UNIT 6 – PRACTICE 1

C. READING

I. Fill each of the numbered blanks in the following passage. Use only one word in each space.

incomes	service	earnings	bartenders	occupation
workforce	compared	gender	inequality	reinforcement

Gender Equality in the United States of America

In the United States, the gender earnings ratio suggests that there has been an increase in women's earnings (1) _____ to men. Men's plateau in earnings began after the 1970s, allowing for the increase in women's wages to close the ratio between (2) _____. Despite the smaller ratio between men and women's wages, disparity still exists. Census data suggests that women's earnings are 71 percent of men's (3) _____ in 1999.

As women entered the (4) _____ in larger numbers since the 1960s, occupations have become segregated based on the level of femininity or masculinity associated with each (5) _____. Census data suggests that some occupations have become more gender integrated (mail carriers, (6) _____, bus drivers, and real estate agents). In other areas, however, the reverse is true: occupations such as teachers, nurses, secretaries, and librarians have become female-dominated while occupations including architects, electrical engineers, and airplane pilots remain predominately male in composition. Women seem to occupy jobs in the (7) _____ sector at higher rates then men. Women's overrepresentation in these jobs as opposed to jobs that require managerial work acts as a (8) _____ of women and men into traditional (9) _____ role that might influence persisting gender (10) _____.

II. Choose the best answers to the following questions.

Sonita Alizadeh was born and grew up in Afghanistan until she was eight when the family fled to Iran because of war. Sonita remembers her childhood of hunger, aerial bombardment and Taliban fighters. In Iran, she couldn't get a formal education because of not having proper identification. She had to clean bathrooms and learnt the basics of how to read and write herself.

Sonita watched music videos on TV to kill her free time and learnt the styles of Iranian rapper Yas and US rapper Eminem. She started to write songs about her life as a refugee, child worker and especially a female. Other songs are about her girl friends with broken spirits after arguing and begging their parents not to sell them. Her songs have empowered her friends to protest against forced marriages which account for 60-80 per cent of Afghan marriages.

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Things were all right until they weren't. Sonita's mother asked her to come back to Afghanistan as she needed 7,000 dowry to prepare for Sonita's brother's wedding. Her mother thought she could sell Sonita for a man with 9,000 dowry. Devastated by her mother's wish, Sonita fought by making a music video "Daughters for Sale" with the help of an Iranian filmmaker. Thanks to the video, the Strongheart Group contacted her and gave her a scholarship in the US where she now can go to school and remain single.

1. What did Sonita do to earn money in Iran?

A. She wrote songs and rapped. B. She cleaned bathrooms. C. She made music videos.

2. What is TRUE about Sonita's songs?

A. They were banned in Iran.

B. They have given girls strength to protest against arranged marriages.

C. They're about her love of her homeland Afghanistan.

3. How did Sonita feel when her mother wanted to sell her?

A. Extremely upset and shocked B. Calm and indifferent C. Angry and hateful

4. Where does Sonita live now?

A. Afghanistan B. Iran C. The USA

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