

## M1. STRONG TIES

### TEXT 1

#### Number of teenagers with Saturday job drops

The number of teenagers with Saturday jobs has dropped. Young people do not acquire any experience for their CVs – a crucial step towards getting full-time work. The proportion of teenagers combining part-time jobs with school or college has slumped from 40% in the 1990s to around 20% now, according to the UK Commission for Employment and Skills (UKCES), a government agency. Latest figures show that only **A**\_\_\_\_\_ in 1997.

The trend is not just recession-related, but the result of an increasing expectation **B**\_\_\_\_\_ well as a falling number of Saturday jobs, according to the report. Many of the jobs that young people do, such as bar work, are in long-term decline, and are forecast to decline further over the next decade.

"Recruiters place significant emphasis on experience ... **C**\_\_\_\_\_,", the report says. Word of mouth is the most common way to get a job, **D**\_\_\_\_\_, young people are unable to build up informal contacts, it adds.

Ms. Todd, a commissioner at the UKCES, said: "There's more emphasis on doing well at school, young people are finding less time to do what they would have done a few years ago. "I think it's also the changing structure of the labour market. Retail is still a big employer, **E**\_\_\_\_\_. As a consequence, we need to think about how we get young people the work experience they need."

A new initiative to send employees into state schools to talk about their careers was also launched recently. The scheme, Inspiring the Future, is meant to give state schoolchildren access to the kind of careers advice that private schools offer. The deputy prime minister said: "The power of making connections **F**\_\_\_\_\_ and can be life-changing."

1. that young people should stay on at school, as
2. that inspire young people is immeasurable
3. but an increasing shortage of work experience means
4. but a lot more of it is being done online
5. 260,000 teenagers have a Saturday job compared with 435,000
6. that it was researching the system of funding education after 16
7. but young people are leaving education increasingly less experienced

## TEXT 2

### Friendship And Love

A strong friendship takes a significant amount of time to develop. It will not just magically mature overnight. A friendship involves committing oneself to help another person **1** \_\_\_\_\_. I believe that nothing can replace a true friend, not material objects, or money, and definitely not a boy. I met this guy a couple summers ago who I ended up spending almost all of my free time with. His parents did not approve of our dating because of our age difference, **2** \_\_\_\_\_. He had told me the day we met that he had joined the air force and would leave for overseas that coming October. After three months had past, the time came when he had to leave. This left me feeling completely \_\_\_\_\_ alone.

I turned to my friends for support, but to my surprise, **3** \_\_\_\_\_. I had spent so much time with this guy and so little time with them, that they did not feel sorry for me when he left. For so long they had become the only constant in my life, and I had taken them for granted over something **4** \_\_\_\_\_.

When my boyfriend came back, our relationship changed. I tried to fix all the aspects in my life that had gone so wrong in the previous six months. This experience taught me that true friendships will only survive if one puts forth effort to make them last. Keeping friends close will guarantee that **5** \_\_\_\_\_. When a relationship falls apart, a friend will always do everything in their power to make everything less painful. As for me, I try to keep my friends as close as I can. I know they will always support me in whatever I do, and to them, **6** \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. but we did anyway
- B. whenever a need arises
- C. they did not really care
- D. whenever they need your help
- E. I could not guarantee would even last
- F. I am eternally grateful for a second chance
- G. someone will always have a shoulder to cry on

## TEXT 3

### Christmas Tree Memories

My name is Ted. I grew up in the 50s, but my childhood memories are still alive. The most pleasant of them is the family Christmas tree. Besides my mum and dad, there were five children in the family. We all took part in decorating the Christmas tree, one way or another. It was a special time for me as dad took us for a trip to the winter forest.

The experience was special as only boys were allowed to go to the countryside to pick out the tree. At the age of five I felt proud to be in a man's adventure. I remember walking through the forest with dad looking for the perfect, large tree. We had a tall ceiling in the living room, so a small tree did not look right there.

At the age of five, even a small tree seemed great to me. To measure a tree I raised my hands above my head and looked up. If I could reach the top of the tree I thought it was big enough. Dad, however, always chose the perfect tree very carefully.

Once he had made his choice, he took out an axe to cut down the tree. I wanted to help my dad and brothers, but they always told me to stand back. When the cutting began, I tried to hold the tree up. I was afraid the tree would fall on them and I felt strong enough to hold it.

After the tree was down we took it to the car and went back home. I don't remember how we got that large tree through the door, but it was always right. Then dad got the tree to stand up and we could start the decorating. The tree, the boxes with decorations and a tall ladder took up the whole room.

All the family took part as mum gave everyone a task. I had to pass the decorations. What I liked best about the Christmas tree were the lights. When everybody else had left I stayed in the room and watched the lights travelling up and down the Christmas tree.

Dad had one more special job that day. Mum took her favourite ornament, a lighted angel, which she had got as a present from her family. Dad climbed up the ladder and fixed the angel at the top of the Christmas tree. When I looked at the angel, I thought Santa was close to my house.

Everyone, and the decorated shining tree, was ready to celebrate Christmas. It was so big that it nearly touched the ceiling. I felt I was a small part of a big adventure. The last few years we lived in that house the trips to the forest with dad ceased. We bought an artificial tree instead.

Ted's family had a tradition of decorating the Christmas tree together.

- 1) True
- 2) False

3) Not stated

When Ted's father went to choose their Christmas tree, Ted stayed at home.

1) True

2) False

3) Not stated

Ted's family lived in a small town.

1) True

2) False

3) Not stated

Ted's father always chose a tall tree for Christmas.

1) True

2) False

3) Not stated

Ted's mother preferred the Christmas decorations created by her children.

1) True

2) False

3) Not stated

A lighted angel was Ted's favourite Christmas decoration.

1) True

2) False

3) Not stated

There was a star on the top of the Christmas tree in Ted's house.

- 1) True
- 2) False
- 3) Not stated

Finally the family stopped having a live Christmas tree.

- 1) True
- 2) False
- 3) Not stated

## TEXT 4

### Peer pressure

"Peer pressure"\* is very strong, especially among young people. Almost everyone can remember a moment when they did something because their friends were doing it. Teenagers often buy something just because their friends have it, and this thing comes into fashion. If teenagers didn't imitate their friends' behavior, there would be fewer social problems: smoking, crime and so on.

On the other hand, "peer pressure" can also produce positive results. Youth crime and vandalism in one of the districts of Bristol, a city in England, fell by 20% last year. Why? Because young people stopped doing stupid and anti-social things. Now they are trying to keep out of trouble. And it's all the result of a new project.

Two Bristol policemen organised a football league for teenagers in one of the poorest parts of the city. The idea is to prevent teenagers from committing crimes. They want to show teenagers how they can spend their free time in a better way.

The policemen introduced a system in which football results are connected to young people's behaviour outside the football grounds. Teams get points for winning their matches, but lose points if any team-member does anything he shouldn't on the football field or off it! For example, teams get ten points for winning a match, but if any player is arrested, the team loses ten points. If a member is caught doing an act of vandalism, such as spraying graffiti, the team loses five points. Three points are lost for less serious crimes.

The results in Bristol are great. None of the teenagers playing in the football league has been arrested by the police. Instead of doing antisocial things and causing problems these teenagers are trying to behave properly!

The idea is already getting popular in other parts of Britain, and similar programmes will be started in other cities. Social workers are also trying to use "peer pressure" to get other positive results. If some more original ways are found, levels of crime among young people will soon be falling quickly.

Some people also think that a similar system should be used for professional footballers. If a professional player gets into a fight on the football ground, his team loses points. In this way footballers will try to behave with more respect to other players.

Another example of positive "peer pressure" is that there are fewer teenagers who smoke or take drugs. This is the result of the growing popularity of mobile phones. A mobile has become a new symbol of growing up. Teenagers no longer need to smoke to show that they are adults. Now they want to get a phone as cool as their classmates have.

*\*Peer pressure – the strong influence of a group, especially of children, on the members of that group to behave as everyone else does.*

Teenagers try to follow their friends' habits.

- 1) True
- 2) False
- 3) Not stated

The Bristol football league for teenagers was started by a social worker.

- 1) True
- 2) False
- 3) Not stated

The aim of the project is to prepare professional footballers.

- 1) True
- 2) False
- 3) Not stated

The results of football matches are sent to school.

- 1) True
- 2) False
- 3) Not stated

The football team loses points when its member commits a crime.

- 1) True
- 2) False
- 3) Not stated

Social workers are against using “peer pressure” method.

- 1) True
- 2) False
- 3) Not stated

Professional players fight a lot on the football ground.

- 1) True
- 2) False
- 3) Not stated

Mobile phones make teenagers give up bad habits.

- 1) True
- 2) False
- 3) Not stated



## TEXT 5

1. **Generation gap**
2. **Attractive but unhealthy**
3. **Youth movements and societies**
4. **Always busy**
5. **Conflicts with friends**
6. **Parents' ambitions**
7. **Are teenagers happy?**
8. **They want to earn and spend**

- A.** The age between 14 and 17 is often considered to be one of the best periods in a person's life. Grown-ups remember it with excitement and happiness. The wish they were teenagers again. However, most teenagers won't agree with this point of view if they were asked. They're sure that they are facing a lot of difficult problems and that's quite true.
- B.** Smoking has become one of the most important problems for modern teenagers. About 40 percent of teenagers are attracted by the bright cigarette advertisement. It seems they just don't realize the harm it does to their health, because advertisements show smoking as something positive. They really believe that smoking will make them look like they're cool and grown-up.
- C.** In fact, teenagers have got a lot of work. They're busy with their studies, household chores, some of them have jobs. They can't even find a moment to entertain themselves at times. It's a more serious problem especially for those who are responsible and want to be successful students and good children.
- D.** The problem number one for most young people is between fathers and sons. All young people want to be independent, they want their parents to listen to their opinion. As for parents, they want to control their children's lives. At the same time some parents can't find a common language with their kids and simply don't pay enough attention to them.
- E.** They say that all teenagers want to have a lot of money to dress well, to go to theatres, to visit foreign countries, to eat what they want and to buy books. But how can they do all these things? They have to get some money and it's possible to do it. Some teenagers wash cars, others sell newspapers, help elderly people and babysit.

- F.** School ages are also very difficult. Children are always stressed because of their marks at school. It seems to teenagers that they do a lot of homework, but mothers and fathers are never satisfied. They want their children to have the highest marks at school. Teenagers do their best, but adults are never happy. They always want more.
- G.** There are many organizations which unite young people. Teenagers get together because of common interests and beliefs. Members of every organisations have their own attitudes to the world. There are some informal clubs, for example: emos, hippies, panks, and so on. However, some teenagers choose to join more serious groups like Greenpeace.

## ТЕХТ 6

Прочитайте тексты и установите соответствие между текстами и их заголовками: к каждому тексту, обозначенному буквами А–G, подберите соответствующий заголовок, обозначенный цифрами. Используйте каждую цифру **только один раз**. В задании есть **один лишний заголовок**.

1. Good for everyone

5. An innovative idea

2. Easy to care for

6. Working clothes

3. Part of culture

7. Jeans' labels

4. Screen fashion

8. Clothes to protest

**A.** Jeans are one of fashion's most long enduring trends. Cowboys wear them but so do supermodels, farmers, presidents and housewives. Ask any group of people why they wear jeans and you will get a range of answers. For some they're comfortable and easy – for others they're trendy and cool. Jeans mean different things to different people, but they are popular everywhere.

**B.** Americans do not have a national folk dress with a long tradition. Blue jeans are probably the most recognisable article of American clothing. They have been part of American life for over 125 years. Blue denim jeans became not only an expression of American fashion but also an element of American identity known around the world.

**C.** Jeans were first designed as trousers for farmers and miners in the states of the American West. They quickly grew popular with common people, including cowboys, factory employees and railroad builders. The new

trousers were made from a very strong material which did not wear out easily. However, at the same time jeans were very practical and comfortable to wear.

- D.** Pockets were the weak point of the miners' clothes – they easily tore away from the jeans. A man called Jacob Davis had the idea of using metal rivets (fasteners) to hold the pockets and the jeans together so that they wouldn't tear. Davis wanted to patent his idea, but he didn't have enough money, so he offered Levi Strauss a deal if Strauss paid for the patent. Strauss accepted and started making jeans.
  
- E.** By the middle of the twentieth century, these heavy cotton trousers were a symbol of opposition for young artists and writers. College students started to wear them to show they were against the Vietnam War. The new trousers were banned in American schools from coast to coast and sometimes in theatres and cinemas.
  
- F.** Jeans are good because they don't show the dirt. You can easily go a month without washing them and they don't look shocking. They don't need to be washed as often as other trousers and you don't need to iron them. What's more, because of the strong material you can wear your favorite jeans for years. Even the occasional hole or spot doesn't spoil them at all.
  
- G.** In the 30s and 40s many people began to spend their spare time watching movies where adventurous cowboys rode horses, fought bad guys and wore blue jeans. The actors made jeans popular in movies and everyone wanted to wear them. Young people wished to imitate the casual “cowboyish” look they saw in films, and they began to wear jeans as casual wear.