GAPPED TEXT: PRACTICE 7

In 2012, it was reported that there was one divorce in Malaysia every 10 minutes. In just eight years from 2004, the number of divorces in Malaysia has more than doubled. The number of Muslim couples getting divorced rose to 47,740 in 2012 while non-Muslim marriages broke down at a slightly higher rate to 9,020 cases in the same period. (1)_____. According to the Department of Islamic Development Malaysia (JAKIM), the number of Muslim couples, tying the knot has risen steadily in general over the years though the pattern for non-Muslim marriages is more erratic. Nonetheless, statistics were not available for the marriage or divorce rate per population.

The rising divorce rate is due to women becoming more financially independent and greater social acceptance of divorce. (2)_____. In tandem with the influence of multimedia, the current generation of women has access to legal advice and better understanding of the laws. (3)_____. According to a Syarie lawyer, marriages generally last between 5 and 10 years before breaking down.

However, the law still discriminates against women. In a civil divorce, women generally end up with an insignificant share, especially homemakers, when matrimonial assets are divided. Although the Law Reform (Marriage and Divorce) Act 1976 takes into account the non-monetary contributions of homemakers, the husband will always receive a larger share of matrimonial assets in a divorce. (4)_____.

In general, a rising divorce rate is linked to industrialisation. (5) _____. The stress of modern lifestyle, higher cost of living and financial instability can create problems. Women joined the workforce to complement the spouse's income, but at the same time, they could survive without their husband's assistance. Moreover, Muslim men can easily divorce their wives outside of the court. Research shows a non-linear association between fines to divorces outside of court and *"pengesahan cerai"*.

(Adapted from: http://www.themalaymailonline.com/malaysia/article/one-divorce-in-malaysia-every-10-minutes)

A. The ability of men to earn income is still valued more than the ability of women as homemakers.
B. Over the years, the number of divorce cases kept on rising.
C. With better education, women today join the rat race to achieve higher economic independence.
D. Research shows that there is a correlation between women being in the labour force and divorce.
E. However, the number of marriages are also going up.
F. Women need to face different challenges in life after getting a divorce.
G. They know their rights and are not afraid to step forward and get a divorce when they are abused.

LIVEWORKSHEETS