20.11.2022 MOCK TEST

LISTENING TEST

Part 1

You will hear some sentences. Choose the best reply to each sentence.

- A. No, but you can upgrade.
- **1 B.** A bank account number.
 - **C.** The last week of every month.
 - A. Why don't I drive?
- **2 B.** Take the highway.
 - C. Slow down.
 - **A.** By using better materials.
- **3 B.** I can prove him wrong.
 - **C.** Production costs.
 - **A.** I think it's April 24.
- **4 B.** Please reserve a room.
 - **C.** Mary is responsible for that.
 - **A.** The recent documentary.
- **5 B.** Yes, right here.
 - C. I can't read them.
 - **A.** Yes, they are for sale.
- **6 B.** Please put them in the closet.
 - **C.** He came in first place.
 - A. I think at least five.
- **7 B.** He stayed overnight.
 - **C.** At the beginning of March.

For each question, write the correct answer in the gap. Write ONE or TWO WORDS or a NUMBER or a DATE or a TIME. You will hear a teacher giving some information about a school photography competition.

School photography competition				
The subject of this year's competition is (8)	<u>_</u> .			
Photos must show some (9)				
A local (10) will judge the competition.				
First prize is a photography (11)				
Send your entries in by (12)at the latest.				
School secretary's email address is (13) k	_@school.com			
Send your entries in by (12) at the latest.	_@school.com			

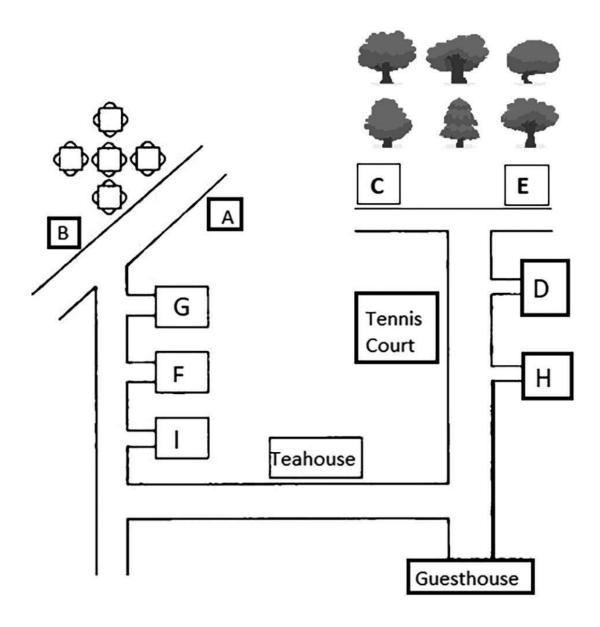
Part 3

You will hear five different men talking about visits they have made to a hospital. For questions 14-18, choose from the list A-H the reasons why each attended the hospital on the occasion described. Use the letters only once. There are three extra letters which you do not need to use.

	Α.	collect some surgical knives
14. Speaker 1	В.	collect somebody
15. Speaker 2	C.	deliver supplies
16. Speaker 3	D.	visit a relative
17. Speaker 4	E.	have an operation
18. Speaker 5	F.	do maintenance work
	G.	check a mental problem
ı	Н.	have a medical check-up

Part 4

Label the map below. Write the correct letter, A-I, next to Questions 19-22



- 19. Campsite
- 20. Business Centre
- 21.Museum
- **22.**Cafe

You will hear three different extracts. For questions 23-28, choose the answer (A, B or C) which fits best according to what you hear. There are two questions for each extract.

Extract One

You overhear a man and a woman discussing changes in Oxford English Dictionary.

23. What is the new information about the dictionary?

- A. They have discontinued work on the new edition.
- **B.** The digital version has much higher sales figures.
- **C.** The printed version might not get released.

24. What is woman's opinion of the change?

- **A.** it indicates that people lose interest in the language.
- **B.** it is nothing to worry about.
- **C.** it means that the books are getting less popular.

Extract Two

You hear two people talking about a car journey.

25. What distressed the man most?

- A. looking for a parking spot
- **B.** backing up down a narrow street
- **C.** finding the right address

26. What is woman's reaction to man's story?

- **A.** She is angry because he didn't listen to her.
- **B.** She is sorry she couldn't help him.
- **C.** She is impressed with the way he managed to deal with the problem.

Extract Three

You hear two people discussing a report.

27. How are the speakers related?

- A. They are two colleagues
- **B.** They are a client and a freelancer
- **C.** They are a boss and a subordinate

28. According to the woman, what is the problem with the paper?

- A. different kind of work has to be done.
- **B.** it has been done too quickly.
- **C.** it has not been proof-read.

Questions 29-35

Complete the notes below. Write ONE WORD ONLY for each answer.

Penguins in Africa			
Appearance and lifestyle They are also called Jackass Penguins for the sound they make.			
,	of their body remains constant.		
· -	on land from dusk till dawn. hey have heavy 31		
They eat tree 33			
Predators			
• seals			
• 34			
seagulls (eat the pengui	n 35)		

READING TEST

PART 1

Read the text. Fill in each gap with ONE word. You must use a word which is somewhere in the rest of the text.

COLOUR ME HEALTHY

Different Colours can affect us in many different ways; that's according to Verity Allen. In
her new series 'Colour me Healthy', Verity looks at the ways that 1car
influence how hard we work and the choices we make. They can even change our emotion
and even influence how healthy we are.
'Have you ever noticed how people always use the same colours for the same things?' say
Verity. 'Our toothpaste is always white or blue or maybe red. It's never green. Why not? Fo
some reason we think that blue and white is clean, while we think of green products a
being a bit disgusting. It's the 2for businesses. We respect a company which
writes its name in blue or black, but we don't respect one that uses pink or orange. People
who design new 3can use these ideas to influence what we buy.'
During this four-part 4, Verity studies eight different colours, two colours in
each programme. She meets people who work in all aspects of the colour industry, fron
people who 5food packets, to people who name the colours of lipsticks
Some of the people she meets clearly have very little scientific knowledge to support their
6, such as the American 'Colour Doctor' who believes that serious disease
can be cured by the use of coloured lights. However, she also interviews real scientists who
are studying the effects of green and red lights on mice, with some surprising results.
Overall, it's an interesting show, and anyone who watches it will probably find ou
something new. But because Verity is goes out of her way to be polite to everyone sho
meets on the series, it's up to the viewers to make their own decisions about how mucl
they should believe.

There are descriptions of eleven holidays. Decide which holiday (letters A to K) would be the most suitable for you described below (8 - 12).

- **7.** You are a very busy investment banker who wants a week off work. You like scenery and fresh air. You are very fit and you enjoy walking. For this holiday you want to leave the beach and try something different.
- **8.** You are a student. You will go to university next year, and your parents want to give you a holiday as a present before you go. You like reading and dancing, and want somewhere romantic and relaxing
- **9.** You want to give your husband a holiday to celebrate his 60th birthday. You like all sorts of sport, but because your heart is rather weak, you cannot do anything too energetic. You would like to stay in a good hotel.
- **10.**You own your own business. You have had a successful year, and you want a holiday. You want somewhere with very good food and accommodation, and you want to enjoy yourself without doing very much.
- **11.**The Hamble family are looking for something that will interest Mark aged 7 and Tammy, aged 13. They all like animals and sport. Mr and Mrs Hamble would also like something that lets them do some exploring on their own.
- **12.**Sammie wants to visit a market after spending the day in the city. He would like to photograph a historic place, and buy a painting by someone unknown.
- **13.** Alexia is looking for a really special necklace for her grandmother's birthday. She'd like to spend the whole day at the market, and wants to avoid the cold by staying inside.
- **14.** Ella is looking for objects from other countries for her friends. She'd like to choose a second-hand book to read on the journey home, and wants a snack at the market, too.
- **A. Golf in America:** A golfing safari across the United States in just ten days. Try eight great courses from New England to California, with golf lessons as you go. Transport is provided between your 5 star hotels and golf courses.
- **B. Climbing in Switzerland:** Whether you are experienced or just beginning, Hipeak have the mountaineering holiday for you. Choose one of our seven, ten or fourteen day packages, and you can enjoy wonderful alpine scenery while climbing at your particular level of ability. No mountaineering gear is needed we supply it all.
- **C. Florida and Disney world:** Every kid dreams of Disney World, and after mom and dad have seen it all, you can leave the children with one of our special guides, and try some

scuba diving in the Florida Keys, and a shopping tour of Miami. Or you can see Florida for yourselves with our no-problem car-hire scheme.

- **D. Safari in Kenya:** Try seven days in Wariwaro lodge in Kenya's Serengetti park. Coach tours through the savannah to see some of the world's most spectacular wildlife. Flights go every Sunday from Heathrow, London, and there is our special family option, with children getting a one-third discount.
- **E. Holiday in Majorca:** Two wild weeks in Majorca. Yes, if you are aged between 18 and 31, this package holiday is for you. Thr fun starts at Manchester airport, and in Majorca the party moves from the beach to the disco to the swimming pool. It only stops when you can't party any more. If you want a challenge, try this!
- **F. Mediterranean cruise:** The ancient Mediterranean in 16 days. Take a luxury cruise on the RMV Perikles to Herculaneum, Caesarea, Athens and Alexandria. Enjoy our on-board facilities, including restaurant, library, cinema and disco.
- **G. Carribean Beach:** You've been working too hard! Forget it all on a tropical beach. Ten days in a luxury hotel, right on the beach. You hardly have to move from your deckchair, except to enjoy our award-winning cookery. Beach cricket and barbeques are on offer for the more energetic.
- **H. Hiking in Katmandu:** Try a Katmandu adventure. See the Himalayas for yourself in this two week hiking tour. You must be fit and an experienced hiker, as well as having your own boots. We supply tents, the guides and the holiday of a lifetime!
- **I. Rosewell Hill:** Our market's in an amazing building that's hundreds of years old. Visitors find our late-night opening hours convenient, and there are always performers entertaining the crowds. We've recently opened more stalls specializing in pictures both from well-known artists and also those beginning their careers.
- **J. Camberwall Market:** There's lots to see in this interesting indoor market, so it's open from morning until late, in a fantastic modern setting. Find everything from rare gold and silver jewellery to designer clothes although the prices aren't cheap, the quality's excellent. After shopping, enjoy a meal in a nearby restaurant.
- **K. Frome Place:** Stalls open during normal daytime shopping hours so, depending on the weather, there's plenty to entertain you the whole day. Try our sandwich bar if you're hungry, and look for an old copy of something by a favourite author. We also have gifts from all over the world.

Read the text and choose the correct heading for each paragraph from the list of headings below.

There are more headings than paragraphs, so you will not use all of them. You cannot use any heading more than once.

List of headings

- **A.** British chemists' achievement (example)
- **B.** The creation of six-membered rings
- **C.** Products produced by Diels-Alder reactions
- **D.** The large receptor molecule designed by British chemists
- **E.** The drawback of the receptor
- F. The Diels-Alder reaction
- **G.** Fast reactions due to the receptor
- H. Further efforts to be made on the receptor
- **15.**Paragraph I
- **16.**Paragraph II
- 17.Paragraph III
- 18. Paragraph IV
- 19.Paragraph V
- 20. Paragraph VI

Paragraph I

Jeremy Sanders and his colleagues at the University of Cambridge have designed and synthesized a large cyclic "receptor" molecule, which makes one such reaction proceed almost 60,000 times as fast as usual. The receptor is similar to another built last year by the same team (New Scientist, Science, 1 February 1992). It consists of a ring of three porphyrin molecules linked by bridging chemical groups. Each porphyrin molecule contains a zincion at its centre. The central cavity of the new receptor is slightly smaller than before, and the researchers have also anchored pyridine groups to two of the zincions to act as bonding sites.

Paragraph II

Sanders and his colleagues have used their receptor to speed up and control the products of the so-called Diels-Alder reaction, a mainstay of chemical synthesis. The reaction occurs between two molecules - a "diene", which has two carbon-carbon bonds separated by a single bond, and a diene-seeking molecule, or "dienophile". In the right conditions, these two molecules transfer the electrons involved in their double bonds from atom to atom to form new bonds that complete a ring of six carbon atoms with a single double bond. The creation of such six-membered rings is the crucial first step in making many pharmaceuticals and agrochemical.

Paragraph III

Some Diels-Alder reactions are too slow to be useful industrially. The researchers, therefore, designed their receptor so that it would hold the diene and dienophile, via the pyridine (Py) groups, in the right positions to react quickly. According to Sanders, the receptor acts like a "molecular reaction vessel in which the effective concentration of reactants can be increased dramatically, so allowing a fast reaction".

Paragraph IV

Normally, Diels-Alder reactions produce a mixture of two products. But because in the receptor the reactants are forced into a specific orientation relative to each other, only one of the two possible products can form.

Paragraph V

Sanders hopes to modify the receptor to bring together in the cavity two molecules that do not normally react. This could lead to be the synthesis of compounds which everyday synthetic chemistry cannot make.

Paragraph VI

The receptor differs from an enzyme or other catalyst in one important respect. Only a tiny amount of an enzyme is needed to make a reaction thousands of times faster, but large quantities of the receptor are needed to make a significant difference to the speed of a reaction. However, Sanders is confident that in the future his team will be able to increase the turnover or able to increase the turnover of reactants by designing new features into the receptor. This would reduce the amount of receptor needed to speed up a reaction by a given amount. The researchers report further details of their results in the latest issue of Journal of the Chemical Society, Chemical Communications.

Read the following text for questions 21-29

How bacteria invented gene editing

- 1. This week the UK Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority okayed a proposal to modify human embryos through gene editing. The research, which will be carried out at the Francis Crick Institute in London, should improve our understanding of human development. It will also undoubtedly attract controversy particularly with claims that manipulating embryonic genomes is a first step towards designer babies. Those concerns shouldn't be ignored. After all, gene editing of the kind that will soon be undertaken at the Francis Crick Institute doesn't occur naturally in humans or other animals.
- 2. It is, however, a lot more common in nature than you might think, and it's been going on for a surprisingly long time revelations that have challenged what biologists thought they knew about the way evolution works. We're talking here about one particular gene editing technique called CRISPR-Cas, or just CRISPR. It's relatively fast, cheap and easy to edit genes with CRISPR factors that explain why the technique has exploded in popularity in the last few years. But CRISPR wasn't dreamed up from scratch in a laboratory. This gene editing tool actually evolved in single-celled microbes.
- 3. CRISPR went unnoticed by biologists for decades. It was only at the tail end of the 1980s that researchers studying Escherichia coli noticed that there were some odd repetitive sequences at the end of one of the bacterial genes. Later, these sequences would be named Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats CRISPRs. For several years the significance of these CRISPRs was a mystery, even when researchers noticed that they were always separated from one another by equally odd 'spacer' gene sequences.
- 4. Then, a little over a decade ago, scientists made an important discovery. Those 'spacer' sequences look odd because they aren't bacterial in origin. Many are actually snippets of DNA from viruses that are known to attack bacteria. In 2005, three research groups independently reached the same conclusion: CRISPR and its associated genetic sequences were acting as a bacterial immune system. In simple terms, this is how it works. A bacterial cell generates special proteins from genes associated with the CRISPR repeats (these are called CRISPR associated Cas proteins). If a virus invades the cell, these Cas proteins bind to the viral DNA and help cut out a chunk. Then, that chunk of viral DNA gets carried back to the bacterial cell's

- genome where it is inserted becoming a spacer. From now on, the bacterial cell can use the spacer to recognise that particular virus and attack it more effectively.
- 5. These findings were a revelation. Geneticists quickly realised that the CRISPR system effectively involves microbes deliberately editing their own genomes suggesting the system could form the basis of a brand new type of genetic engineering technology. They worked out the mechanics of the CRISPR system and got it working in their lab experiments. It was a breakthrough that paved the way for this week's announcement by the HFEA. Exactly who took the key steps to turn CRISPR into a useful genetic tool is, however, the subject of a huge controversy. Perhaps that's inevitable credit for developing CRISPR gene editing will probably guarantee both scientific fame and financial wealth.
- 6. Beyond these very important practical applications, though, there's another CRISPR story. It's the account of how the discovery of CRISPR has influenced evolutionary biology. Sometimes overlooked is the fact that it wasn't just geneticists who were excited by CRISPR's discovery - so too were biologists. They realised CRISPR was evidence of a completely unexpected parallel between the way humans and bacteria fight infections. We've known for a long time that part of our immune system "learns" about the pathogens it has seen before so it can adapt and fight infections better in future. Vertebrate animals were thought to be the only organisms with such a sophisticated adaptive immune system. In light of the discovery of CRISPR, it seemed some bacteria had their own version. In fact, it turned out that lots of bacteria have their own version. At the last count, the CRISPR adaptive immune system was estimated to be present in about 40% of bacteria. Among the other major group of single-celled microbes - the archaea - CRISPR is even more common. It's seen in about 90% of them. If it's that common today, CRISPR must have a history stretching back over millions - possibly even billions - of years. "It's clearly been around for a while," says Darren Griffin at the University of Kent.
- 7. The animal adaptive immune system, then, isn't nearly as unique as we thought. And there's one feature of CRISPR that makes it arguably even better than our adaptive immune system: CRISPR is heritable. When we are infected by a pathogen, our adaptive immune system learns from the experience, making our next encounter with that pathogen less of an ordeal. This is why vaccination is so effective: it involves priming us with a weakened version of a pathogen to train our adaptive immune system. Your children, though, won't benefit from the wealth of experience locked away in your adaptive immune system. They have to experience an infection or be vaccinated first hand before they can learn to deal with a given pathogen.

Questions 21-25

Do the following statements agree with the given information?

	g g	g			
	search carried out at the Fraversial.	ancis Crick Institute in London is likely to be			
A) True	B) False	C) Not Given			
	editing, like the one in the uper animals	pcoming research, can happen naturally in humans			
A) True	B) False	C) Not Given			
23. CRISPI	R-Cas is a gene editing techr	nique			
A) True	B) False	C) Not Given			
	was noticed when the rese fall bacterial genes.	earchers saw some odd repetitive sequences at the			
A) True	B) False	C) Not Given			
25. A grou	p of American researchers	made an important revelation about the CRISPR			
A) True	B) False	C) Not Given			
Questions 26	- 29				
Choose the c	orrect letter, A, B, C or D .				
Write the co	rect letter in boxes 25–28 c	on your answer sheet.			
26. 'Spacer' se	equences look odd because:				
A. 1	they are a bacterial immune	e system			
B. 1	B. they are DNA from viruses				
C.	C. they aren't bacterial in origin				
D. 3	all of the above				
27. The ones,	who were excited about the	e CRISPR's discovery, were:			
A.	oiologists				

- B. geneticists
- C. physicists
- D. A and B
- **28.** Word "*learns*" in the 6th paragraph means:
 - A. determines
 - **B.** gains awarness
 - C. adapts
 - **D.** studies
- **29.** What makes CRISPR better than even our adaptive immune system?
 - A. long history of existence
 - **B.** immortality
 - **C.** heritability
 - **D.** adaptiveness

Part 5

Architecture in Britain

From the Middle Ages to the 20th century, what are the influences and movements that have shaped the changing face of British architecture?

Romano-British culture—and that included architecture along with language, religion, political organisation and the arts—survived long after the Roman withdrawal. And although the Anglo-Saxons had a sophisticated building style of their own, little survives to bear witness to their achievements as the vast majority of Anglo-Saxon buildings were made of wood.

Even so, the period between the Norman landing at Pevensey in 1066 and the day in 1485 when Richard III lost his horse and his head at Bosworth, ushering in the Tudors and the Early Modern period, marks a rare flowering of British buildings. And it is all the more remarkable because the underlying ethos of medieval architecture was "fitness for purpose". The great cathedrals and parish churches that lifted up their towers to heaven were not only acts of devotion in stone; they were also fiercely functional buildings. Castles served their particular purpose and their battlements and turrets were for use rather than

ornament. The rambling manor houses of the later Middle Ages, however, were primarily homes, their owners achieving respect and maintaining status by their hospitality and good lordship rather than the grandeur of their buildings. In a sense, the buildings of the 16th century were also governed by fitness for purpose—only now, the purpose was very different. In domestic architecture, in particular, buildings were used to display status and wealth.

This stately and curious workmanship showed itself in various ways. A greater sense of security led to more outward-looking buildings, as opposed to the medieval arrangement where the need for defence created houses that faced inward onto a courtyard or series of courtyards. This allowed for much more in the way of exterior ornament. The rooms themselves tended to be bigger and lighter—as an expensive commodity, the use of great expanses of glass was in itself a statement of wealth. There was also a general move towards balanced and symmetrical exteriors with central entrances. With the exception of Indigo Jones (1573-1652), whose confident handling of classical detail and proportion set him apart from all other architects of the period, most early 17th century buildings tended to take the innocent exuberance of late Tudor work one step further. But during the 1640s and 50s the Civil War and its aftermath sent many gentlemen and nobles to the Continent either to escape the fighting or, when the war was lost, to follow Charles II into exile. There they came into contact with French, Dutch and Italian architecture and, with Charles's restoration in 1 660, there was a flurry of building activity as royalists reclaimed their property and built themselves houses reflecting the latest European trends. The British Baroque was a reassertion of authority, an expression of absolutist ideology by men who remembered a world turned upside down during the Civil War. The style is heavy and rich, sometimes overblown and melodramatic. The politics which underpin it are questionable, but its products are breathtaking.

The huge glass-and-iron Crystal Palace, designed by Joseph Paxton to house the Great Exhibition of 1851, shows another strand to 19th century architecture—one which embraced new industrial processes. But it wasn't long before even this confidence in progress came to be regarded with suspicion. Mass production resulted in buildings and furnishings that were too perfect, as the individual craftsman no longer had a major role in their creation. Railing against the dehumanising effects of industrialisation, reformers like John Ruskin and William Morris made a concerted effort to return to hand-crafted, preindustrial manufacturing techniques. Morris's influence grew from the production of furniture and textiles, until by the 1880s a generation of principled young architects was following his call for good, honest construction.

The most important trends in early 20th century architecture simply passed Britain by. Whilst Gropius was working on cold, hard expanses of glass, and Le Corbusier was experimenting with the use of reinforced concrete frames, we had staid establishment architects like Edwin Lutyens producing Neo-Georgian and Renaissance country houses for an outmoded landed class. In addition there were slightly batty architect-craftsmen, the heirs of William Morris, still trying to turn the clock back to before the Industrial Revolution by making chairs and spurning new technology. Only a handful of Modern Movement buildings of any real merit were produced here during the 1920s and 1930s, and most of these were the work of foreign architects such as Serge Chermayeff, Berthold Lubetkin and Erno Gold-finger who had settled in this country.

Questions 30-35

Complete the sentences. Write NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS from the text in each gap.
Because most Anglo-Saxon buildings were constructed from 30 , few of them have survived.
The owners of medieval manor houses in Britain earned their reputation through their 31 and elegance.
The 16th-century building was designed to show evidence of 32 and
In the 16th century, the use of glass was fashionable, even though it was an 33Indigo Jones was particularly skilful in designing architecture in the 34style.
Though William Morris designed 35 , his emphasis on hand-crafting influenced architects.

SPEAKING TEST

PART 1

Borrowing & Lending

- 1. Have you ever borrowed books from others?
- 2. Have you ever borrowed money from others?
- 3. Do you like to lend things to others?
- 4. How do you feel when people don't return things they borrowed from you?

Time management

- 1. How do you organize your time?
- 2. Do you make plans every day?
- 3. Are you ever late for anything?

PART 2

Describe a time you visited a place with friends.

You should say:

- where you went;
- what you did there;
- who you were with;
- and explain why it was a memorable experience.

PART 3

- 1. Do you think that landmarks will make a city more famous, why?
- 2. What interesting things can we do in big cities?
- 3. What's the difference between living in the city and countryside?
- 4. Do people read more nowadays?
- **5.** What's the difference between films and books?

WRITING TEST

Task 1

You arranged to visit a friend in Canada but an important event at home now means that you must change the dates of the visit. Write a letter to your friend.

- In your letterexplain the important event
 - apologise for the situation
 - suggest a new arrangement

Write at least 150 words.

✓ Model answer	
Using verb forms, complete this sample answer.	
Dear Ana,	
How are things with you? I'm afraid something come up here which	
probably my visit to Canada. Last week I to play tennis fo	r my
regional team in a national tournament. It was completely unexpected. I'm sorry b	ut this
probably means that I be able to visit you for the first week of January, as	we
planned. I must stay here and practise until the tournament, later that more	nth.
I wonder if it possible for me to visit you later in the year. I can take some	time
off in early March and my air ticket can be with no problem. Is March a	
possibility for you?	
Please and me know what your reaction I'm sure you rea	alise
that it's an honour to be selected to represent your region and so I	to
miss this great opportunity. I hope you	
I'm forward to hearing from you,	
Best wishes,	

Task 2

In many countries around the world, life expectancy is increasing.

Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of this situation and give your own opinion.

You should write at least 250 words.

Model answer

Medical care over the past century has improved dramatically. As a consequence, the world's population is increasingly living Long into old age. Is this having a harmful effect on societies across the globe, or are there more benefits than drawbacks?

One obvious issue with an ageing population is that it can create enormous demands on a nation's health service. As people live longer into their old age, the chances of them suffering from serious illnesses increases. As a result, the likelihood of them requiring medical treatment becomes higher, and it becomes more difficult to provide care for everyone. A further downside is that living longer does not necessarily bring happiness. By this I mean, an older person is unable to do many of the activities that they want to do, leading to the likelihood of depression and a deterioration in their physical health.

Having said that, one obvious benefit to people living longer is that young people can benefit for a longer time from the wisdom handed down to them by older members of their families. In today's fast-paced world, it is often comforting to seek advice from older generations. Consequently, the physical health of a grandparent is almost irrelevant, as the children and grandchildren will benefit from the experience of an older mind. What is more, retired people today are generally much healthier than they have ever been, and often enjoy their lives more than they did when they were young. They have the best of both worlds - a family that can care for and look up to them, and better health than at any time in human history.

Weighing up both sides of the argument again, although there are a number of problems that old age brings - predominantly health-related - the benefits that it brings to the family unit and to society as a whole are impossible to ignore.