

**Read the following passage and choose the best answer**

### **Growing up poor (\*)**

My name is Mike, and I was born in a very poor neighbourhood in Los Angeles. When I was little, my mother took care of my brother and me. My father left before I came to this world, and never came back. My mother had to work very hard so that we could have food, clothes, and a place to live. She was great; we loved her so much.

Every day, she usually arrived home very late, and she was exhausted. Still, she always cooked for us, played with us, and did the homework with us. For her, good education was very important. "I couldn't finish school, and that's why I must work so hard now, and I earn so little money," she often said.



Life in my neighbourhood was very hard. There were lots of crime, and drugs. In our neighbourhood, it was not easy to be a good student. The other children hated you if you got good grades, so I was not very popular. The only good thing about living in that place is that you needed to be very clever to survive, and that helped me later in life.

Finally, my brother and I could finish high school. I went to university because I was a very good basketball player, and basketball paid for my university degree. On the day of my graduation, my mother was in tears. And she was in tears again the day I showed her our new apartment, away from the neighbourhood. Now she does not have to work anymore, and I take care of her.

- 1 Mike did not see his father.
  - a) True
  - b) False
  - c) Not given
- 2 Mikes's mother did not have enough money to buy food.
  - a) True
  - b) False
  - c) Not given
- 3 Mikes's mother was a cook.
  - a) True
  - b) False
  - c) Not given
- 4 Mike took drugs.
  - a) True
  - b) False
  - c) Not given
- 5 Mike got good grades at school.
  - a) True
  - b) False
  - c) Not given
- 6 Mike thinks living in his neighbourhood was great.
  - a) True
  - b) False
  - c) Not given
- 7 Mike's brother went to university.
  - a) True
  - b) False
  - c) Not given
- 8 Mike's mother is living alone now.
  - a) True
  - b) False
  - c) Not given

(\*) Adapted from: <https://test-english.com/reading/a2/growing-up-poor/>