

**PART ONE: READING 40%**

*Read the text below and do the tasks that follow.*

**Parents and Their Children's Education**

In our opinion, the training or education of children is the primary responsibility of parents. Consequently, if teachers or school authorities are trying to shoulder part of the assigned responsibility, then it would be wrong for parents to entrust<sup>1</sup> the whole burden to them.

Many of us parents think that so long as we pay Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) dues, that alone is enough, and we care less about how our children are faring in school, both academically and otherwise. Even when we want to be generous, we delegate the responsibility of attending a PTA meeting to the child's senior sibling.

It is true that economic pressures take away the energies of parents, but it is also true that the children are the most precious among all that God has given us. Thus, parents must invest time, energy and money in their welfare<sup>2</sup> and development. Obviously, we cannot sacrifice the well-being of our children on the altar<sup>3</sup> of material gains. Reason? It would do us good if the children acquired moral and spiritual growth to enable them to lead sound life. They also acquire the right skills that would enable them to get well-paid jobs that would see them through life; and if it does not happen that way, then we have greatly disappointed them.

We know that the effect of peer pressure on children is intimidating, and so, it is important for parents to visit the schools to study the environment and spend some quality time with them, and advise them appropriately. Undeniably, if parents neglect their responsibilities, the friends of their children will discharge them in the negative way. Parents should bear in mind that the problems resulting from the negative influences from the peers and media are real. Any parent who neglects the necessity of protecting their children from those influences is making a sad mistake.

Besides, the children are expected to become leaders of our society in the future, and parents cannot gloss over their bounden duty<sup>4</sup> towards their children, when they are being given a helping hand by school authorities and teachers.

*Adapted from the Editorial of the Ghanaian newspaper,  
The Daily Graphic, Issue of Tuesday, 10<sup>th</sup> August 2004, p. 7.*

**Notes:**

**1-** to entrust : confier ; **2-** welfare : bien-être ; **3-** altar : autel ; **4-** bounden duty : devoir impérieux.

## COMPREHENSION CHECK

### A- VOCABULARY

Match the words or phrases in column (A) with their meanings or synonyms in column (B) according to the text. There are more options in column (B) than in column (A).

Write your answers like in the example. **Example:** 11. gloss over = j. minimize, neglect

(A)	(B)
1. shoulder (L. 2)	a. age group, friends
2. burden (L. 3)	b. development, maturity
3. dues (L. 4)	c. brother or sister
4. faring (L. 5)	d. permit, allow, help
5. sibling (L. 7)	e. load, responsibility
6. growth (L. 12)	f. doing, getting on
7. enable (L. 12)	g. suffering
8. well-paid (L. 13)	h. gainful
9. peer (L. 15)	i. fees, sums of money to be paid
10. bear in mind (L. 18)	j. minimize, neglect
11. gloss over (L. 22)	k. assume
	l. not forget

### B- COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

Decide which of the statements are true or false according to the text. Write (T) for True and (F) for False. Then, give the line(s) of the text to justify your answers. **Example:** 1-T (L. 1, 2)

- 1 Children's education is the first responsibility of parents.
- 2 Parents do not participate financially in PTA activities.
- 3 The author himself is a parent.
- 4 Some parents do not attend PTA meetings.
- 5 Parents must show more interest in their children's education.
- 6 Moral and spiritual growth enables children to have good jobs in the future.
- 7 In schools, children's friends advise them appropriately.
- 8 Children's friends have no influence on their behaviour.
- 9 At school, children are not influenced by their peers and the media.
- 10 It is only the media that have a negative influence on children.
- 11 Teachers and school authorities are just helping parents in their duty.

**PART TWO: LANGUAGE USE 20%**

Choose the most suitable word or expression from the list (a-d) to fill in the spaces between brackets of each line of the text. Write your answers like in the example. **Example:** 1-a

1. "Every job (...) a job."  
(a). is (b). are (c). have (d). has
2. The adepts of this saying (...)  
(a). have absolute right (b). are absolutely right (c). have reason (d). are reason
3. (...) with them completely.  
(a). am agreed (b). am agreeing (c). agree (d). have agreed
4. (...) I did not get far in education,  
(a). Despite (b). Although (c). However (d). In spite of
5. I (...) able to take care of myself and my family up to now.  
(a). was (b). am (c). have been (d). had been
6. In fact, I dropped (...) primary school very early;  
(a). out (b). at (c). out of (d). from
7. but thanks (...) menial jobs here and there,  
(a). for (b). to (c). at (d). from
8. I don't have (...) problems to worry about.  
(a). no (b). none (c). some (d). any
9. I would have died by now (...) for these menial jobs.  
(a). had it not been (b). it had not been (c). wasn't it (d). was it not
10. My fellow drop-outs, you'd (...) something to survive;  
(a). better do (b). better to do (c). rather do (d). rather to do
11. because nobody knows (...) will happen tomorrow!  
(a). when (b). which (c). how (d). what

**PART THREE: WRITING 40%**

*Do one of the two tasks below. (25 lines)*

**Task A**

For the celebration of "THE AFRICAN CHILDREN'S WEEK", The Daily News, a Nigerian newspaper, has invited francophone secondary school students to contribute ideas about "The Best Policy To Educate Children in Africa". Write a letter to the Editor of The Daily News, to give your contribution on the topic. The following ideas may be useful:

- *too much freedom given to children;*
- *need to balance traditional and modern education;*
- *African values should be taught at school;*
- *make the teaching of local languages compulsory;*
- *regulate TV programmes and Internet cybercafés;*
- *make Civics compulsory at the national exams.*

**Task B**

People usually blame parents for their children's misbehaviour and failure at school. Do you agree with them? Give your opinion in an article to be published in your English Club Magazine.