

2 Try to answer the questions on the right before reading the text. Then read it and see if you were right.

FAMILY VALUES, OLD AND NEW

In Britain and around the world, the image of the family continues to change. The traditional "Victorian family", in which the man was the breadwinner, the woman the homemaker, and the children numerous and obedient, is giving way to new ideas about what the modern family should look like.

One of the most obvious characteristics of the new family is that there are not always two parents. Due mostly to the rise in divorces since World War II, single-parent families are becoming more and more frequent and accepted in British society. Usually, it is the mother who takes responsibility for raising the child, and she has to balance the pressures of earning a living and raising her children at the same time.

However, even in families with both parents present, many mothers are giving up the role of homemaker and pursuing their own careers. Some go on maternity leave after their children are born and then take up part-time work when the child is old enough to go to school. Others feel that their careers come first, and wait until they have fully established their career before having children.

Another area that has changed significantly is what happens before marriage. In the past, people lived with their parents until they got married, and each marriage was supposed to be a "white wedding". Today, premarital sex and living together before marriage are considered normal, and many people "try out" their relationship by living together before getting married.

These changes, together with other changes such as mixed marriages, have altered the face of British society. Some people deplore them as a breakdown of traditional values. Others praise them as expressions of greater tolerance and diversity. But one thing is for sure: British families are changing and will continue to change.

- 1 In the traditional Victorian family, the man
 - a was never contradicted.
 - b made bread for the family.
 - c was the sole provider for the family.
 - d shared responsibility for the family budget with the wife.
- 2 The main reason for the rise in single-parent families is
 - a the increase in premarital sex.
 - b that many men were killed in World War II.
 - c that some women put their careers before their children.
 - d the increase in broken marriages.
- 3 One of the main reasons for living together before getting married is that
 - a couples want to see how well they get on before getting married.
 - b couples have to balance earning a living with raising a child.
 - c traditional values have broken down in Britain.
 - d premarital sex is on the rise.
- 4 Find a word in the text that means:
 - a changed
 - b acceptance of different lifestyles
 - c speak with approval of
 - d say that one strongly dislikes something

Find the wrong word in each sentence and replace it with a correct one by choosing a, b, c or d.

- 1 She had to cope with the upwards and downs of life all by herself.
a work
b ups
c downwards
d all herself
- 2 Her father used to tell her: "Out of site, out of mind." – and he was right.
a head
b sigh
c mine
d sight
- 3 He was old enough to be her uncle.
a son
b grandfather
c father
d grandson
- 4 By that time they planned to be husband and woman.
a wife
b spouse
c mistress
d mother
- 5 In a quarrel he always makes a mountain out of a hill.
a downhill
b molehill
c gnat
d bull

Match the following verbs and adjectives with the two nouns: CHILD (6) and MARRIAGE (7).

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| arranged | break-up |
| foster | to consummate a |
| hasty | to end a |
| illegitimate | to keep an eye on a |
| loveless | to neglect |
| mixed | to scold a |
| naughty | to abuse a |
| of convenience | well-behaved |
| an only | collapse |
| to announce a | to spoil a |

Read the following passage and fill in the missing words.

Childless families may be increasingly the result of deliberate choice and the availability of birth **8** c_____. For many years the proportion of couples who were childless declined steadily as venereal and other diseases that cause **9** i_____ were conquered. In the 1970s, however, the changes in the status of women reversed this trend. Couples often choose not to have children or to postpone having them until their careers are well established.

Since the 1960s, several variations on the family unit have emerged. More **10** u_____ couples are living **11** t_____, before or instead of marrying. Some elderly couples, most often widowed, are finding it more economically practical to **12** c_____ without marrying. Homosexual couples also live together as a family more openly today, sometimes sharing their **13** h_____ with the children of one partner or with adopted or **14** f_____ children. Communal families, made up of groups of related or unrelated people, have long existed in isolated instances. Such units began to occur in the United States during the 1960s and 1970s as an **15** a_____ life-style, but by the 1980s the number of communal families was diminishing.