ADVANCED READING – FAMILY LIFE

I. Read the passage, and decide whether the following statements are true (T), false (F), or not given (NG).

Career of the Year

Fourteen-year-old Ed Bond from London is this year's winner of the Young Career of the Year Award.

When he's not at school. Ed looks after his mother, who is disabled and in a wheelchair. He also looks after his ten-year-old sister. He helps to do the washing and the cooking. 'Ed's great,' says his father. 'I have to go to work at six in the morning, so Ed has to help his mother a lot. He doesn't have to do the housework but he does it anyway. We worry because he doesn't have much free time, but he doesn't complain.' 'I want to help.' says Ed, 'and anyway I don't have to do so much at weekends because my dad's at home.'

	T	F	NG
1. Ed helps to look after his mother.	☐	☐	☐
2. Ed's mother can't walk.	☐	☐	☐
3. Ed's father is also ill.	☐	☐	☐
4. Ed is an only child.	☐	☐	☐
5. Ed does all the shopping for the family.	☐	☐	☐

II. Read the passage, and choose the correct answer A, B, C or D for each question.

Family types vary in different countries and among different cultures. In Western, industrialized societies, the nuclear family ranks as the most common family type. It consists of a father, a mother and their children. But nuclear families exist together with many other types of family units. In the single-parent family, for example, a mother or a father heads the family alone. A blended family is formed when a divorced or widowed parent remarries. As divorce rates have risen, the number of single-parent and blended families has increased.

In many parts of the world, parents and children live together with other family members under the same roof. These complex families usually contain several generations of family members, including grandparents, parents and children. They may also include brothers or sisters and their families, uncles, aunts and cousins. Even when relatives do not live together, they still consider themselves members of the same extended family includes grandparents, uncles, aunts and cousins.

1. The nuclear family ranks as the most common family type _____.
   A. an many industrialized countries **B.** in countries with nuclear weapons
   C. that consists of more than two generations **D.** that leads to the divorce of parents
2. In the single-parent family, _____.
   A. there are often no children
   B. only one parent lives with his or her child or children
   C. the number of blended children has increased
   D. children live with their grandparents
3. Grandparents, parents and children are mentioned as _____.
   A. the three typical generations of an extended family
   B. three branches of a family tree
   C. the closest and happiest relatives in family units
   D. a complex combination
4. The second paragraph is about _____.
   A. American culture **B.** relatives and family members
   C. the relationship between family members **D.** the extended family
5. The word "blended" in paragraph 1 is closest in meaning to _____.
   A. complex **B.** married **C.** mixed **D.** formed

III. Read the passage, and choose the correct answer A, B, C or D for each question.

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The American family unit is in the process of change. In the first half of the 20th century, there were mainly two types of families: the extended and the nuclear. An extended family includes mother, father, children and some other relatives, living in the same house. A nuclear family is composed of just parents and children living **under the same roof**.

As the American economy had progressed from agricultural to industrial one, people were forced to move to different parts of the country to get good jobs. These jobs were mainly in the large cities. Now, in fact, three-quarters of Americans live in urban areas which occupy 2.5% of the national total land mass. Of the 118 million in the labour force, only 3 million still work on the farm.

Since moving for better jobs has often divided the extended family, the nuclear family became more popular. At present, 55% of the families in the US are nuclear families. But besides the two types of traditional family groupings, the family is now being expanded to include a variety of other living arrangements because of divorce. There is an increase in single-parent families, in which a father or mother lives with one or more children. Divorce has also led to blended families, which occur when previously married men and women marry again and combine the children from former marriage into a new family. There are also some couples who do not want to have children to form two-person childless families.

1. A nuclear family is one that ____.
   A. consists of father, mother, and children living in the same house
   B. relatives live with
   C. there are only grandparents, parents and their children living in
   D. is bigger than extended family
2. The expression "**under the same roof**" means _____
   A. a house with one roof **B.** a house with the roof the same as the wall
   C. in the same building **D.** under the house
3. The nuclear family becomes more popular because of _____.
   A. more divorces **B.** the division of the extended family
   C. fewer jobs in big cities **D.** an increase in single-parent families
4. How many types of families have there been in the US since the first half of the 20th century?
   A. Two **B.** Three **C.** Four **D.** Five
5. A blended family is a newly-formed family _____.
   A. with the combination of children of the two previously married father and mother
   B. that has only father or mother living with children
   C. in which there are no children
   D. that there is only one couple living in with their newborn children

IV. Read the passage carefully, and do the tasks that follow.

The Role of the Japanese Mother

The focus of the mother is her home and family, with particular attention to the rearing of children. While most Japanese believe that a woman's place is in the home, women make up almost 40 percent of the labor force. More than half of these women are married. Many mothers with small children work only part-time so they can be home when their children are not in school. The extra income earned by the mother is often used to meet the cost of their children's education.

Japanese mothers take the responsibility of their child's education and upbringing very seriously. They seldom confront their preschool children because they want to foster an intimate, dependent relationship. The purpose of this approach is to get the child to obey willingly with the mother's wishes and to shape the child's behavior over a long period of time. The close nature of the mother-child relationship and the strong parental commitment help to provide a strong foundation for the child's entry into elementary school.

Mothers are involved directly in with the child's school. Each day a notebook is sent back and forth between mother and teacher remarking on the child's mood, behavior, health, and activities both in school and at home. Mothers attend PTA meetings usually twice a month and are involved with school committee's working on special projects such as gardening and hot lunch preparation. School is a very stressful and competitive process so the

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Japanese mother concentrates all her efforts on getting her children through so they can get accepted into the appropriate universities.

Task 1: Match a word in column A with its definition in column B, writing the answer in each blank.

Answer	A	B
_____	**1.** rearing	**A.** encourage something to develop
_____	**2.** foster	**B.** giving an opinion or thought
_____	**3.** intimate	**C.** a promise to support someone or something
_____	**4.** commitment	**D.** the practice of looking after children until they're old enough
_____	**5.** remarking	**E.** having a close relationship

Task 2: Read the passage, and then decide whether the statements are true (T) or false (F).

	T	F
6. Most Japanese women are housewives.	☐	☐
7. Taking care of children and bringing them up are of great importance to Japanese mothers.	☐	☐
8. Japanese mothers tend to be very strict to their children at home.	☐	☐
9. Japanese mothers and teachers work together for the children's study progress and comfort at school.	☐	☐
10. The Japanese mother concentrates all her efforts on getting her children through, so the atmosphere at home is very stressful.	☐	☐

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