Are Teens Paid Too Much Money?

A. Skimming:

1. What's the main idea of the text?

a- Nowadays teenagers know how to manage money. ( )
b- Parents spend too much money on their children's whims. ( )
c- Teenagers' pocket money increases with age. ( )

B. Scanning:

2. How much money do the majority of teenagers receive?

[1]Teenagers have been hailed as the new spend, spend, spend generation, but their spending could put their parents in debt. A report out today shows that parents are lavishing cash on their teenagers so they can keep [5]up with all the current trends. But the report also shows that it is the age of the 'kidult' as teenagers are acting older at a younger age and have a bigger say than ever in the clothes they buy and wear.

The majority of 15-19 year olds receive more than £100 [10]a month, but their plentiful pocket money is leading to many teenagers - particularly girls - becoming shopaholics as they splash out on clothes, cosmetics and electronic gadgets.

Now the report is warning that the generous cash handouts from debt-swamped parents means the young people are not being taught crucial lessons in money management.

[15]Latest research from market analysts Mintel International shows that British teenagers – 11 to 19 years olds – love to spend but they are not just spending their own money. According to Richard Caines, one of Mintel International retail analysts, "parents today are prepared to go well beyond simply satisfying the basic financial needs of their children so much. So that the amount of money parents give to their children significantly outstrips economic growth and will continue to do so. There is no doubt that in the future [20]teenagers will be hitting the shops even more often than they do already."

Today teenagers between 11 and 14 are more likely to receive at least £250 a year in pocket money, with almost a quarter doing so. The amount of pocket money obviously increases with age, so that between 15-19 years old the majority receive more than £100 a month, with one in seven receiving £500 or more.

C. Context clues: Match the word on the left with their definitions. Write the number in the box.

1. lavishing	Line 4	a) spend a huge amount
2. trends	Line 5	b) exceeds
3. plentiful	Line 10	c) clearly
4. splash out	Line 11	d) owing a lot of money without being able to pay
5. gadget	Line 12	e) abundant
6. debt-swamped	Line 13	f) fashion
7. outstrips	Line 19	g) device, equipment
8. obviously	Line 22	h) giving too much

E. Inferring: Are these statements True or False? Justify all your answers by quoting from the text.

3. Parents still impose their will on children as far as clothes are concerned. ( )

4. Indebted parents refrain from giving too much pocket money to their kids. ( )

5. Parents are aware that the money they give to their kids will be spent on superfluous stuff. ( )

6. With the present economic crisis, teens won't spend so much money. ( )

7. What does this phrase mean?
"to have a bigger say".
a. Wear nice and expensive clothes.
b. Act like an adult
c. Have a big influence.

F. Identifying author's audience and purpose:

8. What is the author's purpose?
a. To persuade.
b. To inform.
c. To entertain.

9. What audience is this text addressed to?
a. Parents
b. teenagers
c. All people

I. Relating reading to personal experience: Now answer this question.

10. Do teens in your country get as much pocket money as British kids do? Justify your answer, giving some examples. Write a short paragraph.