Reading

Task

Read the text below. For questions (1-5) choose the correct (A, B, C or D).

What are friends for?

To many teenagers, their most important relationship is not the one they might have with a boyfriend or girlfriend. It's their relationship with their friends. Indeed, most teenagers prefer to spend more time with their friends than with their family. But what does friendship mean?

There is a poem in Sanskrit, the classical language of India, which says that friendship must consist of the following elements: giving, taking, sharing secrets, knowing where your friends are, and giving and sharing food with them. Shared interests and opinions are essential. It isn't easy to get on with someone who can't stand your taste in music or fashion.

Most of us have friends-but it's likely that only a few of them can be described as close friends. Robin Dunbar, a British professor of evolutionary psychology, believes that the maximum number of people we can have in our social group at one time is 150.Many of these are casual friends or acquaintances. We don't meet them very often, but we might invite them to a big party, for instance. But -according to Dunbar-we don't normally have more than five close friends.

So who is the best friend? It is someone who's there for you when you're feeling miserable-to give you advice when you want it and to just listen when you need someone to talk to. It might be someone you have known all your life, or someone you've recently met.

It might be someone you only see once a year, but when you get together it feels like you saw him or her only last week. But can you have a best friend of the opposite sex? In theory, the answer should be yes, but in practice, things can get complicated.

These days, social networking sites offer many opportunities to get to know people online. These are usually people who are into the same things as you are (such as music and films), and can give you advice about different issues you face. For some people, especially those who aren't so self-assured, making friends online is easier. Online friends aren't going to be as demanding as your friends from the real world might be. Moreover, if you get bored with a conversation online, or if someone's messages are getting on your nerves, you can just ignore them. On the other hand, it may not be realistic to expect your online friends to give you real support

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when you need it-so a balance of online and real-world friends is probably ideal.

1 What does the Sanskrit poem describe?
A Why friendship was different in the past.
B Why sharing a meal is important.
C What the history of friendship is.
D What every friendship should have.

2 What does the word acquaintances in paragraph 3 mean?
A people you do not know well.
B people you are relate to.
C people you are very close to.
D people you work with

3 What should a true friend do?
A Hide your secrets from other people.
B Always be ready to give you advice.
C Be there to help you whenever you feel miserable.
D Enjoy the same kind of music as you.

4 According to the text, what is not true about a best friend?
A You might have known them for a long time.
B It isn't important to have grown up with them.
C It's essential that you see them frequently.
D You don't need to see them regularly.

5 What does the author say about online friends?
A They are easier to make if you aren't confident.
B You have to share the same hobbies with them.
C They will never judge you, even if you're boring.
D They are harder to ignore than friends in real life.

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