

READING PRACTICE

UNIT 3 Society & family



- A** Society may not seem to change much day-to-day, but if you look back to your parents' generation, you may notice profound differences in our human relationships. What are these changes and how have they happened?
- B** New ideas are a particularly powerful cause of change. Over time, awareness of **equality and peoples' rights** has gained in importance. Many people nowadays, for example, argue that everybody in a society should have equal rights, including **minorities** (such as migrants or the disabled) or those with less power and wealth. This idea has entered many legal systems and continues to do so. Senegal and Rwanda, for example, recently created laws guaranteeing equal proportions of male and female election candidates.
- C** However, changes to traditional **social roles** and duties have a number of different effects on society. For example, the effects of change can be seen clearly in family life. Many believe that **responsibilities**, such as housework, **bringing up children**, or earning money, should now be shared. Modern, urbanized economies may require us to move away from family, for work or training, and to live more independently. Those who are most **dependent** on family support, such as the **elderly**,

may suffer due to these trends. The structure of the family has changed in other ways too: in some cultures it's normal for an **extended family** to live in the same house but there has been a huge rise in the number of single person households. These are sometimes a result of people choosing to get married and start families of their own later than in the past.

- D** Migration, or the movement of people, is also happening on a larger scale than in the past. The European Union (EU) allows free movement of labour to its member states and many countries also welcome **asylum seekers**, who leave their home countries to escape war or other dangers. **Migrants** bring with them different customs, languages, and **values**, which can benefit a culture in many ways, such as bringing opportunities for greater cooperation, understanding and sharing of ideas. However, it also has the potential to create **tensions between different cultures**. It's important for people to be **tolerant** of one another so as to encourage **multiculturalism** and avoid such tensions developing.
- E** As societies become wealthier people tend to have more opportunities and access to better education and healthcare. However, the increase in wealth for some can lead to a growing **gap between rich and poor**. There are a number of ways we can solve the wealth gap; for example, the government can tax wealthier people more or they can introduce schemes to ensure that employment is widely available and that everyone receives a fair **wage**. It is generally believed that more equal societies tend to have greater levels of trust, opportunity, and happiness and fewer social issues such as **poverty** and **homelessness**¹. **Redistributing wealth**, creating job opportunities and increasing **charitable giving** and **volunteering** all help to build a more equal society.

¹ See Student's Book page 28 for further discussion of social issues.

Vocabulary

1 Complete the opinions with words in bold from the text. Then decide which you agree with.

- 1 Living near _____ members, like grandparents, makes _____ easier
- 2 In my country, _____ people are _____ on family members for support and company.
- 3 There should be _____ between _____ and larger social groups.
- 4 We should be _____ of people in our community with different _____ to our own.
- 5 In a society where everyone has equal opportunities and earns a decent amount of money there should be less _____ and _____.
- 6 We should encourage people to do more _____ and _____.
- 7 In order to avoid large differences in standard of living policies aimed at _____ and ensuring everyone gets a fair _____ can help.

2 Discuss the meaning of the following words which are in bold in the text.

asylum seekers migration multiculturalism
gap between rich and poor tensions
single person households

IELTS training

3 Answer the questions below. Choose NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS from the passage for each answer.

- 1 What has changed since our parents were young?
- 2 What often leads to social change?
- 3 Where has the law regarding voting changed?
- 4 What require us to move away from family in order to work or train?
- 5 What type of living arrangement has increased considerably in popularity?
- 6 Where is there free movement of labour?
- 7 What kind of government schemes does the writer refer to?
- 8 What are there less of in equal societies?

Mini debates

4 Discuss the questions below. Give reasons to support your view.

- 1 What do you think are the benefits of social change?
- 2 Why is it important to tolerate different customs and values?
- 3 When should young people leave the family home?
- 4 Is it important to make sure wealth is evenly distributed?
- 5 What do you think leads to happiness?

LISTENING PRACTICE

Audio

3 Writing numbers

In Section 1 of the Listening paper, you need to listen for specific details.

3.1  **5** Listen and circle the number you hear in each pair (a–j).

- | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------|
| a 1st / 3rd | f 15 / 50 |
| b \$10.50 / \$10.15 | g 52 / 62 |
| c 6th / 5th | h £110 / £810 |
| d 17 / 70 | i 31st / 33rd |
| e 19 / 90 | j 22nd / 27th |

3.2 Listen again and practise saying the numbers.

3.3  **6** Listen and complete the information below.

- 1 How much does the woman pay for her room? £ _____
- 2 New students need to bring \$ _____
- 3 Garage width: _____ m height: _____ m
- 4 How much does the woman pay for the bus tickets?
A \$25 **B** \$55 **C** \$75
- 5 Party date: _____

3.4 Listen again and write the other numbers you hear and the reason they are incorrect.

- 1 £80 *this is the amount she paid last time*

3.5  **7** Listen to extracts from four different talks and choose the correct answer (A, B or C).

- 1** The survey found that the majority of students drink
A water. **B** coffee. **C** tea.
- 2** What point does the speaker make about skiing?
A A small percentage of the US is suitable for skiing.
B A surprisingly large number of Americans like skiing.
C A relatively small proportion of Americans have tried skiing.
- 3** The number of wild elephants in Africa is estimated to be at least
A 53,000. **B** 470,000. **C** 690,000.
- 4** According to the speaker, which two can weigh the same?
A the tongue of a blue whale and an elephant
B an elephant and a blue whale
C a bus and an elephant