

THE TEXT

1. For the Whitehead children, who live in a tiny Norfolk village with their parents, Steve, 38, an engineer and Suzanne, 37, a former housing officer, education is part of everyday life. It is two years since Suzanne and Steve became so disillusioned with the education system that they opted to teach their children at home. " People seemed to think it is a big thing. However, we ultimately felt we had no option, " says Suzanne.
2. Their children, Olivier and Cara, had taken the traditional school route through play group and nursery and on to primary school. The boy's first year was fine. However, he quickly became bored. "With ever-worsening teacher shortages, school was becoming more about childcare than learning," says his mother. "It is difficult for teachers to develop children's creativity when the aim is to keep them quiet."
3. "We knew Oliver was bright, but he was becoming unruly because he was bored. He has a logical mind – maths and science are his best subjects. So when he came home saying he was finding science boring, we knew he wasn't meeting his potential. Teachers just don't have time for individual tuition – I find it difficult with three never mind 23. But children need more time and patience than that if they are to do well."
4. Many of his classmates were equally bored and Oliver's parents worried that, particularly with the compulsory introduction of literacy and numeracy hours that their children found repetitive and too easy, they were simply not being stretched. "Cara was becoming as bored as Oliver," says Suzanne, " and it concentrated our minds ahead – we could see the system getting worse."
5. Neither parent had any teaching experience, but they sought advice from *Education Otherwise*, an organization that helps parents teach their children at home. They also had to inform the headmaster in writing that they were taking their children out of school and prove that they were meeting the children's educational needs at home.
6. "Children are keen to learn. The secret of holding their attention is to make the subjects relate to their lives," says Suzanne.



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

Signature des
Surveillants

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X



I – READING COMPREHENSION (14 marks)

1. What is the text about ? Tick the most appropriate alternative. (1 mark)

- a) Parents whose children needed private tutoring because of their poor school results.
- b) Parents whose despair at the poor teaching conditions led them to withdraw their children from school.
- c) Parents whose children were so spoiled that they preferred to study at home.

2. Complete the following table about the parents with information from the text. (3 marks)

Family name	Number of children	Previous experience in teaching
Whitehead	2	none

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

- a) Suzanne and Steve believed they could have chosen another solution for the children. (paragraph 1)

We had no option.

- b) Oliver never did well at school. (paragraph 2)

His first year was fine.

- c) Suzanne and Steve were optimistic about the future of schools in Britain. (paragraph 4)

We could see the system getting worse.

4. Tick the right alternative. (2 marks)

"...education is part of everyday life" (paragraph 1) means :

- a) education is different from other activities.
- b) education takes place at home.
- c) education is as important as life itself.

"... he wasn't meeting his potential." (paragraph 3) means :

- a) he found no one to teach him science and maths.
- b) he found science and maths too difficult.
- c) he didn't find science and maths challenging enough.

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

- disappointed (paragraph 1) : **disillusioned**
- not easy to control (paragraph 3) : **unruly**

6. What do the underlined words in the text refer to ? (2 marks)

"it" (paragraph 1) refers to **teaching one's / their / our children at home.**

"Their" (paragraph 2) refers to **Susanne and Steve whitehead**

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

What do you think of the parents' choice about their children's education ?

I think that **accept any sensible answer**

II – LANGUAGE (16 marks)

1. Fill in the blanks with words from the box. Be careful : there are two extra items. (4.5 marks)

purchases – as – could – hamper – provide – against – hardship – trapped – training – surprised – pair.

Most of us would be horrified to support a business that exploits children. Many of your **purchases** – a leather bag, a shirt, a **pair** of jeans, a produce from the local grocery store – **could** be the product of child labour. UNICEF has emerged **as** a leader of the international movement **against** exploitative child labour. Therefore, schools have been built to **provide** former bonded labourers with education and job skills **training**. This innovative UNICEF initiative **seeks** to break the cycle of poverty and illiteracy that has **trapped** so many people in a life of extreme **hardship** throughout poor countries.

2. Put the bracketed words in the right form or tense. (4 marks)

In some countries, a small number of parents are choosing to educate their children at home rather than sending them to school. This may be for (**practice**) **practical** reasons, such as when a family (**live**) **lives** a long way from the nearest school, or through parents' personal (**choose**) **choice** to take on the (**responsible**) **responsibility** for their children's education. Parents may be able to provide a better education for their children, (**teach**) **teaching** them skills needed in the real world such as home management and (**garden**) **gardening**. A child's own home is likely (**provide**) **to provide** a more relaxed atmosphere for study than that which a school usually (**offer**) **offers**.

3. Circle the right alternative. (4.5 marks)

Water is the liquid of life. (Without – On – From) it, the blue planet would be a dead and barren wasteland. Fresh water is also the (more – most – much) finite of earth's resources. There is no more water on earth now than there was 2,000 years ago (where – when – during) the human population was (less – few – little) than 3 % of its (actual – occurring – current) size. But population growth and rising use have put the squeeze (in – on – off) available resources.

Today, 31 countries with a (collection – collecting – collective) population of half a billion people are experiencing chronic (shortages water – water shortages – water's shortages) for all or part of the year. But within just 25 years, that figure will (explore – exploit – explode) to 50 countries and 3 billion people.

4. Match each sentence part in Column A with the appropriate one in Column B to get coherent sentences. The sentence parts in A are in the right order. There is one extra item in column B. Write the corresponding letters in the box below. (3 marks)

A	B
1. When someone dies in hospital, their family may	a. it helps their family make a decision.
2. Despite regular organ donation campaigns,	b. but there are still 6,500 patients on the waiting list.
3. The heart, lungs, liver and kidneys can	c. be asked whether they wish to donate the patient's organs
4. In the past year there were 2,600 transplant operations	d. unless a donor comes up soon.
5. Many of them will die	e. organ donation explained thoroughly.
6. If the patient carries a donor card,	f. all be transplanted to patients who need them.
	g. there is still a shortage of organ donors.

Answers : 1 + c 2 + g 3 + f 4 + b 5 + d 6 + a

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).

People in the rich world are eating better, smoke¹ less, exercising more and receiving better care medical² than they do³ 30 or 40 years ago. But are all this⁴ activities not just bored⁵ but also unhealthy ? So, it would seem : more and more people are leaving⁶ on welfare benefits intended for the disabled.

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|----|--------------|
| 1. | smoking |
| 2. | medical care |
| 3. | did |
| 4. | these |
| 5. | boring |
| 6. | living |

2. Some people think that books are losing some of their importance in favour of the Internet, TV and video games. They believe that reading is the most important factor of success both at school and in society in general.

Write a 12 - line article about this issue.

Write about the advantages of reading and mention the benefits of modern communication technology, then draw your own conclusions. (7 marks)

N.B : PLEASE DO NOT SIGN THE ARTICLE

Adherence to content and fluency

3 marks

Language accuracy (correct grammar appropriate vocabulary and suitable linkers)

3 marks

Mechanics of writing (punctuation And spelling + capitalization)

1 mark