

## 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) \_\_\_\_\_ to 6.7 billion in 2009. This figure (2) \_\_\_\_\_

into account that each woman on the planet will give birth to two children.

Eight billion, nine hundred million people may sound (3) \_\_\_\_\_ an astronomical figure, yet statistics (4) \_\_\_\_\_ 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) \_\_\_\_\_ to 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) \_\_\_\_\_ for this is the fact that women have become better educated and would rather (7) \_\_\_\_\_ a career than enjoy motherhood. Therefore, they (8) \_\_\_\_\_ bringing up many children and being out of work for long periods of time.

(9) \_\_\_\_\_, the world's population will continue to increase (10) \_\_\_\_\_ 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) \_\_\_\_\_ 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) \_\_\_\_\_ 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) involved in all aspects of the learning process.

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

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