

# BIRTH ORDER THEORY

## Reading Comprehension

- 1** What is the main idea of the passage?
  - a. There is a link between the desire to lead and to rebel.
  - b. People's personalities may be influenced by birth order.
  - c. First-born children make the best presidents.
  - d. Personality cancels out the birth order theory.
  
- 2** What can the birth order theory tell us?
  - a. the order in which siblings were born
  - b. how parents should treat their children
  - c. what type of job a person might be suited for
  - d. whether someone can get into a good school
  
- 3** Why might only children prefer to be their own boss?
  - a. because they lack strong negotiating skills
  - b. because they don't like to be criticized
  - c. because they prefer to be around adults
  - d. because they don't get along with others
  
- 4** The word **distinguish** in the passage is closest in meaning to
  - a. precede
  - b. stand out
  - c. celebrate
  - d. withhold
  
- 5** Which of the following is NOT mentioned as a reason the birth order theory can be wrong?
  - a. a second marriage
  - b. adopting an older child
  - c. physical disabilities
  - d. a person's career
  
- 6** What can be inferred about only children based on the passage?
  - a. They are more mature than their friends.
  - b. They make better lawyers than first-born children.
  - c. They are selfish because they rarely have to share.
  - d. They don't have many friends because they are stubborn.

# Summary

Step 1 Read the passage again and complete the outline with the words below.

career / first-born / middle / responsible / diplomatic / independent / personality  
journalism / presidents / negotiators / dependent / temperament / lawyers / dynamics

I. Birth order theory

- A. Explains \_\_\_\_\_ traits  
B. Birth order can affect \_\_\_\_\_ decisions

II. \_\_\_\_\_ children

- A. Traits: \_\_\_\_\_, ambitious, intellectual  
B. Jobs: lawyers, doctors, \_\_\_\_\_

III. \_\_\_\_\_ children

- A. Traits: rebellious, \_\_\_\_\_, social B. Jobs: managers, \_\_\_\_\_

IV. Youngest children

- A. Traits: \_\_\_\_\_, persuasive, funny B. Jobs: \_\_\_\_\_, advertising, sales

V. Only children

- A. Traits: creative, mature, \_\_\_\_\_ B. Jobs: \_\_\_\_\_, doctors, architects

VI. Other factors to consider

- A. Unique family \_\_\_\_\_ B. Natural \_\_\_\_\_

Step 2 Complete the summary with your own words based on the outline.

The birth order theory explains why certain people have common \_\_\_\_\_ traits.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_. However, there are other factors to consider  
such as unique family \_\_\_\_\_ and a person's natural \_\_\_\_\_.