

READING 48 SAMPLE READING ASSIGNMENT FOR NEAR END OF THE COURSE

Read the passage below. Then, in the space provided, write the letter of the best answer to each question that follows.

1 The United States has one of the highest divorce rates in the world, with more than one million divorces a year. 2 There are several reasons why divorce is more common today than it was in the past. 3 One reason is that women are less financially dependent on their husbands. 4 Even with children, they manage to go to school and train for positions in today's job market. 5 With their own income, they are not trapped at home as they were in the past. 6 Another reason for divorce is less opposition. 7 Legally, it is easier to obtain a divorce than was the case with earlier generations. 8 There is less religious opposition as well, and less social stigma. 9 Divorced people, who were once the subject of whispers and scandal, are now all around us. 10 A third reason for the increase in divorce is that people expect more from marriage now. 11 They want their mates to enrich their lives, help them develop their potential, and be loving companions and good sexual partners. 12 They are not as willing as their parents were to settle for less. 13 Finally, men and women today are more realistic. 14 If a marriage does not work out, they are more ready to simply accept that fact. 15 Perhaps the marriage is not meant to be, they may decide, and to try to continue it might only damage both of them as well as their children. 16 The talk shows and newspaper and magazine articles are full of stories about people who go on to make new beginnings in their lives. 17 Couples in unhappy marriages are prompted to react in a similar way: better to put a bad experience to an end, and to make a new start in life.

1. In sentence 8, the word *stigma* means

- A. approval
- B. shame
- C. reaction
- D. interest

2. The main idea of the passage is stated in

- A. sentence 1
- B. sentence 2
- C. sentence 9
- D. sentence 17

3. People now expect their marriages to provide them with

- A. loving companions and good sexual partners.
- B. a mate who will cook and clean for them, if they are men.
- C. a mate who will be the breadwinner, if they are women.

D. all of the above.

4. How many major supporting detail sentences are in the paragraph?

- A. one
- B. two
- C. three
- D. four

5. Which of the following sentences is a minor supporting detail sentence?

- A. sentence 2
- B. sentence 3
- C. sentence 4
- D. sentence 6

Answers = 1. B 2. B 3. A 4. D 5. C

