Unit 4. CARING FOR THOSE IN NEED

PART 3: READING

I. Read the passage and answer the following questions.

Each summer, the Winant and Clayton Volunteer program sends a group of Americans to volunteer in London for seven weeks and provides housing and a small stipend to help defray the high cost of living. After seven weeks of volunteering, participants have two weeks to travel independently before returning to London to evaluate the program and get their flight back to the United States.

The application includes a few short essays, a series of questions about the type of placement one would prefer, and an informal interview with former volunteers that gives applicants a chance to find out more about the program.

Deciding to participate takes a small leap of faith. The roster of volunteer placements and housing options can change from year to year and volunteers can't choose their placement in advance. But once you're accepted you instantly feel that you've joined a close-knit group. The volunteer coordinator is in frequent contact through mailings and e-mails to help you prepare for the trip, and there is a daylong orientation in New York that bring all the volunteers together before departure for London.

1. How long do a group of Americans volunteer in London?

A. two weeks B. each summer C. seven weeks D. three weeks

2. What does the Winant and Clayton Volunteer program provide them with?

A. housing and a small stipend B. a few short essays

C. transportation D. foods and clothes

3. Which of the following is NOT included in the application?

A. A series of questions about the type of placement one would prefer

B. An informal interview with former volunteers

C. A few short essays

D. The roster of volunteer placements

4. What can the volunteers do after seven weeks of volunteering?

A. They can have two weeks to travel independently

B. They can have two weeks to evaluate the program

C. They can return to London

D. They can get their flight back to the United States

5. How does the volunteer coordinator keep in contact with you?

A. Through television and newspapers B. Through telephone and e-mails

C. Through mailings and e-mails D. Through radio and cell phone

II. Read the following passage and choose the best option.

The United States has been criticized for its treatment of its elderly citizens. Although in many other countries the elderly usually live with their children's family, many older Americans live alone, without the close companionship of their children. This situation is sometimes blamed on the "selfishness" of the young

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generation, but a closer look shows that many of the elderly prefer to maintain their independent lives.

Research on the situation of the elderly in America has shown that while grandparents are delighted to be visited periodically by their children and grandchildren, they prefer to continue living in the surroundings that they are familiar with. This suggests that children should permit their parents to live alone if they wish to, and should encourage them to maintain close ties to the rest of the family.

Another surprising result of the research on the elderly in the United States has been the very positive influence which pets have been found to have on the elderly people that they live with. It has been shown that elderly people who care for small pets, such as cats and dogs, live longer, are healthier, and have better attitudes towards their lives than similar elderly people without these companions.

1. Many elderly Americans live ____.

A. without satisfaction.
B. by themselves.
C. a lonely life.
D. a simple life.

2. What do some people see as the cause of this situation?

A. The society of the USA treats its elderly people as troubles.
B. The young people usually trouble the elderly of their own.
C. The government concerns hardly about the elderly people.
D. The young people are too selfish.

3. Many of the elderly Americans want to ____.

A. keep living in their well-known places and conditions.
B. remain with the grandchildren in their houses.
C. remove to their sons' or daughters' homes.
D. live with their friends in their hometown.

4. The author advises the young people to ____.

A. keep close ties with the elderly of their own.
B. let the elderly of their families live by themselves.
C. permit their elderly relatives to raise some pets.
D. respect the wishes of their elderly parents.

5. The author's main thought is that ____.

A. the elderly who care for some pets live together.
B. the social practice in the USA makes the elderly live alone.
C. the elderly people should have better attitudes towards their lives.
D. it is a social tradition that the elderly Americans enjoy the self-directing lives.

III. Fill in each blank with a suitable word in the box.

treatment	*social*	*retirement*	*elderly*	*aspects*
physical	*aging*	*needs*	*pensioners*	*on*

There are many (1) …… that are involved in taking care of (2) …… or aged people. Those who have the responsibility of taking care of the aged need to be aware of the various needs and

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requirements that the elderly have.

Elderly individuals who live (3) …… their own, without the support of anyone, may have a certain amount of financial needs. Such people need to fend for themselves for everything, including food, groceries, medicines etc. (4) …… have the benefit of a steady source of monthly income. Those who do not have any pension or other source of income would have to live entirely on their saving or through special senior citizens' government financial schemes or donations from charitable organisations.

It is natural that elderly people prefer staying at home in their old age. This brings the benefit of familiar surroundings and people around them. The homes of such people may be modified to accommodate their changing needs. There is the added benefit of familiar neighbours in the event of an emergency. Transportation is quick and easier for elderly people residing in areas that are familiar to them.

Health services are the most important requirement when it comes to elderly (5) …… _. Elderly people have age-related health issues. This is a normal part of life and cannot be avoided. Proper care and nursing facilities go a long way in keeping most of these health issues in check and also preventing them from causing any serious harm. Regular medical check-ups are useful to monitor the health or the elderly and also to anticipate potential future issues. Regular medical check ups also help in identifying serious health problems at the initial stage when (6) …… has a greater chance of success.

As people age, their digestive systems gradually starts to weaken. Elderly people often find that they have difficulty digesting certain foods. It is important to realize that diet has to change to accommodate the reduced ability of the body. It may be okay to over-indulge with regards to food when young. But for the elderly, a nutritious and balanced diet made up of foodstuffs that the digestive system is able to accept is of utmost importance. Very often, the diet needs to be altered taking into consideration the medicines that are consumed each day.

For the elderly whose mobility has been affected due to (7) …… _, a certain amount of assistance in the daily routines becomes a necessity. It may not be possible for a family member to be present the whole day. Home nurses are the latest professionals to have appeared on the career list. For those elderly who need assistance in basic activities like walking, eating, bathing and dressing a home nurse is an invaluable companion.

The elderly have (8) …… needs too. Being debilitated by age is no reason for the elderly to be confined to themselves or in their rooms. Modern medicine recognises as fact that the elderly, just as ordinary people, need to feel wanted, cared for and loved. The world over, kind-hearted people take turns to give companionship to the elderly. Oftentimes, just physical proximity is enough comfort for the elderly. Some read to them and some others chat with them.

(9) …… ……..comfort for the elderly differs from the needs of the young. As an example, air-conditioning may be looked upon as a necessity for the young. Yet, for an aged body, it may be very uncomfortable.

Considering all that has been said, is it any wonder that care homes have become a billion dollar industry? Not every business is about profits. Care homes serve an important purpose in modern society. Nursing homes, care homes, (10) …… ……villages and retirement communities are just some of the forms that organised elderly care has taken. In the United States alone, this industry was worth USD 17

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billion in 2010.

IV. Read the text and decide the following statements are True or False.

As you are reading this text, someone in your country has been affected by the AIDS crisis. People in every part of the world have been affected by the AIDS pandemic. Every nation in the world has had to take steps to address it. According to a recent United Nations estimate, 38.5 million people across the globe are infected with HIV-AIDS.

Because AIDS has had such far-reaching effects, in the year 2000, for the first time in the history of the United Nations, the Security Council took up a health issue - HIV-AIDS. The world body declared the spread of the virus a global emergency, a threat to peace and security in Africa, the continent that has been the hardest hit by the disease. The AIDS virus was considered no less destructive than warfare itself. In the year 2000, armed conflict took the lives of 2,000 people in Africa, while the AIDS virus claimed the lives of 2 million.

World-wide, the effect of the spreading AIDS virus has created 16.6 million orphans, 90 per cent of whom are in sub-Saharan Africa, a region where the crisis has been particularly deadly. Because so many have died, the very infrastructure of the region is endangered. So many people who play key roles in society - doctors, teachers, farmers - are dying of AIDS.

What is the United Nations doing to address the AIDS crisis? UN-AIDS and its agencies have brought some innovative ways of spreading the message that, first, people need to overcome the stigma of AIDS so they can come forward to learn about prevention, diagnosis and treatment. One way to transmit this message is by providing education and AIDS awareness training to local community members whose work brings them into regular contact with other members. One such local community member is Paul Lopez, a hairdresser in Mexico City. Paul's clients tend to confide in him, their regular hairdresser. Therefore, he was trained by a UN-AIDS programme to dispense advice about testing and treatment of HIV-AIDS. Now, along with advice about beauty, Paul tells clients how they can protect themselves from the AIDS virus or where they can go for treatment should they need it.

Another crisis that United Nations programmes address is the crisis of care produced by the overwhelming number of AIDS orphans, 95 per cent of whom are in sub-Saharan Africa, where the spread of AIDS has been particularly lethal. Normally, when a child's parents die of AIDS, other family members, such as uncles and aunts, will take responsibility for the orphaned child. But because there are such increasing numbers of AIDS orphans and because the economic resources of some communities are so limited, it is increasingly difficult to find adults who can take in extra children. Often, children live by themselves in their deceased parents' home, surviving as well as they can.

A typical case is fourteen year-old Justin of Malawi, who has to care for his 10-year-old brother and nine-year-old sister. Justin says it is very hard to find enough to eat although he does his best to support himself and his siblings through his job carrying food for merchants. Since Justin and his siblings have no one to take them in, they continue to live by themselves in their deceased parents' home. United Nations and its agencies such as UNICEF sends aid workers and mobilizes community-based volunteer groups to go to the homes or orphaned children with daily supplies of food, money and advice on how to spend it. The aid workers also know the necessity of encouraging the children to go to school. Children's chances of completing their education are cut in half once they become orphans.

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In the Ugandan village of Kalong, for example, a tragic scene that is all too common in rural villages took place: six-year-old Nakeyeyune cried as the elders decided who would take custody of her six-month-old brother and other young siblings after both his parents had died from AIDS-related causes. In Uganda, one quarter of all families are caring for AIDS orphans. The poverty of many rural families makes it difficult for them to take responsibility for more children.

One way the United Nations helps single and foster parents to raise income levels is by fostering micro-credit cooperatives in rural villages. Micro-credit programmes allow traditional craft-makers and farmers to form cooperatives and sell more of what they produce. The increased incomes enable single and adoptive fosterparents to raise their income levels so they can support orphaned children. Such programmes have been especially successful among single mothers.

..... 1. Only a few parts of the world have been affected by the AIDS crisis.

..... 2. In this writing, over 40 million people in the world are affected with HIV-AIDS.

.....3. The Security Council had often dealt with medical issues.

..... 4. The Secretary-General said the AIDS crisis could not compare with the devastating effects of war.

..... 5. There are a total of 13 million orphans in the world.

.....6. UN aid workers take jobs as hairdressers and farmers in local communities to help fight the spread of AIDS.

..... 7. Orphans never live alone in any country.

..... 8. Sometimes AIDS orphans have to work to support younger brothers and sisters.

.....9. UNICEF aid workers bring food, money, and advice to the orphans.

..... 10. In Uganda (at this writing) 25 per cent of families take care of AIDS orphans.

.....11. Families who take care of orphans have enough resources to do so easily.

.....12. The United Nations has sponsored micro-credit cooperatives to help guardians support orphaned children.

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