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**Name: _____** **Mid-term test 6th Adol**

## Section 1

### Reading

**1 Read the text. For questions 1–5, choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which you think fits best according to the text.**

**… / 10**

## AN UNUSUAL UPBRINGING

***Mark Cole did not have a normal childhood. He tells Sandra Dickens about the good and bad points of his upbringing.***

When friends ask me about my family, they're always really interested to hear what I have to say. I didn't have what you'd call a traditional upbringing. Both of my parents are diplomats, so my childhood was different from what most people have experienced. We moved a lot and I find it difficult talking to people who have always lived in the same place because, although they're interested in my life, they don't really understand.

I was born in England and I started school there. Then, when I was six, we moved to New York because my mum and dad got jobs at the British embassy there. We lived there for three years and I went to an American school. I was quite happy there, but then we moved to Japan because my parents were sent there for work. My brother Bill and I attended an English-speaking school in Tokyo. Living in the US and in Japan was quite exciting for me at that age. After all, the best games and toys were made in those countries! We also lived for a time in Spain and Egypt. Going back to England during our holidays was a bit disappointing, to be honest.

Apart from all the moving around, there was another thing about my childhood that was different – we had nannies because my parents often worked long hours. Our nannies used to pick us up after school and take care of us until our parents came home. We got on really well with our nannies. They were very relaxed and kind to us. We missed our parents, but we were never really lonely. The nannies were always there to look after us and they always listened if we had problems or if we were frightened about anything.

We spent a lot of time with the nannies, but only from Monday to Friday. The weekend was family time! We really enjoyed ourselves then. We loved hearing our parents' stories about all the different people they had met. They had such glamorous lives, but when we were all together, they were quite normal. My parents were great – they were strict when they had to be, but also understanding. And they were determined to give us a sort of 'international' education, so that we would understand the world around us better.

I suppose the only bad thing about my upbringing is that as soon as I'd made friends in a new country, we would move to a different one. It's quite hard at that age to say goodbye to your friends, knowing that you probably won't ever see them again. I suppose I resented my parents' jobs at those times. However, Bill and I have always been very close, which helped a lot. No matter where we lived, we always had each other, and we always had a lot of fun.

On the other hand, by living in different countries we learnt so much about other cultures. Even though it was ages ago, I can still speak some Japanese, and
I'm fluent in Spanish. Another great thing was all the delicious food we ate in those countries. I have to say, it was much better than British food!

Would I like to do the same job? I think so. I think I take after my parents in many ways, and I would quite like to do a job that involves travelling and living in other countries. If I have children of my own, I think they would probably enjoy it too. It's not bad at all – you can travel the world, and it's like being on holiday all the time!

**1 The writer says that his parents**

A didn't understand him.

B couldn't talk to people easily.

C are different from most parents.

D treated him really badly.

**2 How did the writer feel about going back to England?**

A He was very excited.

B He felt it wasn't the best place for his parents.

C He thought it was a bit boring there.

D He was very happy to be back.

**3 What part did nannies play in the writer's upbringing?**

A They went to school with him.

B They sometimes took the place of his parents.

C They were often frightened.

D They worked seven days a week.

**4 How did the writer feel about living abroad?**

A It was a great learning experience.

B He missed his friends in England.

C The family moved too much.

D He doesn't want his children to live the same way.

**5 The writer uses the phrase 'I take after my parents' (line 63) to show that he**

A loves his parents very much.

B is happy about the way his parents brought him up.

C feels jealous of his parents' jobs.

D has some of his parents' characteristics.

## Section 2

**WRITING**

**Choose one of the two options and write between 120 to 180 words in an appropriate style.**

1. **Your English teacher has asked you to write a story for the college magazine. The story must <u>begin</u> with the following words:**

*As I left the house I promised that I'd be back by five…….*

2. **Write an email to a friend describing the best and the worst things that have happened to you this year.**