

Task 1

Read the text below. Match choices (A—H) to (1—5). There are three choices you do not need to use. Write your answers on the separate answer sheet.

LABOUR LAWS FOR TEENS

While millions of teens are gainfully employed in part-time and summer capacities, there are many state and federal laws that dictate when they can work and what they can do. These laws gradually introduce more freedom in employment as the child grows older.

- 1 In most instances, a child has to be 14 years old or older before beginning employment. Strict labour laws prohibit children 13 and younger from working in most capacities. This prevents them from being overworked or placed in hazardous situations. However, children are allowed limited work experiences in newspaper delivery and babysitting. They can work in a business or on a farm that is owned or operated by their parents. They can also work as actors in motion pictures, television, and theatre or radio performances.
- 2 Teenagers can only work certain hours without violating labour laws. There are many federal restrictions regarding teens who are 14 or 15 years old. The teenagers in this age bracket can only work between the hours of seven in the morning and seven in the evening. The only exception to this occurs between June 1 and Labour Day, when teenagers are allowed to work until nine in the evening. They are not permitted to work during school hours. Further restrictions dictate that they cannot work more than three hours on a school day, with a limit of 18 hours in a school week. They cannot work longer than eight hours on a non-school day or 40 hours in a non-school week.
- 3 There are different occupational allowances depending on the teenager's age. Thresholds at the child's 14th and 16th birthdays dictate what kind of positions they can work in. At 14, teens can be employed in an office, store, restaurant, movie theatre, amusement park, or gas station, although the specifically allowed positions in these businesses are limited. These restrictions may be slightly different depending on the state in which the child resides. Under no circumstances are they allowed to work in positions requiring them to drive or operate machinery or any mining or manufacturing positions. At 16, teenagers can be employed in any occupation that has not been declared hazardous.
- 4 Children younger than 12 are permitted to work on designated «small farms». These farms are not required to pay the federal minimum wage and do not use more than 500 days of agricultural labour in a three-month period. These children can only work in non-hazardous jobs, only when school is not in session, and only with parental permission. Youth who are 12 or 13 years old can work on a farm with written parental consent or if a parent works on the same farm. They can only work when school is not in session and in non-hazardous capacities. Teenagers who are 14 or 15 years old can work on any farm, but are still required to work in non-hazardous jobs when school is not in session. After turning 16, however, a teenager can work on any day, for any number of hours and in any agricultural capacity.
- 5 However, these can be restricted by individual state legislation. Jobs that do not fall within the scope of federal child labour laws include newspaper delivery, babysitting, acting, and working within a business or on a farm owned or operated by parents as long as the business does not involve hazardous occupations, as determined by the Department of Labour. Similarly, odd jobs like mowing lawns are generally not addressed by labour laws.

- A What are hour restrictions for teens?
- B Are there any job restrictions?
- C What are the limitations of early employment?
- D Labour laws in regard to agricultural capacities vary greatly.

- E The list of hazardous positions is added.
- F There are a few exceptions to federal child labour laws.
- G Job requirements are clearly stated.
- H Child labour laws have been changed.

Task 2

Read the text below. For questions (6—10) choose the correct answer (A, B, C or D). Write your answers on the separate answer sheet.

As any parent will tell you, life for the average teen is a juggling act. They do their best to juggle their jumble of tasks, but almost inevitably, something gets neglected. And for the overwhelming majority of teens living in the US today, that something is nutrition.

According to the Centre for Disease Control and Prevention's 2007 polling data of 100,000 teenagers, just 13 per cent of teens are getting the recommended amounts of fruits and vegetables into their diet daily. That's approximately one in every 10 teens. Adults fared better, with about a third of them eating at least two servings of fruit and three servings of vegetables per day. But a third is a far cry from health officials' goal: for 75 per cent of Americans to be eating at least that amount.

The reasons Americans aren't receiving proper nutrition run the gamut: lack of time, lack of will, lack of willpower, or lack of knowledge. A serving qualifies as e.g. 1 orange, 12 cherries, 1/2 cup vegetable juice, or 1/2 potato. It's also likely due to the fact that people with on-the-go lifestyles complain of «not having the time» for balanced nutrition.

But this excuse will ring hollow when teenage boys grow older and find that they're not as well-built, or when teenage girls have brittle bones by the time they're in their 30s.

Cells are in an almost constant state of growth and development in adolescence, and these cells rely on fruits and vegetables for vitamins A, C and E, which fuel cellular development. Bone health is largely determined during teen years as well. Bones rely on calcium from sources like spinach and on vitamin B₆ from sources like bananas for proper development and density.

True, teens have the rest of their lives to improve their diets, but the teen years are crucial to the formation of dietary habits; it's where they take shape. And the earlier those habits entrench themselves, the greater the likelihood that teenagers will succumb to age-related diseases in adulthood. According to a study published this month in the *American Journal of Clinical Nutrition*, rats fed a diet low in vitamins (e.g., vitamin K) were more likely to develop weakening of the bones and hardening of the arteries.

Teens can typically get away with eating junk food from a standpoint of weight gain; their metabolism is revved at a much higher rate than the average adult's is. What the average adult stores as fat, the teen burns off. But the infrequency with which teens, apparently, eat fruits and vegetables is not without consequence. Those consequences will become apparent as they grow older, as the quality of their development will no doubt be a shell of what it could have been.

- 6 According to the survey data, the number of teenagers who include enough fruits and vegetables in their daily diet is _____
A less than 13 per cent.
B more than 90 per cent.
C about 100,000 people.
D approximately one in ten.
- 7 Americans explain that the reasons for not receiving balanced foods are _____
A lack of time, willpower and money.
B ignorance, time deficiency and absence of desire.
C lack of willpower and food scarcity.
D ignorance, absence of will and need of foodstuff.
- 8 If a teenager doesn't eat fruits and vegetables, by the older age his/her bones become _____
A easily cracked.
B slender.
C crooked.
D hardened.
- 9 What do cells in the growing body mostly rely on?
A Calcium.
B Vitamins.
C Energy.
D Dietary habits.
- 10 To the formation of the dietary habits the period of adolescence is _____
A alarming.
B bloodthirsty.
C critical.
D destructive.

TASK 3

Read the texts below. Match choices (A—H) to (11—15). There are two choices you don't need to use. Mark your answers on the separate answer sheet.

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| <i>CANCER</i> | 11. Water sign ruled by the Moon. It is the Moon which determines Cancereans' "lunatic" behaviour: a continuous alternation of melancholy and joy. They are sweet, conservative, capricious, enigmatic and fanciful. They fear the uncertainty of what's new and of future things, and hate violence in all its forms. They are extremely shy and romantic. |
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Text 12

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| <i>LEO</i> | 12. Fire sign ruled by the Sun, symbol of strength and pride. Leoneans are independent, free, authoritative, active, passionate and very generous. Due to their determination, they are usually good workers able to range easily between different kinds of jobs: the only important thing is to excel! |
| <i>PISCES</i> | 13. Water sign ruled by Jupiter and Neptune. Pisceans are subtle, patient, sweet and tolerant. However, they can also be touchy and treacherous. Their typical features are a complex character, a great fantasy and an extraordinary learning ability. Pisceans are irresolute and prefer being led by others, both in private and in professional life. |
| <i>GEMINI</i> | 14. Air sign ruled by Mercury. The main characteristics of this sign are its dualism and its contradictory nature. Gemini find it difficult to bind for a long time to other people, things or activities. They can be brilliant and fanciful lovers, but their freedom and independence are always in the foreground. Gemini are extremely impatient, often change their interests and activities. |
| <i>TAURUS</i> | 15. Earth sign ruled by Venus. Taurus represents art, beauty in all its forms, and strength (not only physical). Taureans are realistic and security loving (both on the material and psychological levels). In order to obtain this kind of security, they use all their qualities: resistance, quietness, patience and practical intelligence. |
| <i>VIRGO</i> | 16. Virgo is a very independent zodiac sign. They are fully able to put their intelligence to use and get things done for themselves. It is possible however that their narrow mindedness causes their creativity to suffer and they may lead regular routine lives. They may dwell too much on the past and over complicate things and this may limit their ability to move forward. |

People of which sign _____

- A look for a compromise?
- B try to achieve perfection?
- C may become good students?
- D should think of the future more?
- E have a very changeable mood?
- F like to feel safe in any situation?
- G prefer different pastime and often choose new hobbies?
- H prefer dreams to real life?

Read the text below. Choose from (A–H) the one which best fits each space (17–22). There are two choices you do not need to use. Write your answers on the separate answer sheet.

ARE WE PUSHING OUR KIDS TOO HARD OR NOT HARD ENOUGH?

As the United States struggles with a declining educational system — and a decline in status amongst the world's most educated countries — the debate wages on about (17) _____ to complete with the rest of the world.

But on the flip side, there are those parents (18) _____, or at the very least are falling a prey to the fear that they are not pushing their children hard enough.

According to a Sunday *New York Times* article (19) _____ parents are sending their toddlers to intensive tutors to try to get them ahead of the learning curve.

The companies, which take children (20) _____, teach them maths and reading for 20 to 30 minutes or as long as an hour twice a week at a cost of \$200 to \$300 a month.

But some educators question whether this intensive learning for toddlers is any more successful (21) _____. And if it's not better, is it worth keeping them off the playground?

I am not a mother. But I am fascinated by childhood development, and I am torn on this. Americans are lagging behind in education, but play is so important for children, especially so young, it would be hard for me (22) _____ instead of being covered in sand.

(By Alexandra Gekas)

- A than counting with blocks on the floor
- B as young as three years old
- C how we can get our kids up
- D to watch my child struggling over maths
- E we should raise our expectations of our children
- F who may be pushing their children too hard
- G those who are very superstitious
- H called «Fast-Tracking to Kindergarten?»

TASK 5

Read the text below. For questions (23-32) choose the correct answer (A, B, C or D). Write your answers on the separate answer sheet.

As soon as the hour seemed decent, at 9 A.M. (23) , Jacqui picked up the telephone and dialled the switchboard at the University of St. Andrews, in Fife, Scotland.

"May I have the Handa Centre for the Study of Terrorism and Political Violence?"

The operator put her through. A woman answered the phone.

"Could I (24) to Bob Lambert, please?"

"Who's calling?"

Jacqui, in spite of herself, (25) into tears.

"I'm the mother of his child!"

Jacqui had (26) slept. After confirming with her parents that the man in the paper was (27) Bob, she had gone inside and typed "Bob Lambert father child" into Google. Pages of pictures of Bob had popped up, (28) him both as a youthful, shaggy Bob Robinson and, now, as a thin, gray-haired man with a beard and the same startled eyes. He looked like the sort of person who would (29) a windbreaker and comfortable shoes. He could have been, maybe, a (30) geologist. In one of the older pictures that had circulated on the Web after the disclosure of Bob's identity, Bob (31) Francis's hand as he sat on a Shetland pony. Jacqui (32) "It could have been a doll that he was holding—you couldn't see his face—but I knew that was my son, and that was, like, really, really shocking." [17]

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|----|---|------------|---|-----------|---|-----------|---|------------|
| 23 | A | exact | B | sharp | C | straight | D | round |
| 24 | A | speak | B | say | C | tell | D | utter |
| 25 | A | fell | B | burst | C | flew | D | started |
| 26 | A | barely | B | partially | C | unhealthy | D | shortly |
| 27 | A | regular | B | actual | C | honestly | D | indeed |
| 28 | A | expressing | B | showing | C | viewing | D | exhibiting |
| 29 | A | carry | B | dress | C | wear | D | clothe |
| 30 | A | retired | B | pensioner | C | given up | D | departed |
| 31 | A | clap | B | put | C | held | D | kept |
| 32 | A | recalled | B | forgot | C | announced | D | dismissed |

TASK 6

Read the texts below. For questions (33-42) choose the correct answer (A, B, C or D). Write your answers on the separate answer sheet.

THE GIRLS NEXT DOOR

As time (33), life has thrown up many challenges, from break-ups to redundancies and illness, yet each one has seen their friendship deepen. 'The last 10 years have been an emotional roller coaster,' admits Ashlyn, 'but my girlfriends have been my constant. I (34) rely on them and trust them without question. We've (35) on each other's doorsteps unannounced and encouraged each other to make brave decisions – in life and in love. We (36) a riotous sense of humour and have spent many magical evenings around the table in my garden while the girls dress up and put on late-night plays for (37) ' [104]

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|----|---|-------------|---|-------------|---|------------|---|-------------|
| 33 | A | passed | B | was passing | C | has passed | D | passes |
| 34 | A | can | B | need to | C | must | D | should |
| 35 | A | turned over | B | turned on | C | turned in | D | turned up |
| 36 | A | have shared | B | shared | C | share | D | are sharing |
| 37 | A | our | B | ours | C | us | D | we |

The infant was asleep. Pink-cheeked and practically bald and covered with a white blanket. She had that sweet, milky baby smell that Colin remembered and, as he looked (38) her, she waved one tiny, curled fist in the air and then opened her eyes, which were the exact same blue (39) her mother's.

'Hello,' Colin said. He wanted to add, 'I come in peace,' but he was pretty sure that (40) freak Dave out. Dave (41) into the cot with pride.

'Is she awake, Dad?

Dave, pick her (42) so Dad can hold her.' [33]

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| 38 | A | at | B | for | C | through | D | over |
| 39 | A | so | B | as if | C | as | D | just |

| | | | | | | | | |
|----|---|--------|---|-------------|---|------------|---|------------|
| 40 | A | had to | B | needed to | C | would | D | must |
| 41 | A | looked | B | was looking | C | had looked | D | has looked |
| 42 | A | off | B | on | C | out | D | up |