

## English test 3rd form(home test)

The final task you are expected to complete is to write a **formal letter of advice**.

Activities **A** and **B** will provide you with input for Activity **C**.

### Activity A

1. Describe the picture briefly and explain what it means to you. Write about 30 words.

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2. Complete the following text with ten words/expressions from the box. Use each word only once.

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between	might offer	teenage traits	seem to	as to why
which	a riddle	solely	hazardous consequences	actually

'The Teen Brain: Still Under Construction', - The fundamental point of adolescence has remained 1)\_\_\_\_\_. Tantrums, paralysing inertia, terminal love sickness... Why do we 2)\_\_\_\_\_ find it so hard? First we blamed hormones. Using new scanning systems to monitor brain activity in young people, they found that the human mind 3)\_\_\_\_\_ undergoes a massive restructuring during the 12th to 25th years. 4)\_\_\_\_\_ childhood and adulthood physical changes are taking place. These result in impulsiveness, and excessive risk-taking, all behaviours parents might have thought were designed 5)\_\_\_\_\_ to cause them maximum grief, but 6)\_\_\_\_\_ are in fact vital processes in the brain's development. This may go some way to explain some of the more irksome common 7)\_\_\_\_\_, such as self-doubt and anxiety. The truth remains, that while science 8)\_\_\_\_\_ a rational explanation 9)\_\_\_\_\_ so many teens make irrational decisions (and these are not without potentially 10)\_\_\_\_\_ - as the study points out), it doesn't make everyday communication with teenagers any easier.

3. Complete the sentences with the gerund or infinitive of the verbs in the box. Do not repeat the verb.

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make	be	get	label	v
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- \_\_\_\_\_ enough sleep is very important for your health.
- Most teens tend \_\_\_\_\_ about the same big things.

3. For some teenagers, changes can \_\_\_\_\_ scary.
4. Teenagers often have \_\_\_\_\_ early decisions about school subjects.
5. Parents should avoid \_\_\_\_\_ their child.

### Activity B

Read the text and accomplish the following tasks.



### Teen spirit: What's it really like to be a teenager?

"The problem with being a teenager is that nothing is ever solid." For a 15-year-old, Ellie Wilson is unusually self-aware. "The thing about me and my friends," Wilson shrugs, "is that one minute we're up and then we're down; one minute I want to shout the house down, the next I feel so happy that I just want to hug everyone in the room at once." It is, she admits, all a little bit exhausting. §1

Earlier this year, the 17-year-old school friends Megan Lovegrove and Louise Bedwell produced *Teenagers Explained: A Manual for Parents by Teenagers*, a book that was designed to help unpick the peculiar tapestry that is adolescence. As Lovegrove points out, "there are things we talk about that adults just don't understand. Sometimes I say, 'I'm not skinny enough' and my mum will say 'Don't be stupid', and she just doesn't seem to get the pressures we're under." In order to re-enter the teenage psyche, Lovegrove and Bedwell contacted a selection of young people across the country. There were common threads – "Everyone said they hated being patronised". Among the most annoying parental expressions, they have identified the following offenders: "In my day exams were harder", "and that old favourite, "As long as you're living under my roof...". §2

"We're still worrying about bullying, about people thinking that we're weird, and about not fitting in. Parents, try to let us make our own mistakes !" pleads Lovegrove. "If we don't get to make them when we're young then, as soon as you're not around, we're just going to explode. It's OK to be concerned and to ask questions but please don't question us on everything. Do try to talk to us and make an effort to get to know us, but also understand that there are some things we don't want to talk to you about." §3

"I think many teens are bitter about the situation we're in - everywhere we turn there's another news item about rising unemployment and house prices, how hard it is to get into university, how hard it is to get a job. There's a constant threat over our heads, and quite a lot of people feel hopeless. What's the point of studying and working hard?" Louise points out. §4

"I think the media needs to collaborate more with teenagers and listen to what we have to say. They shouldn't make sweeping generalisations -the media need to learn that you can't say all teenagers are insolent or arrogant. Although not perfect, as a whole this generation is good. Most media outlets are beginning to understand the importance of teenagers, especially as teens of my generation become more connected and interested in political affairs." Lovegrove adds. §5

Platforms like Twitter and Facebook allow teens to connect in unconventional ways- both with those they are friends with in 'real life' and people around the world- whether it be celebrities, news channels or other teenagers, going through the same tribulations. People strive to improve the world they live in, using the internet to spread messages against homophobia and racism and travelling the world to set up schools and improve medical services in areas less fortunate than their own. §6

<http://www.independent.co.uk/>

1. Match these headings to the right paragraph. Right the number in full. EX: 1 (ONE)

Heading	Paragraph
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Common teenage complaints	
Defining characteristics of today's youth	
The key to being a good parent	
Turbulent process of coming of age	
Need to avoid stereotyping	
Causes for concern	

15

**2. Find evidence in the text for the following statements.**

**2.1.** Teens may often be moody, which isn't always easy to handle.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**2.2.** Two adolescents wrote a book which aims to help parents understand their children and learn how to get through this tough time.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**2.3.** Although Megan admits some worries are understandable, she thinks parents should let their children keep some secrets.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**3. Complete the following sentences according to the text. Use your own words as far as possible.**

18

**3.1.** Being a teen today is tough and frustrating because of \_\_\_\_\_

**3.2.** Since most today's teens are nice people, Megan \_\_\_\_\_

**4. Reread paragraph 6 and find synonyms/antonyms for the following words/expression**

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	Given word/expression	Synonym	Antonym
1.	let someone do something	1)	*****
2.	traditional	*****	2)
3.	problems	3.	*****
4.	make an effort to	4)	*****
5.	in favour of	*****	5)

**5. Rewrite these sentences starting as suggested. Make the necessary changes. You cannot change their meaning.**

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**5.1.** Adults should supervise the actions of their offspring.

**The actions of their offspring** \_\_\_\_\_

**5.2.** Some teens don't use the internet correctly.

**The internet** \_\_\_\_\_

**5.3.** If some groups don't stick together for a long time, they

**Unless** \_\_\_\_\_

**5.4.** Some teens don't want to know about cliques because they don't want to be popular or cool.



**5.5.** Although they are young, most teens are willing to express their interests in several areas.

**5.6.** Some are apathetic but there are growing numbers of teens who know that change is necessary.

**5.7.** Most teens focus on their passions and skills because they want to be a remarkable generation.

## ACTIVITY C

1. In note form, list 5 ways to have a successful teenage life.

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Last week my best friend got a tattoo on her arm. It's a beautiful picture of a rose and the name of her favorite movie star. All of her friends think it's great. Now, I also want a tattoo, but when I told my parents they got really upset. They said that I had to wait until I'm older (I'm 16 now). Anita, do you think I'm too young to get a tattoo? What should I do?

Denise

## KEY

### Activity A.1.

2-

1) a riddle 2) seem to 3) actually. 4) between 5) solely 6) which 7) teenage traits 8) might offer 9) as to why 10) hazardous consequences

### Activity B

Heading	Paragraph
Common teenage complaints	2
Defining characteristics of today's youth	6
The key to being a good parent	3
Turbulent process of coming of age	1
Need to avoid stereotyping	5
Causes for concern	4

**2.1.** . "The thing about me and my friends," Wilson shrugs, "is that one minute we're up and then we're down; one minute I want to shout the house down, the next I feel so happy that I just want to hug everyone in the room at once." It is, she admits, all a little bit exhausting."

**2.2.** "...the 17-year-old school friends Megan Lovegrove and Louise Bedwell produced Teenagers Explained: A Manual for Parents by Teenagers, a book that was designed to help unpick the peculiar tapestry that is adolescence."

**2.3.** "It's OK to be concerned and to ask questions but please don't question us on everything. Do try to talk to us and make an effort to get to know us, but also understand that there are some things we don't want to talk to you about."

**3.1.** some social issues, such as unemployment, housing and finding a job. § 4

**3.2.** that they deserve more than the false labels given to them by the media. §5

4. 1. allow 2. unconventional 3. tribulations 4. strive 5. against

**5.1. The actions of their offspring** should be supervised by adults.

**5.2. The internet** isn't used correctly by some teens.

**5.3. Unless** some groups stick together for a long time, they will develop new interests.

**5.4. If** some teens didn't want to be popular or cool, they wouldn't want to know about cliques.

**5.5. In spite of** being young, most teens are willing to express their interests in several areas.

**5.6. Although** some are apathetic, there are growing numbers of teens who know that change is necessary.

**5.7. So that** they may be a remarkable generation, most teens focus on their passions and skills.

C. 1. Do well in school, Figure out your goals in life and work toward them,  
Get active, Do what you love,  
Be nice to your parents and teachers, Have good friends to help you out, Help out in your community,

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