ARE YOU SHOPPING TOO MUCH?

Read the text and answer the questions.

Shopping used to be my favorite activity. It started when I was a teenager and I worked in a clothes shop. I had a staff discount in the shop and I used to spend all my wages on clothes. When I got a job in an office, I carried on spending all my spare money on clothes – even after I had got married, bought a house and had children!

I used to go shopping every weekend and I probably spent about £500 a month on clothes. It wasn't something I only did when I wasn't very happy, I always went shopping, however I felt. Sometimes I'd look for ages to find what I wanted. Other times, I'd just buy the first thing I saw.

Most of the things I didn't need. One day I bought three pairs of boots, even though I already had another ten pairs at home. I never even took the most expensive pair out of the box!

I realized I had a problem when one day my five-year-old daughter looked into my wardrobe and asked me why I had so many handbags. I counted them. I had seventy-five handbags and they must have cost me thousands of pounds. I couldn't believe what I'd done!

First of all, I threw away my credit cards. Then, I gave away all the clothes that I'd never worn. After that I made arrangements every Saturday to visit friends or go on a day trip, so I wouldn't be able to go shopping.

1 What is the writer's main aim in writing the text?
A to advise people how to shop sensibly
B to talk about her expensive way of living
C to describe her addiction to shopping
D to talk about different fashions.

2 What does the writer say about herself after she got married?
A She tried to stop spending so much
B She managed to spend less than before.
C She continued spending unwisely
D She became depressed about her spending.

3 What does the writer say about her past shopping habits?
A she only bought expensive clothes
B She always thought carefully about what she bought
C She liked to buy something different every day.
D She sometimes bought things she already had.

4 How did the writer feel when she realized she had a problem?
A shocked
B embarrassed
C angry with herself
D miserable

5 Which of the following is the best description of the writer?
A The woman who grew up loving clothes and looked fantastic in everything she wore.
B The woman who recognized her problem but failed to change herself
C The woman who loved collecting clothes and succeeded in fighting her habit
D The woman who shopped and shopped until she had no money left to spend.

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