READING COMPREHENSION

INSTRUCTIONS:

This section contains **TWO** passages. Read the passages carefully and answer the questions that follow.

ALL questions must be answered in complete sentences and in your own words unless otherwise indicated.

All answers must be based on information in the passages.

Special attention should be given to the directions for each question.

SECTION B-PART 1

A FATHERS UNCONDITIONAL LOVE

Life is wonderful, but challenging, all at the same time.

I remember it like yesterday; the first time I held Justin in my arms…this was some fourteen and a half years ago. I was in the waiting room at the Princess Margaret Hospital **anticipating** the birth of our first child. My wife, Denise and I found out some time before that we would have a son and like every young couple, it as an exciting time for us.

It was particularly proud time for me- you know how men are with sons. Justin was a huge baby – eleven pounds, six and a half ounces at birth! I was **ecstatic** and a champion among men for many weeks. Denise and I had no idea what we would be facing in a few years. It would change our lives forever. Justin developed normally for the first eighteen months, at least as we could tell.

He looked normal. He was healthy, and all of the usual childhood checks found him to be normal physically. He crept and then walked at ten months, and appeared to be just a normal toddler-at least to the inexperienced observer. Whatever signs there were of unusual behavior were either overlooked or just peculiar to him. Justin walked on his toes, flapped his hands, crossed his eyes, and even would spin around until he became dizzy. He was our first and so we were not able to compare his development with another child in the family. You see, at the time 'autism' was neither part of our experience or vocabulary: that would not come until sometime later.

At eighteen months, Denise and I became concerned when Justin was not speaking and soon afterward, the investigation began. I remember the first time we heard the word "autism" mentioned it meant very little to us. Autism is in fact, a developmental disorder that affects an individual's ability to communicate, use language and interact with others. When we fully realized what this disorder meant, it was quite frankly unbelievable. You see, as far as we were aware, there was nobody in either of our family histories with this disorder and besides, he looked normal. How could this happen to us? We were in denial. It was only after the investigation that we noticed his lack of eye contact, unrealistic fears and his obsession with water.

According to the doctors, his social skills and communication skills were underdeveloped and all of his peculiar behaviors at ten months were early signs of autism. Justin was identified as moderately autistic or perhaps what some may describe as a medium-function autistic.

I believe at the time, the statistics were that one in every ten thousand children were reported to have autism. Today the number is increasing more rapidly where one in every one hundred and fifty children is autistic and it is seen more in boys than girls. The early times were very stressful for us because here was a child that we loved but could not reach at a meaningful level. He was locked in his own private world.

Adapted from: ***"A Father's Unconditional Love"***
The Nassau Guardian
June 16, 2008

LIVEWORKSHEETS

"Life is wonderful but challenging."

10. a. Explain the above quote in your own words.

_____

_____

_____ [2]

b. Give evidence from this passage

_____

_____

_____ [2]

11. Explain the meaning of any **THREE** of the following words as they are used in the passage.

a. Anticipating _____

b. Ecstatic _____

c. Peculiar _____

d. Concerned _____

e. Disorder _____

LIVEWORKSHEETS

12. From the list below, tick (✓) the **THREE** areas of a child's development which according to the passage are affected by autism.

_____ Speech

_____ Writing

_____ Sight

_____ Socializing

_____ Movement

[3]

13. In the table below, list signs which showed that Justin was autistic. You should list **TWO** signs before the investigation and TWO signs after the investigation.

SIGNS BEFORE THE INVESTIGATION	SIGNS AFTER THE INVESTIGATION
1.	1.
2.	2.

14. Give **THREE** reasons why Justin's parents were surprised when they discovered that he had autism.

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____ [3]

Section B Part 1- Total marks [20]

LIVEWORKSHEETS

SECTION B- PART II

READING COMPREHENSION

INSTRUCTIONS:

Read the passage carefully and answer the questions that follow. ALL questions must be answered in complete sentences and in your own words unless otherwise indicated.

All answers must be based on information in the passages. Special attention should be given to the directions for each question.

A FATHER'S UNCONDITIONAL LOVE (cont'd)

In the midst of it all, we were sustained by our faith and the belief that all things work together for good to them that that love the Lord.

We would always be grateful to the Dan Marino Centre in Fort Lauderdale. In 1998 while working in Freeport, a friend told us about the Centre. He had a child that was diagnosed early as mildly autistic and through the help of professionals who study behaviors, his son made tremendous progress at the Centre. Above all else, he was given hope. Our friend was better able to understand his son's world.

Because of this, we decided we would try to get treatment for Justin at the Centre. It required a tremendous sacrifice, both financially and otherwise. My wife left her job as banker. She moved to Fort Lauderdale in 1999 for three months while Justin received attention. During this time, we continued to get support and advice from our friend on what to expect Justin and how best we could help him with his treatment. As a result, we became aware that our son was more intelligent than we thought. We realized however, that it is important to reach such children early in order to give them the best chance to live a normal life.

Our son is unable to talk and so communication was extremely difficult. Finding out that he could express himself through typing, was a tremendous break-through into his world. I recognize my wife, Denise, as a remarkable woman and so are all mothers and parents that deal with these special children on a daily basis. Most parents with normal children do not understand when you explain to them that you had to teach your child how blow his nose or how to use a straw…to drink a soda out of a can. The things that seem natural for so many children are sometimes celebrated for the autistic child.

Justin today is a lovable teenager and he has his place in our home. We could not imagine our lives without him. He has brought excitement and a variety of happenings to our lives. We are both better and stronger individuals because of him.

Denise would tell you that at times she is still frustrated. However, Justin and all of these Children are a part of our society. Therefore, we need to have a little patience with them and we will find out that they are special indeed. They feel they think but they relate to the world differently.

I am reminded that some very gifted individuals are autistic, including Satoshi Tajri, creator of Pokermon , Hans Christian Anderson, writer of The Little Mermaid, and scientists, Albert Einstein and Isaac Newton.

We believe there is a cure out there for autism. However, the public needs to learn more about it and be encouraged to pray and make financial contributions so that more research can be done.

Adapted from "*A Father's Unconditional Love*"
The Nassau Guardian
June 16, 2008

LIVEWORKSHEETS

15. How does Justin communicate with his family?

_____

_____[1]

16. List **THREE** things/actions which non-autistic children can do easily, but Justin had to be taught.

_____

_____

_____[3]

17. Find the words in the passage that convey the same or similar meaning as the following words or phrases.

a. to hold up ;supported; motivated; encouraged:(para.1)_____

b. average; usual; ordinary; typical: (para.3) _____

c. mixture; assortment; a lot; several: (para.7)_____

d. upset; disturbed; bothered; discouraged; imitated: (para.8)_____[4]

18. Using the information from the passage, give **FOUR** ways to show how a research center in The Bahamas would benefit parents and autistic children.

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____[7]

LIVEWORKSHEETS

19. Complete the table below by providing the name of a character mentioned in the passage **OR** an adjective to describe the character, and **TWO** pieces of support for **EACH** adjective.

CHARACTER	TRAIT/ADJECTIVE	SUPPORT
1. _____	sacrificial	1. 2.
2. Friend	_____	1. 2.

20. List TWO outstanding persons mentioned in the passage who are thought to be autistic.

_____

_____

_____ [2]

LIVEWORKSHEETS

21. Your uncle/aunt has a child who is autistic. In not more than 60 words, and using ONLY the \information in this passage, give FOUR pieces of advice that would assist him/her in dealing with this child.

[7]

Total marks [30]

Paper Total [70]

LIVEWORKSHEETS