

## TEXT:

Today over 60 percent of the American women are working outside their homes. This is a big change for the United States. Only 40 years ago, 75 percent of all Americans disapproved of wives who worked for wages when their husbands could support **them** financially. Today most people accept that many women work outside the home.

There are two reasons why mothers and wives work. One reason is that there are many opportunities for women. A woman in the United States can work at many jobs, including an engineer, a physician, a teacher, a government official, a mechanic or a manual laborer. The other reason women work is to earn money to support their families. The majority of women say they work because it is an economic necessity.

About 80 percent of women who work support their children without the help of a man. These women often have financial difficulties. One in three families in the United States headed by a woman lives in poverty. Many divorced Americans are required by law to help their former spouses and support their children, but not **all** fulfill this responsibility. A wife's working may add a **stain** to the family. When both parents work, they sometimes have less time to spend with their children and with each other.

In other ways, however, many Americans believe that the family has been helped by women working. In a recent survey, for example, the majority of men and women said that they prefer marriage in which the husband and wife share responsibilities for home jobs such as child **rearing** and house work.

Many teenagers feel that working parents are a benefit. On the other hand, when parents have younger children who require more time and care, people's views are more mixed about whether having a working mother is good for the children.

What happens to children whose parents work? Nearly half of these children are cared for in day-care centres or by childminders. The rest are cared for by a relative, such as grandparents. Some companies are trying to help working parents by offering flexible work hours. **This** allows one parent to be at home with the children while the other parent is at work. Computers may also help families by allowing parents to work at their home with a home computer.

Name: ..... Number: .....

**I / READING COMPREHENSION: (15 marks)**

\*\*\*Tick (✓) the main idea of the text; (1 mark)

- The sharp rise in the proportion of working women and its effect on the family. ( )
- The Americans' disapproval of working mothers and wives. ( )
- The benefits of the work of mothers on teenage children. ( )

\*\*\* Justify with precise details from the text that the statements below are **FALSE**; (2 marks)

❖ 40 years ago, the Americans disapproved of all working mothers. (§1)

.....

❖ Working parents are not receiving any help from their companies. (§6)

.....

\*\*\*Fill in the table below with the right information from parag.3; (2 marks)

| CAUSE                                   | EFFECT  |
|---|---|
| ✓ Absence of help from the part of men. | ➤ .....   |
| ✓ .....                                 | ➤ parents have less time to spend with their children |

\*\*\*Mention two reasons for which the American women go to work; (2 marks)

1. ....
2. ....

\*\*\*Complete the paragraph below with the appropriate words from parag.5; (3 marks)

As long as teenage children approve of having working parents for its .....a large majority of Americans still have .....feelings particularly over .....children whose mothers go to work.

\*\*\*Circle the correct meanings of the underlined new words; (2 marks)

- "...may add a stain to the family" (§3) =  trouble  help  benefit
- "...such as child rearing and..." (§4) =  supervising  raising  teaching

\*\*\*What do the underlined words in the text refer to? (3 marks)

✓ "them" (§1) refers to ..... ✓ "all" (§3) refers to.....

✓ "this" (§6) refers to .....

**II / LANGUAGE:** (10 marks)

- Put the words between parentheses in the correct TENSE or FORM; (3 marks)

There is inflation when prices or the cost of living rise. Inflation has many **(harm)** ..... consequences: it reduces the purchasing **(empower)** ..... of people living on fixed income such as old people who **(usual)** ..... receive monthly pensions. It **(create)** ..... many uncertainties for **(consume)** ....., companies and governments. It may cause **(employ)** ..... by making business less competitive than those in other countries with a lower rate of inflation.

- Fill in the gaps using correct words from the box; (3 marks)

slumped / and / amount / record / needn't / percentage / play / release

You may wonder why there is a fall in C.D. sales. Does that mean that people are no longer interested in music? The answer is "NO". But the only obvious explanation is that there is a great number of radio stations and T.V. channels which ..... the latest hits all day long that people ..... buy them any longer. Young people can easily ..... their favorite music directly from the Internet sites with no money at all. There's just a very small ..... of pop star artists who are really earning a lot of money and a great ..... of that money is going to producers, managers, lawyers ..... not into the pocket of the artists.

- Fill in the gapped paragraph below using the best options from the box. (4 marks)

- (1) are noticing/ noticed/have noticed
- (2) thus / and / but
- (3) In / On / At
- (4) to / so that / in order
- (5) achieve / promote / raise
- (6) literacy / illiteracy / illiterate
- (7) on / that / in
- (8) many / much / little

Researchers prove that children, who do not have books at home or do not go to public libraries, are at a huge disadvantage. In recent years, we **(1)** .....an enormously increasing growth in T.V. use. It is true that T.V. is a useful medium, **(2)** .....nothing replaces books because books teach you to be able to read to cope with all aspects of life and civilization. **(3)** ..... January, families across Canada will participate in fun activities **(4)** ..... celebrate the Family Literacy Day to **(5)** ..... the importance of reading and learning. Every year **(6)** .....organizations, schools and libraries coordinate literacy-themed events and public story reading. They insist **(7)** ..... reading ability is like a muscle, the **(8)** ..... you exercise it, the more you will be able to maintain a developed-reading skill.

**III / WRITING: (15 marks)**

\*\*\*Task 1; interpret this table:

(5 marks)

In 2005, the number of tourists .....

.....Therefore, .....

|                           | 2005        | 2006         |
|---------------------------|-------------|--------------|
| <b>Number of tourists</b> | 1.7 Million | 1 Million    |
| <b>Population</b>         | 10 Million  | 10.5 Million |
| <b>Unemployment</b>       | 10%         | 8%           |
| <b>Life expectancy</b>    | 73          | 75           |
| <b>deflation</b>          | 2%          | 7%           |

\*\*\*Task 2;

(10 marks)

Dear Sir/Madam,

“I’m conflicted and hesitating about whether I should give up my job of a company director in order to care for my two children aged 2 and 4 or to have a childminder to look after them. Please give some advice.”

Answer this letter to help this mother. You should give her good reasons. (You can use if you want expressions like I believe / on the one hand / on the other hand / therefore...)

Dear....., .....

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Ad. =  
Lex. =  
Mec. =