

## **IX. Read the following passage and choose the correct answer to each of the questions.**

### **READING 1.**

Family life is changing. Two-parent households are on the decline in the United States as divorce, remarriage and cohabitation are on the rise. And families are smaller now, both due to the growth of single-parent households and the drop in fertility. Not only are Americans having fewer children, but the circumstances surrounding parenthood have changed. While in the early 1960s babies typically arrived within a marriage, today fully four-in-ten births occur to women who are single or living with a non-marital partner. At the same time that family structures have transformed, so has the role of mothers in the workplace - and in the home. As more moms have entered the labor force, more have become breadwinners - in many cases, primary breadwinners - in their families. As a result of these changes, there is no longer one dominant family form in the U.S. Parents today are raising their children against a backdrop of increasingly diverse and, for many, constantly evolving family forms.

#### **1. Which of the following trends is true in the United States?**

- A. The rate of divorce is increasing.
- B. More women become housewives.
- C. Family structures remain unchanged.
- D. Nuclear family becomes the dominant family form.

#### **2. Why has the size of families in the US reduced?**

- A. There are more extended families and less medical care.
- B. More teenagers decide to live independently of their parents.
- C. There are more people living abroad.
- D. There are more families with one parent and fewer babies born each year.

#### **3. Who are breadwinners in the United States?**

- A. either women or children
- B. either men or women
- C. only men
- D. only women

#### **4. Family forms in the United States are \_\_\_\_\_?**

- A. changing
- B. similar
- C. chaotic
- D. remaining the same

#### **5. Which of the following statements is not true?**

- A. The number of families with both parents is reducing.
- B. More women can earn money.
- C. More women have had their own jobs.
- D. In 1961, most babies were born by single mothers.

### **READING 2.**

In Britain some families feel that learning at home is better than going to school. Home schooled children can choose when they want to learn. Does this sound more enjoyable than school?

Andrian is a science prodigy and he wants to start university by the age of fourteen. He finds school lessons easier than the ones he expects but making friends is more difficult. At home he can spend more time on his favourite subjects and is preparing to take many of his exams early. Does he ever take a break? "Yes", he says "I don't study subjects I'm not interested in."

Holly's parents weren't happy with the local school. So they made a decision to teach her at home. Her favourite is history and she often goes to museums to study. "I couldn't do that before", she says. "This is more interesting than school was". Her parents are always happy to help her.

Andrian and Holly love learning at home, but some people think that studying at school is more useful because it trains you for adult life. It teaches you to be with people you don't like, but it can also help you to make friends. Are these things more important than lessons? What do you think?

#### **1. In Britain, people can learn at home or \_\_\_\_\_.**

A. at school      B. at work      C. at the museum      D. at break

2. **Andrian wants to start \_\_\_\_\_ when he's 14.**  
A. university      B. lessons      C. subjects      D. school

3. **He only studies things that he \_\_\_\_\_.**  
A. isn't happy with      B. is interested in      C. feels difficult      D. feels easy

4. **History is Holly's \_\_\_\_\_.**  
A. favourite test      B. only one subject      C. favourite subject      D. boring subject

5. **Why do some people think studying at school is \_\_\_\_\_?**  
A. more easy      B. a waste of time      C. stressful      D. more useful

### **READING 3.**

British teenagers sit up to 70 exams and tests before they reach their GCSEs (The General Certificate of Secondary Education). But there are ways to ease the stress at exam time.

What a student eats and drinks in the run-up to exams can influence how clearly they think and how happy they feel. A balanced diet with lots of fruit and vegetables, fish and complex carbohydrates will help them concentrate and think clearly. Too much high-fat, high-sugar and high caffeine food and drink can make studying harder.

Sleeping well and for long enough to feel rested, around six to eight hours for most people, will help thinking and concentration. Students should allow half an hour or so to wind down between studying, watching TV or using a computer and going to bed to help them get a good night's sleep. Regular exercise also helps them sleep better. **Cramming** all night before an exam is usually a bad idea.

Parents should be flexible around exam time. When a child is revising all day, don't worry about household jobs that are left undone or untidy bedrooms. If they're a bit moody they should stay calm. They can help a child to revise by making sure they have somewhere comfortable to study. Students should remind themselves that feeling nervous is normal. Nervousness is a typical reaction to exams. All students will feel it. The key is to put these nerves to positive use. Being reminded of what they do know and the time they have put into study can help them feel confident that they can reach their potential.

1. **The underlined word “Cramming” in the passage probably means \_\_\_\_\_.**

A. sleeping for a long time      B. memorising a lot of things  
C. have a nightmare      D. reading things aloud

2. **A comfortable place a good for students to \_\_\_\_\_.**

A. feel positively about learning      B. have a sound sleep  
C. revise more effectively      D. stop worrying about exams

3. **Before exams, it is not unusual to \_\_\_\_\_.**

A. react typically      B. feel nervous      C. stay calm      D. eat well

4. **Which of the following is NOT true, according to the passage?**

A. Regular exercise and relaxation are necessary for a good sleep.  
B. Parents play an important role in raising their children's exam result.  
C. It is impossible for teenagers to ease their stress before exams.  
D. Eating and drinking properly can help students study better.

5. **What is the main idea of the passage?**

A. Nervousness: good reaction to exams      B. What teenagers should do to feel rested  
C. How to be well-prepared for exams      D. A balanced diet for examinees