



## TEXT

1. Each afternoon, Nastasia, a suburban American pupil would come home from school and tell her mum she was going to her room to study. But instead of opening her notebook, she'd rush towards her computer to play her favourite CDs. Homework ? Forget about it. Nastasia, an attractive girl who dreams of a career as a fashion designer, had more important things to do – like watching her favourite TV program. The lie lasted until her mum saw her first school report card filled with poor grades, in part because Nastasia has failed to hand in assignments. "I thought she was doing homework, " says Niran, Nastasia's mother, " I was really furious. "
2. Nastasia wasn't the only kid in her class that year who neglected her homework. Her teacher, Barb Bachman says half of a typical class fails to complete all assignments. It's a problem that's been getting worse by the increasing number of broken homes and longer working hours, which prevent parents from keeping an eye on kids' study habits.
3. For Nastasia's family, the first step in solving the problem was getting a thorough diagnosis. They learned there was more to it than laziness. "Nastasia said she didn't understand assignments, " recalls her mother. The second step in reforming her study habits was taking away her CDs. Nastasia began spending afternoons in the family room with Mom, who watched her complete assignments.
4. Nastasia found an equally supportive tutoring system at her school. She became one of the dozen fourth grade pupils in a new program called School Success. Each week the director of the program met with the students to help them identify the reasons for not completing homework, from distractions at home to too many extracurricular activities. Each night the students brought home a "contract sheet" listing all their assignments, which they checked off and then had their parents sign. Kids who completed most assignments got prizes.
5. Like anyone in a recovery program, Nastasia went through some setbacks. But the program helped her get back on track and today her homework troubles are behind her. "I wasn't paying attention to my work and I didn't try hard," says Nastasia.

*NEWSWEEK*  
November 30, 1998

Section : ..... N° d'inscription : ..... Série : .....  
Nom et prénom : .....  
Date et lieu de naissance : .....

Signatures des surveillants  
.....  
.....



sections Lettres + Ec.Ges.

### I – READING COMPREHENSION (14 marks)

**1. Tick the most appropriate option. ( 1 mark )**

The text is mainly about

- a – a teacher complaining about school standards.
- b – a girl who improved her study habits.
- c – a mother blaming her daughter for her study habits.

**2. Focus on paragraph 1 and fill in the following table. (4 marks )**

Name	Occupation	Ambition	Pastimes
Nastasia	– .....	– .....	– ..... – .....

**3. Pick out complete sentences that show the following statements are false. (2 marks)**

- a – Nastasia's mother was not affected by her daughter's school results. (paragraph 1)  
.....
- b – Nastasia's parents didn't try to find out the reasons behind their daughter's problem. (paragraph 3)  
.....

**4. Answer the following questions with reference to the text. (2 marks)**

- a – What did the mother do to help her daughter ? (paragraph 3)  
The mother .....  
.....
- b – Why is the program called School Success ? (paragraphs 4 and 5)  
It is called School Success because .....  
.....

**5. Find in the text words or phrases meaning nearly the same as : ( 2 marks)**

- a – watching over closely (paragraph 2) : .....
- b – obstacles to progress or development (paragraph 5) : .....

**6. What is meant by “the lie”, underlined in paragraph 1 ? (1 mark)**

.....

7. What does “ their” , underlined in paragraph 4 refer to ? (1 mark)

their (paragraph 4) refers to : .....

8. Give a personal justified answer to the following question. (1 mark).

If you faced the same problem as Nastasia, how would you solve it ?

If I faced the same problem as Nastasia, I would.....

because .....

.....

**II– LANGUAGE (16 marks)**

1. Fill in the blanks with eight words from the box. (4 marks)

these – deny – ranging – linked – affect – lack – from – huge – disabled - contaminated .

The biggest threats to children’s health exist in the very places that should be safest—home, school and community. Dangers such as .....water, polluted air, ..... of basic sanitation, disease-bearing insects and chemical hazards present health risks that ..... children and cause a ..... and unnecessary toll of disease and death.

More than five million children die each year ..... environmental diseases and conditions such as respiratory illnesses, malaria and unintentional injuries. Millions more children are debilitated by ..... diseases or live with chronic conditions ..... to their environment, ..... from allergies to mental and physical disability.

2. Circle the right alternative. (4.5 marks)

Many large cities are already past the limits of their ability to accommodate waves of people. If the [natives – immigrants – children] were all young professionals and entrepreneurs bringing in [skills – jobs – problems] and wealth, absorbing them [will – can – would] be easy enough, [but – besides – so] the large majority of newcomers are poor families [whom – whose – who] find it impossible to [earn – gain – win] a living in the rural countryside. With no other [prohibition – choice – shortage] they often head straight for the worst kind of dirty [clothes – settlements – states] and piles of garbage. The [growth – interests – number] rates of these disorderly neighborhoods can be astonishing.

**3. Put the bracketed words in the right tense or form. (4.5 marks)**

When I was in High School in Kentucky in 1974, I was into the arts. I was a dancer in the drama club. I was an **[art]** ..... I had no chemistry, no physics and no maths at all. But one day a civil-engineering professor from university **[arrive]** .....to speak, **[show]** ..... all these various new building materials. I **[fascinate]** ..... with the fact that I might actually be able to draw and get **[pay]** ..... for it. And according to him, I could improve the quality of life for people and be a problem solver. Well, I was **[extreme]** ..... excited. I went home and told my mother, a teacher, that I wanted to be a civil engineer. My mother had a motto that I **[follow]** ..... until today : “ If you really want to do something, you put your mind to it. Don't let anyone ever **[tell]** ..... you that it can't be done.”

When I went back to my guidance counselor the next day, I told him that instead of **[be]** ..... a lawyer or an interior decorator, I now wanted to be an engineer.

**4. Match the sentence parts in Column A with the appropriate ones in Column B to get a coherent paragraph. The sentence parts in Column A are in the right order. Be careful, there is an extra sentence part in Column B. Write your answers in the box below. (3marks)**

Column A	Column B
1. One of the most beautiful things about children is	a) want your children to see ?
2. The internet is a great tool for	b) material like violence and racial hatred, all more accessible than ever before.
3. But what about the information that you don't	c) so that you know what websites your children have visited.
4. We all know the internet contains sensitive	d) the fact they question everything, from the simple to the impossible.
5. What's our view ? We think children's inquisitiveness should	e) to set boundaries specifically tailored for young kids.
6. That's why we can send you online activity reports	f) this thirst for knowledge, offering endless supplies of information.
	g) be protected, not denied.

<b>ANSWERS</b>	1 + ...	2 + ...	3 + ...	4 + ...	5 + ...	6 + ...
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**III– WRITING (10 marks)**

1. There are six mistakes in the following paragraph. They have been underlined and numbered for you. Write the correction of each mistake in the space provided. (3 marks)

“ Our biggest problem is money,” said emily<sup>1</sup>, an orphan who is in charge of her five younger brothers. “ I fell<sup>2</sup> guilty when I cannot feed the boy<sup>3</sup> and they go to sleep hungry. I think I have to take on the responsability<sup>4</sup> of a mother. It’s a burden big<sup>5</sup>. I have to take care of my family until they are all old too<sup>6</sup> to take care of themselves.

1.....
2.....
3.....
4.....
5.....
6.....

2. A friend of yours is physically handicapped, yet highly qualified. He/She has recently read an advertisement for a position that corresponds to his/her qualifications. He/She wants you to give him/her some advice because he/she still hesitates whether to apply for that position or not. Write him/her a letter in which you encourage him/her to apply for the position. No more than 12 lines.( 7 marks)

N.B: DO NOT WRITE YOUR NAME OR SIGN THE LETTER

<p>Dear Friend,</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Yours, Amir (a)</p>
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