

Name:**Reading**

1 Read this extract from an article about a family. For questions 1–5, choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which you think fits best according to the text.

My family is quite unusual in that all four of us were adopted from birth. My parents were working class from the East End of London and lived in a small rented flat with no bathroom. Well, there was a bath of course, but it was a metal one hung up on the wall that you got down on a Friday night. The four of us used the same water one after the other so if you were last in line, you came out dirtier than when you got in. In those days, it was normal to have just one bath a week and showers were unheard of. I'm quite sure that today they wouldn't have been allowed to adopt four babies within five years and have them all living in such a tiny space.

My mum had been a nurse, but she gave up work when we came along. So the only income was from my dad, who worked as a housing officer for the city council. Although this wasn't a very well-paid job, there was just about enough money to get by and we could even afford a week's holiday by the sea each year. We always went to the same place and called the couple we rented the rooms from Uncle Dick and Auntie Eileen even though they weren't actually relatives.

I suppose it was obvious to others that we kids were not biologically connected. Just taking hair and skin colour, you wouldn't think we were related. I was blond, pale and fat; my brother was dark skinned, remained thin no matter how much he ate, and had masses of curly black hair. My sisters were just as different physically. In fact, you could see a huge difference. We were also totally unlike each other in terms of personality and talents.

I remember the time when my parents sat us all down and told us we were adopted. It had no effect on me. My parents were the only ones I'd known and I had no desire to find my biological parents. This wasn't true for my oldest sister Mary, who is just ten months younger than me. She was fascinated by the fact that she had other parents and later on she actually found them. Her biological father is American and she visits him there at least twice a year. Unfortunately, her biological mother died last year.

Sometimes I wonder if I should have tried to get in touch with my biological parents. Maybe I've got half-brothers and sisters and it would be nice to know if I did. It's also important for medical reasons. Perhaps I've inherited a particular condition that I can deal with if there's a history of it in the family. Anyway, I think the parents I grew up with did a great job of bringing us up in hard times and I thank them for that.

1 The writer thinks that

A accommodation is better now.

B his parents didn't care about being clean.

- C** showers are better than baths.
- D** adoption rules have probably changed.

2 The writer's parents

- A** took the children to stay with their relatives every year.
- B** were both working when they decided to adopt.
- C** paid for their holidays.
- D** had no close relatives.

3 The writer's sisters

- A** were similar to his brother.
- B** didn't look like him.
- C** were physically bigger than him.
- D** had blonde hair.

4 Mary

- A** never met her biological mother.
- B** met her biological father twice.
- C** knows more about her biological family than the writer.
- D** is older than the writer.

5 What does the writer regret?

- A** He didn't know that he had a medical problem earlier.
- B** His parents were poor.
- C** He doesn't have any contact with possible relatives.
- D** His parents didn't tell him about the family history.