Growing Up in a Changing Family

Family life has changed greatly over the past few decades. In the past, many people lived in an extended family, where grandparents, aunts, uncles, and siblings all lived together. Today, most families are nuclear, usually consisting of parents and their children only. However, no matter what type of family we live in, family relationships play a major role in shaping who we are.

From early childhood, children start to imitate the behaviour of their parents. They learn to interact with others and acquire basic social skills through play. This early nurturing process is important because it helps them build confidence and understand how to coordinate their thoughts and actions. Some children develop strong bonds with their parents, while others may feel a closer connection to their siblings. Every child is different, and temperament — the natural part of a person's personality — also affects how children behave.

As children move into adolescence, their physical and cognitive development continues rapidly. Teenagers often want more independence and sometimes become rebellious toward parental rules. This behaviour is a normal part of growing up, but it can also cause conflict at home. Parents need to be patient and accommodate their child's emotional changes. Good communication and understanding are key to maintaining a positive relationship during this stage.

Peer relationships also become very important in adolescence. Teenagers usually spend more time with friends who share similar interests and ideas. These interactions help them to figure out their identity and develop maturity. Positive peer influence can encourage teenagers to study hard and make good decisions, while negative influence can lead to poor consequences, such as breaking school rules or losing focus on their goals.

As young people become adults, they begin to see how their upbringing has shaped them. They may notice a resemblance to their parents — not just in appearance but also in values and habits. A loving, close-knit family provides support throughout life and helps each member deal with challenges. Although every family faces difficulties, strong bonds and mutual respect can help people grow into healthy, responsible adults.

Questions 1–6

Do the following statements agree with the information in the passage?
Write
TRUE if the statement agrees with the passage.
FALSE if it contradicts the passage.
NOT GIVEN if there is no information on this.

1. Most families today include grandparents, aunts, and uncles living together.
2. Children learn many social skills through early play.

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3. A child's temperament can influence how they behave.
4. All teenagers obey their parents' rules during adolescence.
5. Friends can have both positive and negative effects on teenagers.
6. The writer believes that family bonds become weaker in adulthood.

Questions 7–10

Choose the correct letter, A, B, C, or D.

7. What does the writer say about early childhood?
   A. It is a time when children start to imitate and learn.
   B. It is the most stressful time for parents.
   C. Children usually prefer friends to parents.
   D. Most children live far from their families.
8. Why can adolescence be difficult for parents?
   A. Teenagers often avoid communicating.
   B. Teenagers become completely independent.
   C. Parents find it hard to accommodate emotional changes.
   D. Teenagers rarely experience conflict.
9. What helps maintain a positive family relationship during adolescence?
   A. Ignoring rebellious behaviour
   B. Good communication and understanding
   C. Spending less time together
   D. Setting strict rules
10. What can teenagers gain from good peer relationships?
   A. Better school marks only
   B. A stronger sense of identity and maturity
   C. Less communication with parents
   D. Freedom from all consequences

Questions 11–13

Complete the sentences below.
Use **NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS** from the passage for each answer.

11. Parents should try to _____ their child's emotional changes.
12. A loving and _____ family can help members face challenges.
13. People may notice a strong _____ to their parents as they grow older.

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