is never easy to stand up to peer pressure; _____, many teenagers copy their peer bad behaviours.
A. in addition B. because C. as a result D. so

VII. Mark the letter A, B, C, or D to indicate the underlined part that needs correction in each of the following questions.

1. Smoking is not allowed in public places; in addition, many people do not obey the rule.
A B C D
2. He was stopped by a policeman so he didn't wear a helmet when riding his motorbike.
A B C D
3. Too many people drive their own cars to work. However, traffic congestion happens every day.
A B C D
4. As a result, body shaming badly affects teenagers both physically and mentally, we should stand up to it.
A B C D
5. Nowadays, teenagers suffer a lot of pressure from their parents. As a result, they also suffer peer pressure.
A B C D

SKILLS

READING

I. Read the following text and mark the letter A, B, C, or D to indicate the correct word or phrase that best fits each of the numbered blanks from 1 to 5.

Bullying and cyberbullying threaten students' physical and emotional safety and can (1) _____ their social and academic success at school.

In a 2019 survey about bullying, about 22 percent of students aged 12-18 reported having been (2) _____ at school. The survey also found that close to 16 percent of students in grades 9-12 reported being electronically bullied during the previous 12 months. Bullying is associated with (3) _____ outcomes for those who are bullied, including substance use, suicide, or impacts on physical and mental health.

Everyone at school can work together to create an environment where bullying is not (4) _____. Local authorities and schools should adopt policies to help prevent bullying and cyberbullying. Procedures for monitoring student behavior at school and online can help schools (5) _____ at-risk behaviors and provide interventions before they create safety issues.

(Adapted from <https://www.schoolsafety.gov>)

- | | | | |
|-----------------|----------------|-------------|---------------|
| 1. A. impact | B. encourage | C. develop | D. discover |
| 2. A. tested | B. bullied | C. created | D. told |
| 3. A. wonderful | B. positive | C. negative | D. promising |
| 4. A. safe | B. problematic | C. promised | D. acceptable |
| 5. A. identify | B. create | C. sell | D. raise |

II. Read the text and decide whether the following statements are true (T) or false (F).

In 2019, CDC's (Centre for Disease Control and Prevention) nationwide Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) was administered to high school students across the United States. According to YRBS results from 13,677 students:

- * About 1 in 5 high school students reported being bullied on school property in the last year.
- * 8% of high school students had been in a physical fight on school property one or more times during the 12 months before the survey.
- * More than 7% of high school students had been threatened or injured with a weapon on school property one or more times during the 12 months before the survey.
- * Almost 9% of high school students had not gone to school at least 1 day during the 30 days before the survey because they felt they would be unsafe at school or on their way to or from school.

How can we prevent violence at schools?

All students have the right to learn in a safe school environment. The good news is school violence can be prevented. Many factors contribute to school violence. Preventing school violence requires addressing the factors that put people at risk or protect them from violence. Research shows that prevention efforts by teachers, administrators, parents, community members, and even students can reduce violence and improve the school environment.

(Adapted from <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention>)

1. About 20% of high school students reported being bullied on school property. _____
2. During the year before the survey, more than 10 per cent of high school students had _____ been in a physical fight on school property.

3. Nearly 10% of surveyed students had not gone to school at least one day during the _____ month before the survey.
4. According to the text, school violence can be prevented. _____
5. It is not necessary to address the factors that put the people at risk. _____

III. Read the following passage and mark the letter A, B, or C to indicate the correct answer to each of the questions.

Peer-pressure is the influence that friends, people and individuals in group are capable of exerting on their peers. Some children are able to brush it off without any issues while it negatively impacts on other children. Sometimes adults underestimate the effects of peer pressure on their children because they were teenagers long ago in a different time. Here are three ways in which peer-pressure can negatively affect children.

First, due to peer pressure, children can easily adopt dangerous habits. They see what their friends do and copy them. For example, many may develop bad habits such as alcohol consumption, smoking, drug abuse. Technically, children know that these are not good habits to cultivate but they are motivated by the need to feel accepted.

Second, children's academic performance is also affected by their peers. For teenagers, it is important for **them** to be accepted by their peer group. This means that their peer group's approval gets placed above that of their parents and teachers. This in turn has a direct effect on their academics. Sometimes their academics are affected because despite being capable of performing well, they choose not to because in the eyes of their peers it makes them look 'uncool'. Sometimes their academics are affected because in an effort to fit in with their peer group, they place more emphasis on being social rather than working on their academics.

Finally, negative peers also make children feel ashamed or bad about themselves and their family. At the average school, students come from various economic backgrounds. If the students come from poor economic backgrounds or come from a family which might not give them money to spend extravagantly, they end up feeling bad or ashamed of themselves and their family, because in the eyes of their peers, they are somehow 'lesser' or 'weird' individuals.

(Source: theteachersdigest.com)

1. This passage is mainly about _____.
 - A. some negative effects of peer pressure
 - B. some positive effects of peer pressure
 - C. causes of peer pressure and solutions
2. Why do adults sometimes underestimate the effects of peer pressure on their children?
 - A. Because they didn't have peer pressure.
 - B. Because they were teenagers in a different time.
 - C. Because peer pressure was not important for them.
3. Why does the author mention *alcohol consumption* in the text?
 - A. To give a reason for a bad habit
 - B. To show a contrasting point of view
 - C. To give an example of a bad habit
4. The word **them** in paragraph 3 refers to _____.

A. teenagers

B. parents

C. teachers

5. Who make children feel bad or ashamed of themselves and their family?

A. Children themselves

B. Negative friends

C. Their parents

SPEAKING

IV. Choose the best option to complete the following conversation exchanges.

1. Tom: Mai, I don't like the way some of our classmates give negative comments on others' appearance.

Mai: _____, Tom. Body shaming must be stopped.

A. That's so bad

B. It's so exciting

C. I'm very tired

D. That's acceptable

2. Kevin: Lan, you know, two boys from our school were bullied on the way home yesterday.

Lan: _____, Kevin. We should do something to help solve the issue.

A. Oh, I don't really know

B. I'm so sorry to hear that.

C. Well, it doesn't matter

D. That's so nice

V. Complete the dialogue, using the phrases from the box.

A. I can sympathise.

B. What a pity!

C. I'm sorry to hear that.

Tam: I'm afraid I can't hang out with you today, Ann.

Ann: (1) _____ I really wanted you to go to a new book store with me.

Tam: Some other time, perhaps. I have to pick my little brother up from school. He was bullied on the way home yesterday.

Ann: (2) _____ What happened to him?

Tam: A group of boys stopped him outside the school gate and took his school bag.

Ann: (3) _____ I was also a victim of bullying years ago. It was really painful.

Tam: Thank you for your sympathy, Ann.

WRITING

VI. Choose the sentence that has the closest meaning to the given sentence.

1. Bullying also happens on the way to school; as a result, many parents take their children to school every day.

A. Many parents take their children to school every day, so bullying also happens on the way there.

B. Many parents take their children to school every day because bullying also happens on the way there.

C. Although bullying happens on the way to school, very few parents take their children to school.

D. Despite being bullied, many parents take their children to school every day to avoid it.

2. We should stand up to negative peer pressure because it badly affects our teenagers.

A. Although peer pressure badly affects our teenagers, there is no need to stand up against it.

B. Negative peer pressure badly affects our teenagers; therefore, we should stand up against it.

- C. Once we stand up to peer pressure, it will certainly badly affect our teenagers.
D. We should stand up to negative peer pressure; by contrast, it badly affects our teenagers.
3. Overpopulation happens as a result of uncontrolled increasing birth rate.
A. Uncontrolled increasing birth rate results in overpopulation.
B. Overpopulation leads to uncontrolled increasing birth rate.
C. Uncontrolled increasing birth rate results from overpopulation.
D. Overpopulation results in uncontrolled increasing birth rate.
4. Poverty causes an increasing crime rate; besides, unemployment also causes an increasing crime rate.
A. Poverty causes an increasing crime rate; however, unemployment doesn't.
B. An increasing crime rate causes poverty and unemployment.
C. Both poverty and unemployment result from an increasing crime rate.
D. An increasing crime rate results from poverty and unemployment.
5. Body shaming must be stopped because it is against the law.
A. Body shaming is against the law, so it must be stopped.
B. Although body shaming is against the law, it shouldn't be stopped.
C. If body shaming is against the law, it should be stopped.
D. Body shaming must be stopped, so it is against the law.
6. It is very difficult to control cyberbullying, so Internet users need to be careful.
A. Internet users need to be careful; besides, cyberbullying is very difficult to control.
B. Because Internet users are very careful, it is not difficult to control cyberbullying.
C. As cyberbullying is very difficult to control, Internet users need to be careful.
D. Although it is very difficult to control cyberbullying, Internet users need to be careful.
7. Peer pressure has negative effects on teenagers. Besides, it also has positive effects on teenagers.
A. Peer pressure has more negative effects than positive effects on teenagers.
B. Peer pressure negative effects result from its positive effects on teenagers.
C. Peer pressure has both positive and negative effects on teenagers.
D. Teenagers are mainly affected by peer pressure negative effects.

VII. Write a proposal (120-150 words) for the campaign against body shaming to the head teacher. Use the outline below to help you.

Title: A School Campaign against Body Shaming

To: Head teacher of Ha Noi International High School

Date: _____

Prepared by: _____, Social Awareness Club

Introduction:

- ... has become a common/serious issue nowadays because...
- We would like to propose ...

Details about the campaign:

- The campaign events/activities will take place in/at...
- The campaign will last for...
- ... will participate in ...
- The campaign will target...
- The main events/activities will include...

Goals and benefits:

- (The campaign) aims at.../doing...
- (The campaign) will allow (students, teenagers) to do...

Conclusion:

We really hope you will consider our proposal _____