

C. READING

Exercise 1. Read the passage and mark the letter A, B, C, or D on your answer sheet to indicate the correct answer to each of the following questions.

My parents had a very different upbringing to what I have today... It's like we grew up in parallel universes. They were from Ireland, and grew up in secure homes, in the middle of the countryside with no cares in the world. I live in inner-city Birmingham, and with peer pressure, school stress and lots of other things to deal with, I think that I have a much tougher life than they had.

Times have definitely changed. We have a lot of responsibility as teenagers, and we have to act like adults. It depends on where you have grown up and who you **hang around with**, but I think most people start drinking alcohol around the age of 13 and lose their virginity around the age of 14. There isn't a definite age that most people try drugs. I am nearly 16 years old and I have never tried any, but I know plenty of people who have. This really depends on who you hang around with and how much **will-power** you have to say no.

I think that a lot of teenagers are discriminated against wrongly by adults. A few days ago, I was on my way home in a rush because I was late, it was very dark and I was running. I ran past a middle-aged woman, and as I went past I brushed her shoulder. She let out a scream and grabbed a tight hold of her handbag. I found this really funny; she thought I was going to mug her.

Most teenagers have part-time jobs, which creates responsibility and the premature need to behave in an adult way. I've been working since I was about 13 (I look older than I am, and can lie about my age) but most teens start at around 15.

We need to have a certain level of trust put in **us**. We need to feel wanted and important, and not constantly targeted and victimized by the media. After all, if the media is constantly attacking teens and **branding** them as thugs, then that is the way we will act.

1. The passage is most likely to be taken from _____.

- A. a teenager's diary
- B. a teenager's essay on generation gap
- C. a magazine for teenagers
- D. a study on teenagers doing part-time work

2. According to the writer, all of the following describe his/her parents' life EXCEPT _____.

- A. much easier than his/hers
- B. more carefree than his/hers
- C. more stressful than his/hers
- D. more secured than his/hers

3. The phrase "hang around with**" in the passage mostly means _____.**

- A. being friends with
- B. going out with
- C. sharing the same class
- D. coming from the same family

4. The word "will-power**" in the passage is closest in meaning to _____.**

- A. effort
- B. determination
- C. willingness
- D. readiness

5. Which of the following is NOT TRUE about the writer of the passage?

- A. The writer is in his/her teenage.
- B. The writer has to try to behave in an adult way.
- C. The writer is not responsible for what he/she does.
- D. The writer has never tried drinking alcohol or taking drug.

6. The writer told the story in paragraph 3 in order to _____.
A. explain how he/she feels unhappy about the world
B. give an example of adults' wrong discrimination against teenagers
C. prove that his/her life is so far more dangerous than his/her parents'
D. warn other teenagers about how to be careful in the street late at night
7. The word "us" in the passage refers to _____.
A. adults B. people C. teenagers D. media
8. The word "**branding**" in the passage mostly means _____.
A. considering B. labeling C. naming D. asking
9. Which of the following best describes the writer's attitude according to the passage?
A. positive B. negative C. friendly D. sympathetic

Exercise 2. Read the passage and mark the letter A, B, C, or D on your answer sheet to indicate the correct answer to each of the following questions.

Try to understand a situation from your friend's point of view. Ask questions to get a sense of the problem or issue, but the main thing is to listen to them. You don't have to have all the answers, and don't **assume** that your friend wants advice - they might just want to talk so that they can **work it out** for themselves.

If your friend has a medical or mental health issue, a good way to offer support is to learn about what they've been diagnosed with. Being interested in what they're going through shows you care, and that you plan to stick around no matter what's going on.

If you're worried about someone and you want to be there for them, ask them what they need. You'll then know what they find helpful during tough times, and you can offer them support in a way that's genuinely helpful.

Hugging your friends is a great way to show you care for them. Physical contact can be really comforting, especially when someone feels alone.

Even if you don't live nearby, show your friends you're there for them by making an effort to keep in regular touch through social media, emails, texts and calls.

You don't have to make a big deal about it all the time, but you can make a real difference to how someone is feeling just by letting them know how important they are to you. So, go for it!

If you think your friend's safety is at risk, you might need to act without their **consent** and get help. It can be a tough call, particularly when you're worried how they'll react, but remember that good friends care enough to step up, and that you're doing **it** to protect them from harm.

1. The reading passage mainly gives readers advice on _____.
A. how to make a lot of friends B. how to be friendly with others
C. what to do to be best friends D. the best qualities of a friend

2. The word "**assume**" in the passage is closest in meaning to _____.
 A. think B. consider C. conclude D. agree
3. The phrase "**work it out**" in the passage almost means _____.
 A. give a description of B. reach an agreement on
 C. make changes to D. find a solution for
4. According to the passage, when your friend gets ill, you should show your care by _____.
 A. learning about his/her illness B. comforting him/her with your hug
 C. sending them messages every day D. asking him/her for help
5. According to the passage, all of the following should be done to show you care about your friends EXCEPT _____.
 A. making plan to be with your friends when they are in illness
 B. keeping constant contact with them to comfort them even from afar
 C. letting them know that they mean a lot to you
 D. giving them valuable gifts on special occasions
6. The word "**consent**" in the passage is closest in meaning to _____.
 A. knowledge B. admission C. permission D. consideration
7. The word "**it**" in the passage refers to _____.
 A. the situation in which your friend is at risk B. the action you take to protect your friend
 C. the safety of your friend D. the care you show your friend

Exercise 3. Read the passage and mark the letter A, B, C, or D on your answer sheet to indicate the correct answer to each of the following questions.

MANAGING TIME

Time management: two words that have me breaking out in a cold sweat. Why should I suddenly have to learn how to manage my time? Surely time had got on perfectly well for several millennia without requiring management, let alone by me. But my university tutor was adamant: time needed some managing and apparently it was up to me to do it.

First of all, let's be clear. I do have plenty of time to manage. As an arts student, I generally have 23 hours in the day that aren't given over to going to lectures. But I generally need somebody to tell me what I should be writing, so I go to lectures.

Perhaps I had "taken on too much"? I'd been elected to four committees, produced a play, applied for a part time job, hung around the college bar with my friends, and written the odd essay. But I thought I was coping well. Sure, there was the day when I did the research for an essay on the morning of deadline day and wrote it that afternoon, but that was a one off.

On second thoughts, maybe my tutor is right. It's difficult to give up what you're involved in but perhaps it's a good idea to sit back and have a **breather** once in a while. Even an arts student has to get down to some real work!

1. What was the writer's initial reaction to his tutor's ultimatum?

- A. He had to admit that it was sound advice. B. He failed to see how it could help him.
C. He had no understanding of what it meant. D. He had tried it before so he knew it would fail.

2. What is the writer's job?

- A. He's a time manager. B. He's a lecturer.
C. He's an arts student. D. He's a university tutor.

3. Which of the following is NOT mentioned as something he had done?

- A. Producing a play B. Getting a part time job
C. Writing an essay D. Head of four committees

4. The writer slowly begins to realize that he should ____.

- A. spend more time with his friends B. end his obsession with leisure pursuit
C. integrate more into university life D. apply himself to the real task in hand

5. The word "breather**" in the passage mostly means ____.**

- A. an assignment B. a machine C. a rest D. a passion

Exercise 4. Read the passage and mark the letter A, B, C, or D on your answer sheet to indicate the correct word or phrase that best fits each of the numbered blanks from 1 to 5

Love is very different from *friendship*. If you've got a *crush* on someone you can't wait to see them.

If it's just an *acquaintance* you (1) _____ probably wait until tomorrow, or the day after. One thing is for sure: You'll probably see your *blood* relatives every day! Luckily, you don't need to see your (2) _____ relatives quite as often, though. When (3) _____ comes to business, you'll probably see your *business partner* daily, but you'll stay away from *nemesis* as often as you can.

Let's face it: *love* is complicated. I've heard from a number of people (4) _____ have experienced *unrequited love*, and they're never the same! There are also all kinds of (5) _____. For example, if you've had a *casual* date, do you want to go out again? Are you tired of your *steady* date? Well, maybe it's time for a new *love-interest* !

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|-------------|----------|--------------|-------------------|
| 1. A. can | B. could | C. should | D. must |
| 2. A. long | B. far | C. distant | D. close |
| 3. A. you | B. they | C. it | D. there |
| 4. A. who | B. those | C. which | D. they |
| 5. A. worry | B. love | C. interests | D. considerations |

Exercise 5. Read the passage and mark the letter A, B, C, or D on your answer sheet to indicate the correct word or phrase that best fits each of the numbered blanks from 1 to 5

Generation gap refers to a vast difference in cultural norms between a younger generation and their elders. It's a distressing thing for the phenomenon (1) _____ occurs around the world. The (2) _____ of communication, different views on certain problems and different attitudes towards life may cause the generation gap or even widen it. First, one of the major factors for this misunderstanding between two generations is that parents and children lack communication. Young people (3) _____ reveal their feelings to their parents, and often complain that their parents are out of (4) _____ with modern days, that they are dominant, that they do not trust their children to deal with crises, and that they talk too much about certain problems. So when young people meet some problems, they would rather (5) _____ to their classmates or their friends for help. The lack of communication widens the generation gap.

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|------------------|-------------|------------|-------------------|
| 1. A. which | B. who | C. whom | D. what |
| 2. A. deficiency | B. shortage | C. lack | D. inadequacy |
| 3. A. sometimes | B. always | C. often | D. seldom |
| 4. A. mind | B. reach | C. depth | D. touch |
| 5. A. turn | B. turning | C. to turn | D. to have turned |

Exercise 6. Read the following passage and mark the letter A, B, C or D on your answer sheet to indicate the correct word or phrase that best fits each of the numbered blanks from 1 to 5.

CLOSE FRIENDS

British people have a reputation for being rather quiet and reserved. However, a new study has (1) _____ that Britons are actually quite sociable and the average person claims to have 14 close friends. Although a minority of those questioned (2) _____ that they had no best friend, a quarter said that they had more than 18 close friends. Experts said that this is due to changes in the way people spend their free time. They are now more (3) _____ to invite friends to their homes or go out socialising than previous generations. The increasing use of mobile phones and emails has also made it easier to (4) _____ a greater number of friendships.

Men's relationships are not deep though they tend to have more friends. Women, on the other hand, prefer to have a small number of friends they can trust totally, and with whom they can feel completely at ease. The idea that people in the north of England are more neighbourly than those in the south seems to be backed up by the survey. However, despite having friends, it seems that family still (5) _____ an important part in most people's lives. When asked who they would turn to for help if they were ill or had a problem, the majority said that they would call upon a relative first rather than a friend.

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|----------------|-----------------|------------------|-------------|
| 1. A. exposed | B. revealed | C. presented | D. remarked |
| 2. A. admitted | B. apologised | C. accused | D. allowed |
| 3. A. probable | B. likely | C. sure | D. certain |
| 4. A. go with | B. keep up with | C. carry through | D. get on |
| 5. A. gives | B. provides | C. makes | D. plays |