

- * **Read the following passage and mark the letter A, B, C or D on your answer sheet to indicate the best answer to each of the questions that follow.**

In recent years, there has been a surge of information concerning the influence of buildings on the natural environment. This information clarifies and advocates for green and sustainable construction design, aiming to persuade others of its effectiveness, while cautioning against the perils of disregarding the issue. However, these documents rarely provide guidance to practitioners, such as those involved in designing mechanical and electrical systems for buildings, on how to apply this knowledge in a practical manner.

While "green" and "sustainable" are often used interchangeably due to their association with nature, the term "green" does not encompass the entirety of sustainability. **(A)** Sustainability involves minimizing the adverse effects of human activities on the natural environment, particularly those with long-lasting and irreversible consequences. **(B)** Some aspects of green design may align with sustainability goals, such as reducing energy consumption and pollution. **(C)** However, other green design elements, like ensuring indoor air quality, may not directly impact ecological balance. **(D)**

Despite the advocacy for green construction within the architectural industry and the presence of numerous architectural firms experienced in green design, the realization of green construction depends heavily on the building owner - one funding the project. If the owner does not prioritize or consider green design important, it is unlikely to be integrated into the building's design.

The commissioning process is crucial for ensuring that the owner's requirements regarding design, costs, and risk are met. During the predesign phase, the owner's objectives, criteria, and desired design are discussed and documented. This serves as a solid foundation for the design team to develop their ideas and provides a clear benchmark for evaluating various elements such as costs, design, and environmental impact.

Owners who overlook the commissioning process or neglect to consider "green" issues often encounter problems once their building is operational. While materials and equipment may initially seem to meet their needs, issues such as higher operational and maintenance costs and occupant dissatisfaction may arise over time. These factors can lead to increased ownership costs and a greater environmental impact in the long run.

(Adapted from TOEFL Reading Comprehension)

- What does the word "those" in paragraph 1 refer to?
A. perils B. buildings C. documents D. practitioners
- What can be inferred about the current state of guidance available for mechanical and electrical system designers in the context of green construction?
A. They are well-informed about the benefits of green construction.
B. They are disinterested in sustainable design practices.
C. They have ample guidance available.
D. They are often left without practical application advice.
- The word "encompass" in paragraph 2 is CLOSEST in meaning to _____.
A. simplify B. include C. oppose D. neglect
- Where in the second paragraph does the following sentence best fit?
"Sustainability is a broader concept that includes all measures to reduce human impact on the environment, not just those with immediate benefits."
A. **(B)** B. **(D)** C. **(A)** D. **(C)**

5. According to paragraph 2, what is one way that green design can contribute to sustainability?
 - A. Maximizing pollution levels
 - B. Ensuring indoor air qualify
 - C. Reducing energy consumption
 - D. Increasing human activity
6. According to the passage, the reason for the lack of green buildings being designed is that _____.
 - A. few firms have any experience in design and constructing buildings to a green design.
 - B. firms tend to convince, clients that other factors are more important than sustainability.
 - C. construction companies are unaware of the benefits of green and sustainable designs.
 - D. firms do not get to decide whether a building is to be constructed sustainably.
7. Which of the following is TRUE about the commissioning process?
 - A. It is conducted after the building is designed and serves as a final checklist for the owner.
 - B. It is a stage that all clients go through when constructing a building.
 - C. It is a step in the design procedure in which the client's goals are identified.
 - D. It is used to convince owners that the design team's concepts are always correct.
8. The word "**dissatisfaction**" in last paragraph is OPPOSITE in meaning to _____.
 - A. resentment
 - B. anxiety
 - C. irritation
 - D. contentment

* **Read the following and mark the letter A, B, C or D on your answer sheet to indicate the option that best fits each of the numbered blanks.**

Grow Together, Thrive Together: The Power of Community Gardens

Our cities are increasingly urbanized, but a new movement is helping us (9)_____ our connection to nature. Community gardens are becoming vibrant hubs for local action and environmental stewardship.

These green spaces provide fresh, healthy food for residents. (10)_____, they help reduce a city's carbon footprint by minimizing the need for long-distance food transport. They also promote biodiversity, (11)_____ small habitats for pollinators and other wildlife.

Beyond their ecological benefits, community gardens foster (12)_____ belonging and well-being among participants. They are unique spaces (13)_____ neighbors work together for a common goal. This shared effort promotes collective ownership and social cohesion.

By joining or starting a community garden, you are helping to build (14)_____ sustainable future for your neighborhood. In this way, you can truly reap what you sow.

- | | | | | |
|-----|------------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|
| 9. | A. return | B. restore | C. restrict | D. reduce |
| 10. | A. Otherwise | B. Yet | C. Moreover | D. However |
| 11. | A. creates | B. created | C. creating | D. to create |
| 12. | A. a feeling for | B. a reason for | C. which | D. a sense of |
| 13. | A. what | B. where | C. a touch at | D. when |
| 14. | A. a more | B. much | C. mostly | D. most |

* **Read the following and mark the letter A, B, C or D on your answer sheet to indicate the option that best fits each of the numbered blanks.**

Family Mealtimes in the Digital Age

In today's fast-paced world, many families find it (15)_____ to truly connect, especially during mealtimes. Research indicates that using phones at the dinner table (16)_____ affects both eating habits and family interaction. Studies show that when people, especially teenagers, use their phones while eating, they often make unhealthy food choices. This digital distraction means less attention is paid to the food itself, leading to impulsive decisions and potentially exposing them to unhealthy advertisements.

Beyond diet, the impact on family life is significant. A recent survey revealed that more and more families (17)_____ phones during dinner; therefore, conversations are becoming less common. (18)_____, while many children admit to using their devices, the number of children who actually desire quality talking time with their parents (19)_____ high. They often wish their parents would put their phones away too!

Experts emphasize that children's well-being (20)_____ by family mealtime conversations. As a result, public health authorities are going to develop strategies that limit electronic device use during meals. This way, dinner will become a time for connection, not distraction.

- | | | | |
|-------------------|------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| 15. A. challenger | B. challenging | C. challenge | D. challenged |
| 16. A. adversely | B. slightly | C. additionally | D. hardly |
| 17. A. will use | B. are using | C. are going to use | D. use |
| 18. A. Obviously | B. Normally | C. Considerably | D. Interestingly |
| 19. A. was | B. are | C. is | D. be |
| 20. A. influenced | B. is influenced | C. is influencing | D. are influencing |

* **Mark the letter A, B, C or D on your answer sheet to indicate the best arrangement of utterances or sentences to make a meaningful exchange or text in each of the following questions.**

21. _____
- (a). Sarah: That's a good idea. I guess listening to both sides is important.
 - (b). Emily: Oh, I know the feeling! My siblings used to argue all the time when we were younger.
 - (c). Sarah: My younger brother and sister are constantly fighting. It's driving me crazy!
 - (d). Emily: Sometimes my mom would make us sit down and talk about what was bothering us. That often helped.
 - (e). Sarah: Really? How did your parents handle it?
 - (f). Emily: Exactly. And sometimes, they just need a bit of space from each other. They'll usually make up eventually.

A. **c-b-a-d-e-f** B. **d-a-c-b-f-e** C. **b-c-e-d-f-a** D. **c-b-e-d-a-f**

22. _____
- (a). As to your specific request, yes, we can easily remove dead trees and replace them with something that fits the existing landscaping.
 - (b). Arbor Care is a green lawn care and landscaping business. We only use environmentally friendly techniques and products when caring for the grounds of any business.
 - (c). We've been working in the Portland area for over 20 years. Currently, we are serving more than 150 businesses in the downtown area.
 - (d). Thank you for your inquiry about our services.
 - (e). Please call US at (713) 678-9916. We hope to hear from you soon.
 - (f). To give you an exact quote, we would need to have one of our garden technicians stop by and assess the situation in person.

A. **d-e-f-b-a-c** B. **d-e-a-f-c-b** C. **d-a-c-b-e-f** D. **d-b-c-a-f-e**

23. _____
- (a). Lam: I'm sorry, I didn't think it was a big deal. I'll get it back to you right away.
 - (b). Lam: Okay, I get it. I won't do it again without asking. I promise.
 - (c). Hoa: Have you seen my new sweater? I can't find it anywhere.
 - (d). Hoa: It is a big deal to me. You need to respect my things.

(e). Hoa: Mind? Of course I mind! You should have asked me first.

(f). Lam: Oh, yeah, I borrowed it. I hope you don't mind.

A. **b-a-f-e-c-d**

B. **d-b-e-a-f-c**

C. **f-c-a-e-d-b**

D. **c-f-e-a-d-b**

24. _____

Hi Mark,

(a). Her work truly highlights the importance of protecting endangered species and their environments.

(b). I hope you're doing well!

(c). I watched an amazing documentary last night about a famous primatologist.

(d). She has dedicated her life to studying chimpanzees and actively campaigning for wildlife conservation.

(e). It really made me think about how one person can make such a big difference for our planet.

Best regards, Tom.

A. **b-c-d-a-e**

B. **b-d-c-a-e**

C. **b-e-a-c-d**

D. **b-c-a-e-d**

25. _____

(a). By reducing our consumption of plastic and choosing reusable alternatives, we can significantly reduce plastic waste.

(b). Dear John, I hope you and your family are doing well.

(c). Additionally, we can conserve energy by turning off lights and appliances when not in use, and by opting for energy-efficient appliances.

(d). With reference to your last email asking me for some suggestions about your presentation on green living. I think you have to state from the beginning that it's urgent to make small changes in our daily lives contribute to a greener planet.

(e). Green living also involves supporting sustainable practices and businesses that prioritize environmental protection.

(f). Hope that my ideas are useful for you. The best of luck with your upcoming presentation.

A. **b-a-d-e-c-f**

B. **b-d-a-c-e-f**

C. **b-e-d-a-c-f**

D. **b-c-a-e-d-f**

* **Read the following passage and mark the letter A, B, C or D on your answer sheet to indicate the correct answer to each of the questions that follow.**

The family unit has long been seen as a basic building block of society. It serves as the main setting for learning social norms, emotional support, and financial working together. Historically, families have varied greatly in structure and function, influenced by cultural, economic, and political factors. In many traditional societies, families were often extended, including multiple generations living together. This arrangement helped share resources and responsibilities. However, today's trends show a shift towards nuclear families, which consist of parents and their children, especially in urban areas. This change raises questions about how changing family structures affect society and individual well-being, particularly in the face of modern challenges like financial stress and shifting gender roles.

One of the main roles of the family is learning social norms, which involves passing on cultural rules, values, and behaviors from one generation to the next. Families instill foundational beliefs and practices that shape individuals' identities and worldviews. For example, children learn language, social skills, and moral values primarily within the family setting. Research from the Institute of Family Studies shows that the quality of family interactions significantly influences children's thinking and emotional development. As a result, families that encourage open communication and supportive relationships tend to raise individuals who are more

socially skilled and strong. This connection suggests that the family environment is not just a backdrop for development but a key factor in future societal participation.

Besides learning social norms, families provide emotional support, which is important for mental health and well-being. The family environment often acts as a safe space where individuals can express their feelings and seek comfort during tough times. **Studies have shown that strong family bonds can reduce stress and anxiety, contributing to overall psychological strength.** On the other hand, families marked by conflict or dysfunction can worsen mental health issues, leading to negative outcomes like depression or anxiety disorders. For example, a long-term study published in the Journal of Family Psychology found that children from high-conflict families showed higher levels of anxiety and lower self-esteem compared to their peers from peaceful households. Thus, the emotional climate within a family can greatly affect its members' mental health.

Economically, families play an important role in managing resources and ensuring financial stability. In many societies, families combine their resources to meet basic needs like housing, food and education. This collective approach can enhance financial security, especially during tough times. Furthermore, families often act as a support system for members chasing education or career opportunities, providing both financial help and encouragement. However, financial stress can strain family relationships, particularly in situations where job insecurity or rising living costs are common. For instance, during the 2008 financial crisis, many families faced significant challenges that tested their strength and unity. The balance between financial cooperation and individual goals remains a key area of study for understanding family interactions, especially as financial conditions change.

The changing nature of family structures also raises important questions about gender roles and responsibilities within the household. **(A)** Traditional family models often defined clear roles based on gender, with men typically being the breadwinners and women as caregivers. **(B)** However, modern families increasingly show more equal structures, where responsibilities are shared more fairly. **(C)** Still, challenges persist, as many families struggle with the expectations and realities of balancing work and family life. **(D)** A survey by the Office for National Statistics in the UK revealed that while both parents want a more equal division of labor, traditional gender roles often remain, leading to conflicts over household responsibilities.

In conclusion, the family unit remains an important organization within society, influencing various aspects of individual and collective life. As family structures continue to change, it's important to consider how these changes affect learning social norms, emotional support, financial stability, and gender roles. The interaction between family dynamics and societal trends highlights the need for ongoing research and discussion to better understand how families adapt to modern challenges. Furthermore, the strength and **flexibility** of families will play a key role in shaping future societal norms and values, emphasizing the lasting importance of the family in the fabric of society. As we navigate an increasingly complex world, the family will undoubtedly continue to be a focal point for both personal development and social unity.

(Adapted from TVEFL Reading Comprehension)

26. Which of the following best summarizes paragraph 4?

- A. Families are important for financial stability because they successfully combine resources and fully support each other's career goals, ensuring that every single member achieves financial security and independence.
- B. The 2008 financial crisis showed that families are unable to cope with financial stress and often fall apart when economic challenges arise.
- C. A key area of study for understanding family interactions is the complex and widespread tension arising between traditional family structures and changing financial conditions.
- D. Families play an essential economic role by combining resources for financial security and providing support to members, though they can face significant challenges and strain under financial stress.

27. Where in the fifth paragraph does the following sentence best fit?
- "This shift has been supported by broader societal changes, including more women joining the workforce and changing attitudes toward gender equality."
- A. (D) B. (C) C. (B) D. (A)
28. The word "**flexibility**" in the last paragraph is OPPOSITE in meaning to _____.
 A. changeability B. adaptability C. rigidity D. versatility
29. Which of the following best summarizes the passage?
- A. The unavoidable shift from extended, to, nuclear family structures, driven by urbanization and economic factors, has led to a decline in the family's ability to provide effective social norms and emotional support to its members.
- B. The most significant role of the family is providing emotional and financial support, as demonstrated by the challenges of the 2008 financial crisis and the importance of open communication for well-being, and these two roles are what define the family's purpose in modern society.
- C. The modern family's struggle to balance work and home life is a direct result of women entering the workforce, a trend that traditional family models were fundamentally not designed to handle, which presents the most pressing challenge for families today.
- D. The family is a fundamental societal unit with key roles in social learning, emotional support and economic stability. While its structure is shifting from extended to nuclear models, it remains vital for adapting to modern challenges and shaping society's future.
30. It can be inferred from paragraph 2 that families that promote open communication are likely to _____.
 A. experience more conflict B. be less involved in their communities
 C. have fewer children D. raise socially skilled individuals
31. In which paragraph is the discussion of traditional versus modern gender roles within the household located?
 A. paragraph 5 B. Paragraph 2 C. Paragraph 4 D. Paragraph 3
32. The author mentions all of the following as influences on family structure EXCEPT _____.
 A. political factors B. economic factors C. technological factors D. cultural factors
33. Why does the author mention the research from the Institute of Family Studies in the 2nd paragraph?
 A. To provide evidence for the impact of family interactions on children's development.
 B. To highlight the importance of family size in the transmission of social behaviors.
 C. To argue that traditional social values are becoming incompatible and outdated in modern society.
 D. To suggest that the family unit is gradually losing its effectiveness in passing on social norms.
34. Which of the following best paraphrases **the underlined sentence** in paragraph 3?
 A. Stress and anxiety are regularly observed and highly common in families with strong bonds.
 B. Families with strong bonds are less likely to encounter any significant experience of stress.
 C. Strong family bonds can enhance mental health by reducing stress and anxiety.
 D. Strong family bonds are absolutely essential for relieving all stress and anxiety.
35. In which paragraph does the author mention family's role in managing resources and ensuring financial stability?
 A. Paragraph 3 B. Paragraph 4 C. Paragraph 2 D. Paragraph 5

* **WORD FORMATION: Fill in the blank with the correct form of the word in brackets in each of the following questions.**

36. The children were truly _____ of their mother's effort to prepare a warm family dinner every evening. (appreciate)
37. Promoting renewable energy is essential for the long-term _____ of human societies and the planet. (sustain)
38. After a whole afternoon of cleaning, the living room was _____ tidy, ready for the family gathering. (spot)
39. Many irresponsible humans remain _____ of how their actions negatively impact the environment. (awareness)
40. To protect the surroundings, our family now chooses to buy reusable items and energy-efficient _____. (apply)

* **SENTENCE TRANSFORMATION: Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first one.**

- Use the word given in brackets without changing its form.
- Write **NO MORE THAN 5 WORDS** including the word given.
- Contraction is counted as **ONE** word.

41. People believe that sharing and caring are the solutions to many family problems. (solved)
→ Many family problems by sharing and caring.
42. John has a job as a waiter at the nearby restaurant. (working)
→ John is at the nearby restaurant.
43. Experts have argued that favoritism towards one child can harm the relationships among siblings. (argued)
→ It favoritism towards one child can harm the relationships among siblings.
44. The new law banning petrol cars in the city center takes effect on January 1st next year. (is)
→ The city petrol cars from entering the downtown area next year.
45. Activities like reading bedtime stories allow parents and children to share meaningful time together. (quality)
→ Parents are encouraged to spend their children by reading bedtime stories.

- - - - The end of the test - - - -