

Section One : Reading Comprehension

(7 points)

Read the passage carefully then answer the questions.

There is a fashionable myth that western societies as they grow more affluent become increasingly unfeeling about their relatives. In the good old days, the story goes, old people were cared for in 'the community' from cradle to grave and to have a relative in an institution was a shame and a scandal.

But the social cost was high. Marital relationships suffered, children were disturbed. The stress on the women in the home was acute. Many were struck with guilt and anxiety, trying to reconcile the conflicting demands of family and aged relatives.

There is another romantic notion that poverty-stricken societies are 'kinder' to old people. Poor societies have no alternative but to care for the old at home, but there is no reason to believe that poor families suffer the effects any less. They probably suffer a great deal more, with worse accommodation. It ought to be a mark of a civilised society that the handicapped and senile can be cared for by the community, in the real sense, with communal funds, in community homes, and not dumped on overburdened women at home.

Answer the following questions according to the text.

1. According to the myth, do people and societies become more generous as they become richer?
2. What was regarded as a shame and scandal?
3. Was it easy to have an aged relative at home?
4. What conflict in the family did the women have to face?
5. Why do poor societies care for their relatives at home ?
6. What should communal funds be used for?

Section Two : Mastery of Language

(8 points)

Find in the text words, phrases or expressions that are closest in meaning to the following :

- a) price b) choice

Find in the text words, phrases or expressions that are opposite in meaning to the following :

- a) better b) poor

Complete the second sentence so that it means the same as the one given.

- a) 1. Mark has to be taken to hospital.
2. They ...
- b) 1. He told the story to the children at least a dozen times.
2. The children ...
- c) 1. The social worker asked, "How many people live here?"
2. The social worker wanted to know ...
- d) 1. They told their mother that they would pay her a visit the following week.
2. They said to their mother, " ..."

Fill in the blanks so that the text makes sense.

Old people miss company. Their friends are too — 1 — to be able to come and see them. Their family may be busy, too — 2 —, they will see no one. What can you — 3 — to help? The best thing you can — 4 — is just a little time. Begin today. Greet the old people you — 5 — in the shops and streets, or speak to them while you are — 6 — for the bus. Of course, there are — 7 — more things you can do. It will — 8 — their life richer, and yours too.

Section Three : Written Expression

(5 points)

Choose one of the following topics.

Either 1. Using the following notes, write a composition of about 80 to 120 words on a traditional family.

- parents' age and occupation
- family size
- one day in the mother's life : her tasks
- grandfather and / or grandmother : a burden or a positive role?
- effects on the family members, on their relationships.

Or 2. Write a composition of about 80 to 120 words on the following topic.

Do you agree with the writer that in a civilised community, the handicapped and senile should be cared for by the community?

... expressions that are opposite in meaning.