

BIRTH ORDER THEORY

Reading Comprehension

- 1** What is the main idea of the passage?
 - a. There is a link between the desire to lead and to rebel.
 - b. People's personalities may be influenced by birth order.
 - c. First-born children make the best presidents.
 - d. Personality cancels out the birth order theory.
- 2** What can the birth order theory tell us?
 - a. the order in which siblings were born
 - b. how parents should treat their children
 - c. what type of job a person might be suited for
 - d. whether someone can get into a good school
- 3** Why might only children prefer to be their own boss?
 - a. because they lack strong negotiating skills
 - b. because they don't like to be criticized
 - c. because they prefer to be around adults
 - d. because they don't get along with others
- 4** The word **distinguish** in the passage is closest in meaning to
 - a. precede
 - b. stand out
 - c. celebrate
 - d. withhold
- 5** Which of the following is NOT mentioned as a reason the birth order theory can be wrong?
 - a. a second marriage
 - b. adopting an older child
 - c. physical disabilities
 - d. a person's career
- 6** What can be inferred about only children based on the passage?
 - a. They are more mature than their friends.
 - b. They make better lawyers than first-born children.
 - c. They are selfish because they rarely have to share.
 - d. They don't have many friends because they are stubborn.

Summary

Step 1 Read the passage again and complete the outline with the words below.

career / first-born / middle / responsible / diplomatic / independent / personality
journalism / presidents / negotiators / dependent / temperament / lawyers / dynamics

I. Birth order theory

- A. Explains _____ traits
B. Birth order can affect _____ decisions

II. _____ children

- A. Traits: _____, ambitious, intellectual
B. Jobs: lawyers, doctors, _____

III. _____ children

- A. Traits: rebellious, _____, social B. Jobs: managers, _____

IV. Youngest children

- A. Traits: _____, persuasive, funny B. Jobs: _____, advertising, sales

V. Only children

- A. Traits: creative, mature, _____ B. Jobs: _____, doctors, architects

VI. Other factors to consider

- A. Unique family _____ B. Natural _____

Step 2 Complete the summary with your own words based on the outline.

The birth order theory explains why certain people have common _____ traits.

_____ However, there are other factors to consider
such as unique family _____ and a person's natural _____.