

## UNIT 9 – SOCIAL ISSUES

### Reading 1

*Read the following passage and mark the letter A, B, C, or D on your answer sheet to indicate the correct answer to each of the questions.*

I don't want to be the odd one out!

"My parents don't want me to hang out with my friends from school. **They** think those friends have a bad influence on me. They aren't happy that instead of going home after school, we go to games centres to play video games. But I think it's fun, and! don't want to lose my friends," Thanh, 17.

"One day I coloured my hair and painted my finger nails. My parents got so angry with me. I know that this is not allowed at school, but all the girls in my group of friends did the same. I don't want to be the **odd one out!**" Van, 16.

**I.** The emails we have received from teenagers this week point to the effects of peer pressure, which is when you do things because you want to be accepted or valued by your friends. **If teens fail to do what their group of friends want them to do, they may not be accepted or may even be bullied.**

**II.** In many cases, peer pressure can lead to **depression**, low self-confidence, distance from family and poor school performance. It can also lead to bigger social issues. It was reported that 70% of teenage smokers surveyed in the US said that they started smoking because they had friends who were smoking.

**III.** It is not always easy to stand up to peer pressure, but sooner or later you need to decide what is best for you. Choose the right friends, learn to say no when you don't feel comfortable and don't hesitate to talk to an adult when the situation looks dangerous. And remember it's sometimes OK to be "the odd one out".

**Question 1.** What is the main idea of the passage?

- A.** Teenagers should always follow their friends to fit in.
- B.** Parents should stop their children from having friends.
- C.** Peer pressure can strongly influence teenagers' behavior and emotions.
- D.** Playing video games and changing appearance are common hobbies for teens.

**Question 2.** According to Thanh, why are his parents unhappy with him?

- A.** He plays video games at home all day.
- B.** He doesn't do well at school.

C. He goes to game centres after school with his friends.

D. He smokes with his friends after school.

**Question 3.** The phrase “**the odd one out**” in paragraph 2 is **CLOSEST** in meaning to \_\_\_\_\_.

A. the smartest in the group

B. the one who is left out or different

C. the one who is always right

D. the leader of the group

**Question 4.** The word “**depression**” in paragraph II is **OPPOSITE** in meaning to \_\_\_\_\_.

A. sadness

B. anxiety

C. happiness

D. loneliness

**Question 5.** The word “**They**” in paragraph 1 refer to \_\_\_\_\_.

A. Thanh’s classmates

B. Thanh’s friends

C. Thanh’s parents

D. Game centres

**Question 6.** What can be inferred about the impact of peer pressure from the passage?

A. It only affects students’ appearance.

B. It is always a negative experience.

C. It can affect mental health, family relationships, and school performance.

D. It helps students learn how to follow rules.

**Question 7.** Which of the following is NOT TRUE according to the passage?

A. Van changed her appearance to match her group of friends.

B. Thanh’s parents encourage him to play video games.

C. Peer pressure may lead to serious problems like depression.

D. Teens are advised to say no when they feel uncomfortable.

**Question 8.** Which of the following best paraphrases the sentence:

**"If teens fail to do what their group of friends want them to do, they may not be accepted or may even be bullied."**

- A.** Teenagers often want to be independent and don't care about others' opinions.
- B.** Teens who don't follow their friends may face rejection or mistreatment.
- C.** Teen groups help support members who don't want to join in.
- D.** Most teenagers like bullying those who look different.

## **Reading 2**

In many countries around the world, it is not easy growing up because teens are dealing with many social issues. A study carried out by a famous research centre in the US found out that the following were among the most serious ones.

Anxiety and depression: Seven in ten teenagers considered them a serious problem among their peers. The main source of teenagers' anxiety and depression was social pressure, such as the pressure to look good, to fit in social groups, and to be good at sport.

Bullying: 55% said that bullying was a major problem for teenagers, and around 15% admitted that they had experienced some form of cyberbullying. Girls or younger students were more likely to be victims of bullying.

Poverty: Four out of 10 teens said that poverty was also a major problem for them. In fact, about 20% of the teens in the survey struggled to live below the poverty line every day.

The survey results suggest that more support should be provided to help teenagers avoid serious social issues and enjoy a happier life.

**Question 1.** What is the best title for the passage?

- A.** Social issues faced by teenagers around the world
- B.** Why American teens are failing at school
- C.** Major social problems among teenagers in the US
- D.** The importance of mental health for children

**Question 2.** According to the passage, what are the main causes of teenagers' anxiety and depression?

- A.** Exams and schoolwork

- B.** Family expectations
- C.** Social pressure, like appearance and fitting in
- D.** Economic conditions

**Question 3.** The word “peers” in paragraph 2 is **CLOSEST** in meaning to \_\_\_\_\_.

- A.** parents
- B.** teachers
- C.** friends and people of the same age
- D.** strangers

**Question 4.** The word “ones” in paragraph 1 refer to \_\_\_\_\_.

- A.** teenagers
- B.** countries
- C.** social issues
- D.** surveys

**Question 5.** What can be inferred about bullying from the passage?

- A.** Only boys are affected by bullying.
- B.** Bullying mostly happens in poor families.
- C.** Some teens experience bullying through the internet.
- D.** Most teens bully others online.

**Question 6.** Which of the following is NOT TRUE according to the passage?

- A.** 70% of teenagers think anxiety and depression are serious problems.
- B.** 15% of teens said they had been cyberbullied.
- C.** Poverty is not a major concern for teenagers.
- D.** Girls and younger students are more likely to be bullied.

**Question 7.** Which sentence best paraphrases the idea: “In fact, about 20% of the teens in the survey struggled to live below the poverty line every day”?

- A.** One in five teenagers in the study faced financial difficulties daily.
- B.** Most teenagers in the study were rich and successful.

- C.** Poverty was not a problem for the teenagers in the survey.
- D.** Teenagers in the survey were only concerned about bullying.