

SECTION I. THE ASSESSMENT OF COMMUNICATIVE COMPETENCE (30 points)

Read the text and do the tasks below the text.

TV Viewing and Children

According to the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychology (AACAP), the average American child watches between three and four hours of TV each day. This equals about nine years of TV viewing by retirement age, and includes about 2,000,000 TV commercials.

Many psychologists are worried about the effect that TV watching has on children’s behaviour. There is concern that watching a lot of TV shows, especially programmes with a violent content can have a negative effect on children’s psychological development.

The AACAP also reports that children who watch a lot of television violence have higher levels of violent behaviour. Surprisingly, programmes created for children can be the most violent type of shows, with the average of twenty-six violent acts per hour such as hitting, compared to five per hour during adult prime time.

Psychologists believe that TV violence affects children in three main ways. First, they become immune to the violence they have seen, and begin to see it as a normal behaviour. Secondly, they accept the use of violence as a way to solve problems or get what they want. Finally, children copy the violent acts they see on TV.

Long hours of TV watching can affect a child’s development in other ways, too. Jerome Singer, a psychologist at Yale University, accepts that long hours of TV are “a clear danger to children.” His research also demonstrates that children who watch the most TV have the lowest marks in reading. Children forget about books and fall in love with TV. Another study by Dr. Judith Owens, a paediatrician at Brown University, suggests that children who watch a lot of TV around bedtime are more likely not to want to go to bed, have trouble sleeping, or wake up more often during the night.

However, a study of children at Stanford University offers some reasons to be hopeful. The report concludes that levels of violent behaviours in children can be reduced if parents monitor the programmes their children see, and watch some TV shows with them. Parents should also limit the time children watch TV each day, and refuse to let children watch shows that contain violent scenes.

| No | Item | Score | |
|----|---|------------------|------------------|
| 1. | <p>Answer the question. According to the text, why are the shows created for children more dangerous compared to the ones that run during adult prime time?</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> | A 0 1 2 | A 0 1 2 |
| 2. | <p>Find in the text the synonyms for the word and word combination given below.</p> <p>a) programme _____</p> <p>b) for example _____</p> | A 0 2 4 | A 0 2 4 |

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|----|---|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| | | | |
| 3. | Find in the text the antonyms for the words given below. a) peaceful _____ b) to increase _____ | A 0 2 4 | A 0 2 4 |
| 4. | Identify and circle the correct variant (True/False). Justify your choice. a) Children who watch a lot of TV do better in school. True False because _____ _____ _____ b) Parents should allow children to watch TV before bedtime. True False because _____ _____ _____ | A 0 1 2 3 4 6 | A 0 1 2 3 4 6 |
| 5. | Give another title to the text. Write your title in the form of a sentence. _____ _____ _____ | A 0 1 2 3 | A 0 1 2 3 |
| 6. | Comment the phrase below in 4 lines. Parents should limit the time children watch TV each day. _____ _____ _____ _____ | A 0 1 2 3 4 | A 0 1 2 3 4 |
| 7. | Identify the message of the text and comment on it in 5 lines. _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ | A 0 1 3 5 7 | A 0 1 3 5 7 |

SECTION II. THE ASSESSMENT OF LINGUISTIC COMPETENCE (20 points)

Fill in the gaps with a suitable preposition. Write the correct form of the verb in brackets. Choose the correct word from those given in brackets.

| No | Item | Score | |
|------------|---|--|--|
| 1.- 10. | <p>The USA is going through a period of fast change. Today, there are around 3.7 million people aged over 60 in this country but the large number of people who belong _____ the baby-boom generation will produce (a/an/the/-)_____ explosion in the number of retired people. By 2030, there (need/might/had to) _____ be some 8.8 million of them. As the birth-rate in the period after the post-war baby boom has declined sharply, these (elderly/elder/eldest)_____ people will represent a much larger part of the country’s population than ever before in their history. In 1966, when the US national pension scheme (to introduce) _____, there were about eight working-age people for every retired person, whereas today, there are about five, and in 2030 there will only be three. Recently, another change (already, to take place) _____, which also affects this situation namely the progresses made in medicine. If it (not to be) _____ for present medical advances and higher standards, life expectancy would not increase in future years. For sure, in 2030, people (to live) _____ an average of 4.5 years longer. Today the US government works on a new retirement policy that is aimed at (to stop) _____ a financial collapse. Moreover, this situation made young people (to start) _____ thinking about their parents’ and their own future financial security.</p> | A 0 2 4 6 8 10 12 14 16 18 20 | A 0 2 4 6 8 10 12 14 16 18 20 |

SECTION III. THE ASSESSMENT OF PRAGMATIC AND CULTURAL COMPETENCES (20 points)

Write a coherent 10-line text for the situation below.

| No | Item | Score | |
|----|--|---|---|
| 1. | <p>Your local newspaper asked you to write an article about a city or town of the USA that you would recommend the readers to visit. Mention at least one sightseeing that is worth visiting and give a reason.</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> | A 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 | A 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 |

