

POPULATION FACTS

According to the United Nations' population figures, the world's population will be (0) heading for 8.9 billion by the year 2050, (1) down to 6.7 billion in 2009. This figure (2) takes into account that each woman on the planet will give birth to two children.

Eight billion, nine hundred million people may sound (3) like an astronomical figure, yet statistics (4) show that, throughout the world, the number of children being born is dropping. In Africa the birth rate has decreased from 6.6 to 5.1, in Asia from 5.1 to 2.6, in Latin America from 5.0 to 2.7 and with (5) the exception of the European countries, the birth rate is below the replacement level. This means fewer people being born for every elderly person. For instance, by 2050, Spain risks being the oldest country in the world. The explanation (6) lies in for this is the fact that women have become better educated and would rather (7) pursue a career than enjoy motherhood. Therefore, they (8) are not bringing up many children and being out of work for long periods of time.

(9) As a result, the world's population will continue to increase (10) at a rapid rate the ageing population. This will happen because of an overall rise in life expectancy, especially in the developed countries. The main reason for this is that many diseases which were fatal in the past, can be (11) prevented nowadays.

In view of these facts, experts argue that 8.9 billion people is more than our planet will be able to take. Others who have a more pessimistic outlook on life (12) worry that we are already on the point of not being able to sustain the current population.

1	A combined	B unlike	C competed	D compared
2	A brings	B has	C takes	D gives
3	A as	B alike	C likewise	D like
4	A reveal	B give away	C describe	D speak out
5	A connection	B view	C relation	D respect
6	A given	B made	C supported	D told
7	A chase	B create	C pursue	D advance
8	A prevent	B omit	C avoid	D prohibit
9	A All the same	B After all	C All in all	D Once and for all
10	A whereas	B although	C even though	D in spite of
11	A healed	B cured	C defeated	D beaten
12	A warn	B accuse	C threaten	D advise

Vocabulary

Choose the correct answer.

1. Alex is _____ of his brother's success. He always says unkind things about him.
a. envious b. suspicious
c. annoyed d. disgusted
2. The _____ of this new drug is not known yet, as it's still in the trial process.
a. result b. consequence
c. effect d. affect
3. "Which dress should I buy? The blue or the red one?"
"Well, I think the blue one _____ you better".
a. compares b. matches
c. suits d. combines
4. We have had security locks installed on all doors and windows to _____ burglars from entering.
a. prevent b. forbid
c. prohibit d. avoid
5. I would like everyone to _____ quiet while I'm reading to you.
a. maintain b. remain
c. tolerate d. notice
6. We delayed our departure on _____ of the bad weather.
a. relation b. order
c. account d. condition
7. The moment the teacher _____ the exam papers, I was filled with anxiety.
a. gave away b. handed over
c. handed down d. gave out
8. According to police reports, crime has _____ in our city.
a. advanced b. developed
c. progressed d. increased
9. The defendant tried to _____ the jury of his innocence.
a. convince b. urge
c. appeal d. oblige
10. It took Steve three weeks to _____ from his illness and return home from the hospital.
a. heal b. recover
c. cure d. overcome

THE BEST STUDENTS

According to most professors, mature students are (0) ideal students because they are hard-working and become actively (1) _____ in all aspects of the learning process.

The majority of mature students have a poor educational background but they (2) _____ to do exceptionally well at tertiary level. (3) _____ many of them have a mortgage, a job and children to (4) _____, they are always present at seminars and lectures and always hand (5) _____ essays on time. They like studying and writing essays and they enjoy the class discussions that take place. Consequently, they (6) _____ excellent results. In fact, as they have (7) _____ many of life's pleasures, they are content with their lives and this has a positive (8) _____ on their attitude, making them (9) _____ to learn.

On the other hand, despite their enthusiasm and commitment, mature students (10) _____ from anxiety. The fact that they have made many sacrifices to get into university puts extra pressure on them to succeed. (11) _____, completing a degree gives mature students a sense of achievement, boosts their confidence and (12) _____ their job prospects.

1	A included	B related	C involved	D combined
2	A able	B succeed	C manage	D capable
3	A Although	B Despite	C However	D In spite of
4	A grow	B develop	C rise	D raise
5	A in	B over	C out	D up
6	A fulfil	B achieve	C reach	D earn
7	A known	B experienced	C found out	D recognised
8	A effect	B affect	C conclusion	D consequence
9	A eager	B anxious	C interested	D impatient
10	A tolerate	B resist	C suffer	D complain
11	A Likewise	B Furthermore	C Nevertheless	D Otherwise
12	A creates	B Improves	C progresses	D advances