

**Referans:**

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**READING SECTION****Siblings Relationships: A Brief Analysis**

- 1 During childhood, sisters and brothers are a major part of each other's lives for better or for worse. As adults they may drift apart as they become involved in their careers, marriages and families. But much later in life, after retirement, when the children leave home and parents and sometimes spouses pass away, brothers and sisters often turn to each other for a special closeness and link to the past. "In the stressful, fast-paced world we live in, the sibling relationship becomes for many the only intimate connection that seems to last," says psychologist Michael Kahn of the University of Hartford. Friends and neighbors may move away, former coworkers are forgotten, marriages break up, but no matter what, our sisters and brothers remain our sisters and brothers.
- 2 The late-life bond between siblings may be especially important to the "Baby Boom" generation, people who were born in the United States from 1946 to 1964 when the birth rate increased dramatically. These people, now in adulthood, average about two or three siblings each. Divorce rates are high among the members of this generation because they have different values from their parents; they do not attach the same level of importance to family as their parents. For the same reason, most of those couples who stayed married decided to have only one or no children. Divorce and having one or no children will force members of this generation to look to their brothers and sisters for support in old age.
- 3 Another important factor in sibling relationships is critical events. Critical events can bring siblings together or deepen an existing gap. Parental sickness or death is a prime example. A study done by the University of Cincinnati showed that siblings engaged in rivalry and conflict were even more torn apart by the death or sickness of a parent. On the other hand, those siblings who had been close since childhood became closer.
- 4 As brothers and sisters advance into old age, closeness increases and rivalry diminishes. Old age is seen as a time to heal wounds. Older people tend to focus more on what they need now than on bad events of the past. As a result, people become more involved with and interested in their siblings as they age. Most elderly people have supportive and friendly dealings and get along very well with their brothers or sisters. Furthermore, with family and career obligations reduced, they have more time for each other. Another reason for increased contact is anxiety regarding a sister's or brother's declining health. Many older people like to check in on their siblings to see how they are doing. Siblings also assume special importance as other sources of contact and support weaken. Each of us moves through life with a group of people who supply comfort and nurturance. As we age, the size of this group gradually declines because of death, sickness or moving.

Brothers and sisters who may not have been important members of the group earlier in life can become so in old age. And they do more than fill in gaps. The loneliness older people feel cannot be satisfied by just anyone. They want a specific type of relationship, one that only someone who had shared their past could provide.

- 5 This far-reaching link to the past is a powerful bond between siblings in later life. There is a review process we all go through in old age to resolve whether or not we are pleased with our lives. A sibling can help retrieve a memory more accurately. We can remember some with our spouse or with friends but the only person who goes all the way back is our sister or brother. Only they can help us remember the past events the way they happened. Discussing the past helps us feel the warmth of early family life once again. Furthermore, going back in time with a sister or brother can improve our morale.
- 6 Some of the factors that affect how much contact siblings will have, such as how near they live, are obvious; others are more unexpected. For example, relationships are closer if there is a sister involved. Elderly people most often feel closest to a sister and are more likely to keep in touch through her. Sisters, by tradition, often assume a caretaking and kin-keeping role, especially after the death of their mother. In many situations, two brothers do not talk to each other that much but keep track of each other through their sisters. Researchers have found that the bond between sisters is strongest, followed by the one between sisters and brothers and, last, between brothers.
- 7 Sisters and brothers who live near each other will, as a matter of course, see more of each other. However, proximity is not crucial to a strong relationship later in life. Because of multiple chronic illnesses, people in their 80s and 90s cannot get together that easily. Even so, these siblings seem to evoke positive feelings based on the images or feelings inside. Just the idea that the sibling is alive and that there is someone they can call is comforting, so while contact among siblings may decrease, positive feelings increase.
- 8 Although older people may find comfort in the thought that their siblings are there if they need them, they rarely call each other for help or offer each other instrumental support, such as borrowing money, or help with shopping or cleaning. There are several reasons why siblings do not turn to each other more for instrumental help. First, since they are usually about the same age, they may be equally needy or weak. Another reason is that many people consider their siblings safety nets who will save them after everything else has failed. A son or daughter will almost always be turned to first. It's more acceptable in the society to look up or down the family ladder for help than sideways. Finally, siblings may not turn to each other for help because of hidden rivalry. They may believe that if they need to call on a brother or sister, they are admitting that the other person is a success while they are a failure. Therefore, some people would rather continue on their own than ask their sister or brother for help.

Despite the quarrelling and competition many people associate with the mere mention of their sisters and brothers, many will find unexpected strengths in this relationship in later life. As people age, their siblings become the most important people in their lives. As a result, one sibling may be worth all the friends, colleagues, neighbors a person has.

## READING QUESTIONS

**Part A: Fill in the blanks in the following sentences with information from the text.**

1. The baby boom generation becomes dependent on their siblings later in life because
2. Siblings who have a good relationship support each other even more in situations like

**Part B: Complete the following summary of paragraph 4.**

Siblings get closer when they get older due to several reasons. Firstly, as they age, they do not see each other as rivals because they attach less importance to

(3)\_\_\_\_\_. In addition, siblings can spare time for their relationship thanks to fewer (4)\_\_\_\_\_.

The third

reason for this closeness is siblings' worries about (5)

. Finally, when they lose the people around them, people turn to their siblings instead of other people because (6)\_\_\_\_\_.

**Part C: Answer the following questions according to the information in the text.**

7. In addition to helping us remember past events correctly, how may talking about the past with a sibling help us?
8. What prevents siblings at very old ages from seeing each other?
9. Which of the following is **NOT** mentioned in paragraph 8 as a reason why older siblings rarely ask each other for favors?

- a. They prefer to seek help from other family members first.
- b. Siblings of an old person may not be in good conditions, either.
- c. They get help from other members of the society.
- d. They do not want their sibling to think that they have failed.

10. According to **paragraphs 6&7**, who would have a stronger relationship after losing their parents?

- a. Siblings who live nearby.
- b. Siblings whose mother dies.
- c. Siblings with a chronic illness.
- d. Siblings involving a sister.

**Write an essay of about 400 words on the writing question given below. Use the necessary supporting techniques to develop your opinions in your essay. You have 60 minutes + 15 minutes extra time.**

Writing Question:

“Discuss how social media sites like Facebook and Twitter have changed our lives.”

You may use the following prompts or your own ideas to write your essay.

- 1 **Social life**
- 2 **Connections with others**
- 3 **Personal privacy**

**You MAY use the following facts in addition to other supporting techniques to develop your ideas.**

There were 1 billion Facebook and 645 million Twitter users by the end of 2013. (*Datablog of the Guardian.com, February 2014*)

The average number of friends among adult Facebook users is 338. (*2014 survey by Pew Research Center*)

You will be asked two or three questions on the theme “transportation & traffic”. You should try to talk about each question for about 1-2 minutes. So, please give detailed answers.

The questions you will be asked are **in bold**. If the instructor feels that you need to elaborate your answers, s/he will ask you some of the questions in *italics*.

**THEME: TRANSPORTATION & TRAFFIC**

Drivers' Problems in İstanbul

**Why are there traffic jams in İstanbul?**

*How do traffic jams affect people? (their psychology / stress level / punctuality) What do you do to avoid traffic jams?*

- **How do parking lots cause problems?** (around the school / in your neighborhood)

Are parking lots cheap or expensive?

- **What are some of the characteristics of drivers in İstanbul?**

Do they obey traffic rules?

Do they respect other drivers? How about the pedestrians?

What are some of the characteristics of taxi drivers?

1. divorce rates are high among the members of this generation  
OR most of those couples (who stayed married) decided to have only one or no children  
OR (of) divorce and having one or no children
2. critical events OR parental sickness or death OR the death or sickness of a parent
- 3.(the bad events of) the past OR rivalry
- 4.(Family and career) obligations
5. A sister's or brother's / each other's declining health
6. Siblings do more than fill in gaps.  
OR The loneliness older people feel cannot be satisfied by just anyone.  
OR They want a specific type of relationship, one that only someone who had shared their past could provide.
7. Discussing the past helps us feel the warmth of early family life once again. OR  
Going back in time with a sister or brother can improve our morale.  
OR They shared their past with them.
8. Multiple chronic illnesses
9. C
10. D

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|  <p>İSTANBUL BİLGİ UNIVERSITY<br/>English Language Programs</p> | <p><b>BILET STAGE 2 SAMPLE EXAM<br/>READING SECTION</b></p> | <p><b>NAME: CLASS:<br/>DATE:</b></p> |
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## CAPITALISM AND GOVERNMENT

One of the leading ideas of the 19th century in Europe was individual freedom. Many Europeans believed that they had a right to do, buy and control whatever they desired as long as they paid for it. This belief developed into one of the basic principles of capitalism. According to capitalists, the government should not interfere in trade and industry at all by making laws. They put forward that fewer laws mean more freedom for individuals to maintain a decent life. In the 19th century, these ideas were revolutionary for the middle-class and upper-class business owners. Therefore, they gratefully accepted that capitalism was a great system for their businesses. However, it soon became very clear that giving the bosses the freedom to do what they want was not a good idea. They were able to make their own rules and decisions about their workers, so they tried to get maximum profit by making their employees work like slaves. Workers started to face very harsh conditions and lengthy working hours. In the 20th century, more and more people began to think that the government must be involved to protect the poor and the weak. As a result, a number of laws were passed by the governments to improve working conditions. These laws regulated the number of hours that employees could work in a week, or how much annual leave they were entitled to.

1. In the 19th century in Europe \_\_\_\_\_.

**many people agreed that the poor should be saved from the effects of capitalism most bosses in Europe worsened the working conditions of their employees  
the government supported the European middle class and the upper class  
the government took legal steps to increase the effectiveness of capitalism**

2. Which is NOT true about capitalism according to the paragraph?

**It was abused by business owners to make more money. It made life more difficult for some classes in society.**

**It made government institutions more powerful.**

**Its effects on workers have changed over time.**

### Language Ability

As of the ages of six and ten months, most babies begin to make sounds, but of course these sounds cannot be considered language production. They repeat the same sounds such as “dadada” and “bababa” over and over again, which is called babbling. While babbling, babies unconsciously practice the sounds of the language they hear. Later, these babblings turn into words. For example, “dadada” may turn into “daddy” and “bababa” may become “bottle”. This is the case for babies who are born with no hearing disabilities, but what happens to children who are unable to hear? How do deaf babies learn to communicate without hearing anything? It is now evident that deaf babies babble with their hands. One psychologist, based at McGill University in Montreal, observed six children, three of whom were deaf and the other three of whom could hear. All six babies had deaf mothers and fathers, and the parents used American Sign Language (ASL) to communicate with each other and their children. After hundreds of hours of observations, it was observed that the hearing babies had many different and varied hand movements, but that there appeared to be no pattern in

1

their movements. The deaf babies also made many different movements with their hands, but their hand movements were clearly deliberate. Their hand motions started to resemble some of the basic shapes used in ASL, which was not the case with hearing babies. The study concluded that it doesn't matter if we are physically able to hear or speak, we are all born with the capacity to communicate.

3. Babies without hearing problems \_\_\_\_\_.

**start to make hand movements earlier than deaf babies are aware that their babblings are not real words**

**start communicating with their hand movements**

**first say words similar to sounds in their babblings**

4. Which one was NOT observed in the study?

**Hearing babies' hand movements were different from hand-shapes in ASL. Hearing babies learnt to make more hand movements than deaf babies. Mothers and fathers communicated with their children using ASL.**

**Both hearing and deaf babies made many different hand movements.**

## **Answers**

1. Most bosses in Europe worsened the working conditions of their employees.
2. It made government institutions more powerful.
3. First say words similar to sounds in their babblings
4. Hearing babies learnt to make more hand movements than deaf babies.