

PRACTICE 3

You are going to read an extract from an article. For questions 19 to 26, choose the correct answer (A, B, C or D) and mark the correct letter A, B, C or D on your answer sheet.

Our journey to our new home was a long one indeed! We left our birthplace and home one Saturday afternoon about 50 years ago. I was then only 10 years old and was very excited. None of my siblings, who were all very much younger than me, had the slightest notion of the implications of this trip. My father, the patriarch of the family, had planned the whole trip while my mother, like all Indian women, did not question him or ask for any explanation. She knew that she could depend on her husband's judgement and actions. She had complete faith in him.

We were not very rich but my father had put aside a certain portion of his salary every month for this trip from the day he started working as an administrative clerk for the then British Government in Chennai. He worked very hard and made sure that we were not deprived of anything. My mother was very careful with her spending too.

We set off from Chennai, India, by ship and reached Port Klang, called Port Swettenham then, after two weeks. Dad had sold all the furniture and the house as we had no intention of returning to Chennai to stay. My parents had decided that Malaya would be our new home for good.

The two weeks we spent on board the ship was something that none of us will ever forget. We were all cramped in a single two-bed cabin because that was what father could afford. He told us that he had to keep all the money for our stay in Malaya until he was able to get a job and a house. We did not complain. We left all the worrying to our parents. I knew they were anxious because it was not easy but they were determined to make things work so that their children would have a good and secure future.

When we reached Malaya, dad managed to rent a one-bedroom house in the heart of Port Klang. The very next day, father started looking for a job. Since he was proficient in English he secured a job in a forwarding company as an accounts clerk. The salary was enough to support all of us. For a few weeks, we the children helped at home and did all the chores. We could not go to school as yet. So my mother decided that she would spend her free time teaching us. She believed that education was the most important thing, not material possessions. She managed to get all the textbooks that were being used in the schools and started teaching us. She impressed upon us the importance of a good education and was very supportive.

Dad, like mum, was also very supportive. He was our best friend and our confidant. He wanted us to be successful in life, holding good jobs in the future. When we were growing up in this foreign land he spent time – quality time that is – with us. He showered us with all his time and attention. He made sure that we did not miss our homeland and we lacked for nothing.

After a couple of months, my father managed to register me and my younger brother in a nearby school with the help of his boss. We were truly elated. We started school with mixed feelings but made a promise to our parents that we would make them proud. Upon completion of the Senior Cambridge Examination, I was given a scholarship to pursue a course in medicine. My brother was also awarded a scholarship two years later to do the same course. When we graduated we took over the responsibility of educating our two younger siblings. Today, they are successful engineers.

- 1 From paragraph 1, how old was the writer when she wrote this story?
 - A About ten years old
 - B About fifty years old
 - C About sixty years old
 - D About seventy years old

- 2 Why did the writer's mother accept all the decisions made by her husband?
 - A She respected her husband.
 - B She knew that her husband was always right.
 - C He was the head of the family and she had complete faith in him.
 - D Like all Indian woman she did not dare question or ask for explanation.

- 3 Which phrase in paragraph 2 shows that the writer's parents were thrifty?
 - A not very rich
 - B not deprived of anything
 - C careful with her spending
 - D put aside a certain portion of his salary

- 4 From paragraph 4, why did the writer's family move to Malaya?
 - A Their father wanted to get a job and a house.
 - B They wanted to make Malaya their permanent home.
 - C The parents wanted to get a good home for their children.
 - D To ensure that the children had a secure and bright future.

- 5 From paragraph 5, why did the mother focus on the children's education?
 - A The children were not in school yet.
 - B She did not want her children to be left behind.
 - C She had a lot of free time to teach the children.
 - D She believed that education was more important than material possessions.

- 6 From paragraph 6, the writer's father was all of the following except
 - A very caring
 - B very supportive
 - C their confidant
 - D extremely ambitious

- 7 From paragraph 7, which phrase or word tells you that the writer and her brother were extremely pleased to go to school?
 - A proud
 - B happy
 - C truly elated
 - D mixed feelings

- 8 From the story, we can conclude that the writer became
 - A a qualified doctor
 - B a successful writer
 - C an overseas trained engineer
 - D a devoted mother and housewife