Topics

City Life

Put each of the following words or phrases in its correct place in the passage.

cosmopolitan	**pollution**	**congestion**	**to breed crime**
metropolis	**urban**	**cost of living**	**irresistible lure**
stimulation	**commuter**	**city-dwellers**	**anonymity**

Most people in developed countries are (a) _____, many drawn by the (b) _____ of the (c) _____. The attractions of the city are many: the (d) _____ atmosphere (foreign restaurants, different languages, international companies), the (e) _____ of cultural events or the simple hope of finding work. All too many find, however, that the glamorous façade is false. One can be very alone in the city and the (f) _____ which at first seems to give freedom and protection later leaves just loneliness. There is a lot to do but everything is expensive. The (g) _____ is high. There is (h) _____ not only of the physical but also of the moral environment and the various pressures of (i) _____ life cause cities (j) _____. Above all, perhaps, it is the daily stresses and strains of the city which make life there a matter of survival rather than of enjoyment. Many a (k) _____ struggling to work through the rush-hour (l) _____ asks, 'Is it worth it?'

Issues of Education

Put each of the following words or phrases in its correct place in the passage.

elite	**divisive**	**potential**	**gifted**
classless	**spontaneity**	**cram**	**streaming**
conventional	**labelled**	**privileged**	**inferiority complex**

It is interesting that in some countries which are socialist and therefore supposedly (a) _____, the educational system is based on (b) _____, which means that children are educated according to their ability, with the more (c) _____ children separated from the others. Supporters of this system say that more intelligent children will be helped to achieve their full (d) _____ in this way and that these children will be held back if they have to share lessons with less clever pupils. Opponents of this system, on the other hand, maintain that it creates an educated (e) _____, a special class of (f) _____ people who are encouraged to think of themselves as superior to the others. Similarly the others may, as a result of being (g) _____ second-rate, develop some kind of (h) _____. In a word, such a system is (i) _____, since it creates a division between people. Another important question in education is the amount of freedom and choice children should be given at school. The conservative view is that a (j) _____ system of strict rules is best. However, critics of this attitude say it causes regimentation, as in the army, and discourages children's natural imagination and (k) _____. We must ask ourselves what the purpose of education is: to (l) _____ children's heads with facts or to encourage them to develop their natural abilities in their own way?

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Fashion in Clothes

Put each of the following words or phrases in its correct place in the passage.

slavishly	**trends**	**slaves to fashion**
individualists	**trendy**	**fashion houses**
conformists	**dictate**	**the latest fashion**
haute couture	**dictates**	**personal ornaments**

Most people like to think they are (a) _____ and simply wear whatever they like. Few people will admit to being (b) _____. However we are not just talking of the expensive (c) _____ of the Paris and Milan (d) _____, which not many people can afford anyway. We are talking of fashions and (e) _____ in everyday clothes. We say that we wear jeans and sweaters because they are cheap and practical, but isn't it true that our jeans and sweaters tend to be the same as everyone else wears? Doesn't that mean that we like to be (f) _____? Of course the big chain-stores, to some extent, (g) _____ what we wear, but they always offer a choice and people do, on the whole, like to wear (h) _____, which extends beyond clothes to make-up, (i) _____ (men wear earrings too, nowadays) and hair styles. It is easy to declare that we do not (j) _____ follow the (k) _____ of fashion, but aren't we all (l) _____ at heart?

The Environment

Put each of the following words or phrases in its correct place below.

sewage	**enlightened**	**pesticides**	**sustainable**
organic	**acid rain**	**ecological**	**deforestation**
disposal	**herbicides**	**extinction**	**animal rights**

When industrialisation began, little thought was given to its (a) _____ effects. Raw, untreated (b) _____ was allowed to pollute our seas and rivers. Animals were killed for profit to the point of (c) _____. The loss of trees through uncontrolled (d) _____ caused erosion and unstable climate. (e) _____ was caused by the poisonous gases man sent into the atmosphere. Chemicals in (f) _____ killed animal life. (g) _____ destroyed plants. The balance of nature was disturbed.

It is only now that we are waking up to the problem. More natural, (h) _____ farming is advocated. Legislation controls the (i) _____ of waste products into our air and water. Wildlife organisations are becoming more militant in their fight for (j) _____. Replanting policies in some parts of the world mean that our forests should in future be (k) _____.

We can only hope that growing public awareness and (l) _____ legislation will produce a world which is safe for us and will provide a good quality of life for future generations.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Advertising

Put each of the following words or phrases in its correct place below.

beneficial	**misleading**	**blatant**	**brainwash**
implicit	**catchy jingles**	**exploit**	**ubiquitous**
bombard	**watchdog**	**subtle**	**informative**

Modern advertisements contain hidden messages. (a) _____ in the advertisement showing the pretty girl in the new car or the smiling children round the packet of washing powder is the message that if we buy the product, we also achieve success and happiness. It is a (b) _____ approach since it seeks to (c) _____ our secret dreams, and it is inescapable since advertising is (d) _____. Giant street hoardings and (e) _____ on television (f) _____ us from all sides. They (g) _____ us into believing that we can realise our ambitions quickly and easily. On the other hand, defenders of advertising say that it is (h) _____. Advertising is (i) _____. Advertisements tell us about useful new products. They brighten our lives with colour and music. They increase demand, stimulate industry and so keep prices down. Whether for or against advertising, most people would agree that some kind of (j) _____ body, appointed by the government or by the advertising industry itself, is necessary to maintain standards of honesty and to discourage the more (k) _____ types of (l) _____ advertisements.

How Much Freedom Should Children Have?

Put each of the following words or phrases in its correct place below.

possessive	**upbringing**	**permissive**	**rebelliousness**
suppress	**formative**	**adolescence**	**run wild**
inhibited	**authoritarian**	**juvenile delinquency**	

It is often said that we live in a (a) _____ age, one in which people are allowed to do almost anything they like. Is this good for children? They are going through their (b) _____, which is a very (c) _____ stage of their development since their final adult characters are beginning to take shape. Some parents think it is good for children to be allowed to (d) _____, without control or supervision. They say that this enables children's personalities to develop naturally and that they will learn to be responsible by the mistakes they make. However, this might lead to (e) _____, with the children ending up in the courts, or it might simply make children self-centred, without any consideration for others. Other parents believe in being strict, but taken to extremes this can produce a too (f) _____ atmosphere in the home, with the children being dominated and ruled by their parents. Parents can also be very (g) _____ and try to keep their children dependent on them. These last two attitudes can encourage (h) _____ (against parents, school, authority) in a child, or, conversely, (i) _____ a child's natural sense of adventure and curiosity. A strict (j) _____ by over-caring parents can make a child so timid and (k) _____ that he or she is unable to express freely his or her emotions and form mature relationships. To bring up children to be normal, well-adjusted human beings requires great wisdom, and perhaps a bit of luck.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Censorship

Put each of the following words or phrases in its correct place below.

moral standards	**perverted**	**banned**	**masquerading**
unscrupulous	**excessive**	**degrades**	**safeguards**
counter-productive	**infringes**	**corrupting**	**gratuitous**

The amount of offensive material we are exposed to in films nowadays is surely (a) _____. Most people accept that scenes of sex and violence are sometimes necessary to tell a story, but all too often these scenes are (b) _____; they are unnecessary and simply inserted in the film to appeal to the baser human instincts. Censorship is necessary, especially to protect children from the (c) _____ influence of such scenes, often (d) _____ as art, in our cinemas. There should also be censorship of pornographic magazines produced by (e) _____ people willing to cater to the (f) _____ tastes of a small minority. Such material destroys the innocence of the young and (g) _____ all who read it. On the other hand, there are those who say that something which is (h) _____ becomes desirable so censorship is (i) _____, and that censorship (j) _____ on our freedom of choice. However freedom is not merely freedom to do what we want but freedom from attempts to destroy society's (k) _____. Censorship provides the (l) _____ by which society protects itself.

Love

Put each of the following words in its correct place below.

partners	**platonic**	**flirtation**	**infatuation**
mature	**compatible**	**one-sided**	**hero-worship**
mutual	**idolize**	**complement**	**stable**

Youngsters in their teens or even earlier sometimes (a) _____ film stars or other celebrities with a kind of blind, devoted (b) _____. The objects of such adoration are regarded as gods by their smitten worshippers. How sad that such devotion is almost always unrequited (though pop-stars have been known to marry their fans). Young people also sometimes develop an irrational obsession for another, often older, person which is not an adult, (c) _____ feeling but simply a youthful (d) _____. At parties a boy may playfully try to attract a girl, or vice versa, without intending any serious, lasting relationship. This is just a (e) _____. A relationship which gives deep and lasting happiness to both (f) _____ must not be (g) _____ (felt more strongly by one of the pair than by the other). It should be based on a (h) _____ love and respect, felt equally by each of the two. Of course it can take many forms. It might be very deep but entail no physical desire, in which case it is described as (i) _____. Certainly, for any relationship to be (j) _____, the two people involved must be (k) _____ (they must get on well together). This does not necessarily mean that they must have attitudes and interests in common, for partnerships of opposites can work very well. The different characters of the two people somehow (l) _____ each other.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Attitudes to Work and Leisure

Put each of the following words or phrases in its correct place below.

constructively	**rewarding**	**challenge**	**conditioned**
aimless	**initiative**	**creativity**	**9 to 5**
regimentation	**scope**	**aspire**	**fulfilment**

Most adults (a) _____ to more leisure but, in fact, not many people have the necessary (b) _____ to use the free time they already have very (c) _____. The sad fact is that we need work because it imposes the discipline we need. Life seems (d) _____ and we secretly look forward to our work again. We dream about personal (e) _____ but probably find it more in our work than in our leisure time. This depends on age. The young are free from work and responsibility, and freedom comes naturally to them. However, after they begin jobs they become (f) _____ to work. They find they need it, however much they complain about its routine and (g) _____. Obviously this again depends on the kind of work. Those with (h) _____ jobs, or jobs which require (i) _____, receive genuine satisfaction from their work, but most of us are in conventional (j) _____ jobs which offer little (k) _____ for imagination. We leave our work only to face a leisure that we find difficult to cope with. Our mistake is in regarding leisure as a chance to do nothing, whereas in fact it should be looked on as a (l) _____.

The Purpose of State Punishment

Put each of the following words or phrases in its correct place below.

wrongdoer	**deterrent**	**law-abiding**	**death penalty**
misdeeds	**reform**	**humane**	**rehabilitate**
barbaric	**retribution**	**crime doesn't pay**	**corporal punishment**

What is the purpose of punishment? One purpose is obviously to (a) _____ the offender, to correct the offender's moral attitudes and anti-social behaviour and to (b) _____ him or her, which means to assist the offender to return to normal life as a useful member of the community. Punishment can also be seen as a (c) _____, because it warns other people of what will happen if they are tempted to break the law and so prevents them from doing so. However, a third purpose of punishment lies, perhaps, in society's desire for (d) _____, which basically means revenge. In other words, don't we feel that a (e) _____ should suffer for his (f) _____? The form of punishment should also be considered. On the one hand, some believe that we should 'make the punishment fit the crime'. Those who steal from others should be deprived of their own property to ensure that criminals are left in no doubt that (g) '_____'. For those who attack others, (h) _____ should be used. Murderers should be subject to the principle 'an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth' and automatically receive the (i) _____. On the other hand, it is said that such views are unreasonable, cruel and (j) _____ and that we should show a more (k) _____ attitude to punishment and try to understand why a person commits a crime and how society has failed to enable him to live a respectable, (l) _____ life.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Related Word Groups

Body

Divide the following 24 words into three equal groups under the headings a) head b) arm and hand c) leg and foot.

jaw	lash	pupil	lobe	elbow
shin	temple	knuckles	calf	forearm
wrist	toes	thigh	thumb	heel
gums	biceps	instep	fist	ankle
lid	palm	sole	nostril	

Books

Types of Book

1 Put each of the following words in its correct place below.

volume	publication	whodunnit	hardback
best-seller	thriller	copy	edition
manuscript	proofs	paperback	

(a) You can see the original _____ of *Hamlet* in the museum in Shakespeare's own writing.
(b) Before a book is sent to be printed, the author must check the _____.
(c) Where is _____ three of this set of encyclopaedias?
(d) The new government report on agricultural statistics is a very interesting _____.
(e) Have you got a _____ of Graham Greene's *Brighton Rock*?
(f) This book costs £12, but that's the _____ price. The _____ costs only £5.50.
(g) His first three novels didn't sell very well, but his fourth was a _____ and made a fortune.
(h) The book has already been selling well for five years. Now the publishers are going to bring out a new _____ with illustrations.
(i) She likes to relax by reading a _____ about spies or crime.
(j) I'm reading a _____. It's fun trying to guess who the murderer is.

2 Answer the following questions using the words at the top of the exercise above. E.g. What might a publisher do if one of his books is chosen as a school or exam test? He might bring out a special *edition* with notes and test questions.

(a) Why is an encyclopaedia usually more expensive than a dictionary?
(b) What is a murder mystery called, and why?
(c) What is an exciting adventure story called, and why?
(d) How can you get information about scientific, technical, statistical and similar matters?
(e) How would you ask for a particular book in a bookshop?
(f) What must an author do when a publisher's deadline arrives?
(g) What must be done before a book is printed?
(h) What does every author hope?
(i) How can you save money when buying books?

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Ways of reading

3 Put each of the following words or phrases into its correct place in the sentences below.

skip	**look up**	**browse**	**refer to**	**flip through**
skim	**dip into**	**peruse**	**wade through**	**read from cover to cover**

(a) I spend a lot of time in bookshops. I don't often buy books. I just _____.
(b) If I come to a boring bit in a book, I just _____ a few pages till the real story starts again.
(c) I'll _____ his number in the phone-book.
(d) I didn't know the word. I had to _____ a dictionary.
(e) Of course an encyclopaedia is not a book you _____. You just _____ it for things that interest you.
(f) I never liked history at school. I found it very hard to _____ all that boring stuff about wars and revolutions.
(g) We have requested our lawyers to _____ the document with the greatest care to decide whether it's legal or not.
(h) Some people have the ability to _____ a page, which means to read it very quickly, just taking in the main points.
(i) I sometimes _____ a magazine in a newsagent's but I don't usually buy one.

4 Using one or more items from the list at the top of the exercise above, explain how you use each of the following. E.g. a novel. If it's good, I *read* it *from cover to cover*, but sometimes I *skip* long, descriptive passages.

a dictionary	a guidebook	an encyclopaedia
a magazine	an atlas	a photograph album
a newspaper	a contract	a car maintenance manual

5 Answer the questions below from the following list of parts of a book.

acknowledgements	**'blurb'**	**key**	**glossary**
contents	**footnotes**	**chronology**	**appendix**
dedication	**frontispiece**	**index**	**bibliography**

In what part of a book would you look to find ...
(a) ... answers to exercise questions?
(b) ... who supplied the photographs or helped with special research?
(c) ... quickly what the book is about?
(d) ... meanings of foreign or technical expressions used in the text?
(e) ... on what page a person, place or event is mentioned?
(f) ... if the book was written for a particular person?
(g) ... extra information about something mentioned in the main text?
(h) ... what other books have been written on the same subject?
(i) ... a picture of the author or the subject of the book?
(j) ... how the book is organised in chapters?
(k) ... a convenient list of the dates and events of the period covered in the book?

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Dirt and Damage

1 Put each of the following adjectives in its correct place in the sentences.

blunt	**scratched**	**smeared**	**shabby**
torn	**shop-soiled**	**filthy**	**soiled**
rusty	**stained**	**smudged**	**faded**

(a) He was very angry when he saw that his new car was _____. Another car must have run along the side of it.
(b) The curtains were bright red when we bought them, but they've become _____ in the strong sunlight.
(c) That jacket needs cleaning and it's rather old. I think it's too _____ to wear.
(d) If you have a banknote which is _____ in two, take it to a bank and exchange it for a new one.
(e) Buy our new design 'Travelbag'. The different compartments will enable the traveller to keep clean and _____ garments separate.
(f) When she was two years old, she used to experiment with her mother's lipstick. Her face was always _____ with it.
(g) See those red-brown bits? That's where the machine is beginning to go _____ because it's unprotected from the rain.
(h) You can see the ceiling is _____ where the rain came through.
(i) This radio is a bit _____ after being in the shop for nine months, so I'll knock 10% off the price.
(j) Let the ink dry before you put another piece of paper on top of it. Otherwise it'll be _____.
(k) This knife isn't sharp, it's _____. Give me another one.
(l) This shirt isn't just dirty, Bobby. It's absolutely _____!

2 Using the words from the list at the top of the exercise above, say what kind of damage or wear the following items can suffer.

a photograph	a book	a car in an accident
a coat	a razor-blade	a car after long use
a television set	a piece of furniture	

'POSH'

'Posh' means 'smart', 'upper-class'. It is said that the word originated when wealthy people travelled by ship to and from India when it was under British rule. To avoid the hot sun in the Indian Ocean during the voyage, the richer passengers specified that their cabins should be on the left side ('port') of the ship going out to India, and on the right side ('starboard') on the way home. Port Out, Starboard Home: POSH.

LIVEWORKSHEETS