Unit 1: FAMILY LIFE – FURTHER READING

Read the passage carefully, and do the tasks that follow.

The Role of the Japanese Mother

The focus of the mother is her home and family, with particular attention to the **rearing** of children. While most Japanese believe that a woman's place is in the home, women make up almost 40 percent of the labor force. More than half of these women are married. Many mothers with small children work only part-time so they can be home when their children are not in school. The extra income earned by the mother is often used to meet the cost of their children's education.

Japanese mothers take the responsibility of their child's education and upbringing very seriously. They seldom confront their preschool children because they want to **foster** an **intimate**, dependent relationship. The purpose of this approach is to get the child to obey willingly with the mother's wishes and to shape the child's behavior over a long period of time. The close nature of the mother-child relationship and the strong parental **commitment** help to provide a strong foundation for the child's entry into elementary school.

Mothers are involved directly in with the child's school. Each day a notebook is sent back and forth between mother and teacher **remarking** on the child's mood, behavior, health, and activities both in school and at home. Mothers attend PTA meetings usually twice a month and are involved with school committee's working on special projects such as gardening and hot lunch preparation. School is a very stressful and competitive process so the Japanese mother concentrates all her efforts on getting her children through so they can get accepted into the appropriate universities.

Task 1: Match a word in column A with its definition in column B, writing the answer in each blank.

A	B	
1. rearing	**A.**	encourage something to develop
2. foster	**B.**	giving an opinion or thought
3. intimate	**C.**	a promise to support someone or something
4. commitment	**D.**	the practice of looking after children until they're old enough
5. remarking	**E.**	having a close relationship

Task 2: Read the passage, and then decide whether the statements are true (T) or false (F).

	T	F
6. Most Japanese women are housewives.	☐	☐
7. Taking care of children and bringing them up are of great importance to Japanese mothers.	☐	☐
8. Japanese mothers tend to be very strict to their children at home.	☐	☐
9. Japanese mothers and teachers work together for the children's study progress and comfort at school.	☐	☐
10. The Japanese mother concentrates all her efforts on getting her children through, so the atmosphere at home is very stressful.	☐	☐

LIVEWORKSHEETS

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