1 Use the words in brackets to make suitable nouns to complete the text.

The Modern Age

Among the wide array of trends that are associated with the processes of **(1)** _____ (*modern*) and economic development, one in particular stands out: the rapid **(2)** _____ (*age*) of the population. In the days before widespread **(3)** _____ (*provide*) of pensions, the only guarantee of having a decent **(4)** _____ (*retire*) was to have plenty of grown-up children to look after you.

At the same time, infant **(5)** _____ (*mortal*) rates in the days before mass **(6)** _____ (*immune*) programmes and modern **(7)** _____ (*hygienic*) standards were considerably higher than today, so parents typically had as many children as possible. In the modern world, however, children are no longer a means of **(8)** _____ (*survive*) but rather a matter of **(9)** _____ (*choose*), leading to a sharp **(10)** _____ (*reduce*) in the number of births.

Simultaneously, dramatic **(11)** _____ (*improve*) in healthcare have caused the average **(12)** _____ (*long*) of one's lifespan to increase, with the result that over-64s will soon outnumber under-18s in many parts of the world.

Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given. Do not change the word given. You must use between three and eight words, including the word given.

1 It's possible that Greg didn't go to Swansea after all. **not**
Greg ..... to Swansea after all.

2 It's quite likely that Sasha was lying about what Doug said. **well**
Sasha ..... about what Doug said.

3 The most likely situation is that they awarded Grandpa the medal during the war. **must**
Grandpa ..... during the war.

4 It's highly likely that Stephen was listening. **may**
Stephen ..... listening.

5 It's not possible that Andrew is half Spanish. **be**
Andrew ..... half Spanish.

LIVEWORKSHEETS