**TASK 1. Read the following text, then choose the answers to questions 1 – 5.**

# FATHERHOOD TODAY

MODERN men see fatherhood as their biggest life-changing experience and desperately want to be 'hands on' during the pregnancy and the upbringing of their child. The days of fatherhood being limited to discipline and breadwinning look to be long gone, as a third of today's dads say they would even consider leaving work to take on the role of full-time father. But despite being anxious about the birth of their child, men are more worried about money than losing their freedom.

The results of *Pregnancy & Births* magazine's annual fatherhood survey, reveal the respect with which many men now regard the role of fatherhood. More than 2,000 couples across the UK, who were expecting their first or second child, were asked about their feelings. According to 98% of the fathers-to-be, they believe fatherhood will make them happy and 90% say it is their biggest 'life-changing event ever'. It seems that men are taking child rearing seriously, wanting to be 'hands on' both before and after the birth. Nine out of ten dads-to-be attend scans and check-ups; only 2% of the men surveyed would not be at the birth because they "could not face it". Eight out of 10 women say their partner is more caring during the pregnancy and 83% of men would rather stay in with their partner than go out with some friends. 72% of men say they will take the two-week paternity leave at £100 a week. A further 77% say they wish they could have more time off to bond with their baby.

However, more than half of the men questioned still think that the mother should take time off work if the child is ill, but 39% said they would share it. Modern fathers-to-be are also more likely to be engaged in the chores of life compared to decades ago: almost half of them do more of the housework, 41% do more meal preparation and a third shop more. The role of child rearing has changed dramatically over the past 50 years and more men would consider leaving work to raise their child. A third of men say they would be prepared to be a full-time stay-at-home dad, another third would like to work part-time while the rest wish to continue with work.

Dr. Maureen Marks, a specialist psychiatrist on fathers and their changing roles, does not believe the sample survey is wide enough. But she agrees that men's parental roles have changed dramatically. Dr. Marks, a senior lecturer at the Institute of Psychiatry, King's College London, said, "Generally speaking, men are more able to be involved. As women work more they are not totally dependent on their husbands for money, so the roles are less rigid." She believes that, although the roles have been modified, biological differences are important. "Women are the ones who carry the child and breast-feed. In those early days, however involved the father might have been, they miss that connection", she said. She says men make up for this when the child is old enough to be played with. "Men are much more active when they are playing with their children and encourage their sociability, but when children want comforting or soothing they go to their mother."

Dr. Marks sees the modern parenting role as harmonious where both parents play to their strengths.

Tom Beardshaw, from *Fathers Direct*, believes these results confirm society's changing views on fatherhood. He said, "This confirms the equal opportunities research which shocked a lot of people by how much fathers want to get involved. There are historical changes such as women working more, and also cultural role models, such as Jude Law, who show that being a proud father is not a wimpish attribute."

**Now decide which is the correct answer (*a, b* or *c*) to the items 1–5.**

***1 A number of modern fathers***

a are afraid of not being able to raise a child.

b are prepared to sacrifice careers for their family.

c think fatherhood provides discipline in their lives.

***2 Men today***

a do not want to attend the birth of their children.

b take an active part in pre-natal care.

c wish they could afford to have leave when a child is born.

***3 If a child were ill, most of the men questioned said***

a either partner could stay with the child.

b the mother of the child should take time off work.

c they would stay off work themselves.

***4 Dr. Marks***

a has certain reservations about carrying out the survey.

b says parental behaviour patterns have changed for financial reasons.

c thinks both parents should be equally involved in the first weeks of the child's life.

***5 Tom Beardshaw says***

a modern parents provide new role models.

b society still thinks that a positive attitude to fatherhood is a sign of weakness.

c the results of this survey are the first findings of this type.

**TASK 2 Complete the sentence with a suitable word. The first letter has been given.**

1. My brother has just got engaged to his **g……** .
2. My oldest sister's had a baby girl so I'm an aunt and she's my **n……..** .
3. My uncle and aunt had eight children so I've got lots of **c……** to play with.
4. Karl lost all his family when he was young so a family friend became his **g……** .
5. His mum and dad divorced and both married again, so hi's got two new **s…….** parents.
6. The old lady next door lost her husband last year so she's a **w……..** .
7. She's the mother of my mum's mum- in other words, she's my **g……..** grandmother.
8. If my brother has a son, he'll be my **n……** .

**TASK 3 Complete the sentences with these words.**

*close divorced relationship spoiled stepfather*

1. Jane now has good ……. with her parents.
2. Tom's parents …….. last year but then remarried each other.
3. My best friend is always fighting with her brother but I'm very ……. to mine.
4. Now that your mum's remarried, how do you get on with your new ……. ?
5. His parents always give him everything he wants, so he's completely …….. .

**TASK 4 Choose the correct word to complete the definitions.**

1. Someone who has legal charge of you but is not a member of your family is your …….. .
2. A man whose wife has died is a …….. .
3. The daughter of your brother or sister is your …… .
4. A man who is married to your mother but is not your father is your …….. .
5. The mother of your mother's mother is your …….. .
6. A …… is someone with whom you have a non-romantic relationship.