

LANGUE VIVANTE IIEpreuve du 1^{er} groupeA N G L A I S

UNDERSTANDING TEENS

Dealing with teen years can be confusing for both the teenagers and their parents in a same way. Very often at about 15 years of age, many teens go through a tough period of being introspective and moody. It is a time when they seem to start thinking about how they feel about themselves, and figuring out how this perception may match or mismatch with what others think of them. It is all part of growing up and maturing. Most teens are building their self-image and will often work through this by the age of 16 or 17.

Most parents are convinced today that children are their property and should obey their commands without saying a single word. This may work with toddlers* but as bringing up young adults the role of parents is to assist their children into becoming independent and responsible adults. This is an exact time for them to become themselves and make their own decisions. The role of the parents must drastically change from that of the protector and keeper, to the role of the friend, confidant and guide, as a child grows older.

Teenagers today are often thought of as insecure, and disrespectful. Even the most caring parents frequently misunderstand their kids. Indeed, teenagers tend to be very complex, but they are also not impossible to understand. Few parents actually realize that the teenage years are crucial times when it comes to learning to be more responsible and independent. And as a result, teenagers often turn to their peers* and distance themselves from their parents. It is quite upsetting that **this** happens just at the time when parents must have all the information about what is going on in the lives of their children.

Conversations that put teens in a defensive position should be avoided. There will be no discussion if parents are challenging, threatening or hostile. Teenagers need freedom to experience life, and information to make informed decisions. If parents prohibit their children from doing something, chances are that they will do it behind their back anyway. They must be comfortable talking to their parents and trust them. So, always let them talk and share their feelings and experiences.

Ups and downs during the teen years are quite normal, and a young adult who had a previous history of confidence, will come out of **this process** just fine. Teens who deal best with their problems and moods most often have parents who take time to listen and talk, parents who respect them and who are respected in return. These are parents who are responsible, and who expect their kids to be responsible as well.

Parents should also try to schedule a special time to be alone with their children. It may be going shopping or to the movies, a walk in the park or even a small trip. This special time offers parents another chance to talk and listen to their teens; Another good thing would be to encourage teens to discuss important issues during dinner. Spending dinnertime together is one of the best opportunities for family communication. Having a dedicated family discussion time also shows teens that parents are interested in them and in what is important in their lives.

By eNotAlone.com

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<http://www.enotalone.com/article/19334.html>

Notes *toddlers : 2 to 5 year-old children

*peers : friends

I. READING COMPREHENSION

(8 marks)

A/ Say whether these statements are True or False and justify by quoting a specific passage from the text (1 mark x 3 = 3 marks)

1. No matter how helpful some parents are, they often get wrong ideas about their children. (T/F)

Justification:

2. Spending time with children can favour communication. (T/F)

Justification:

3. Communication breaks down when parents are aggressive. (T/F)

Justification:

B/ Read the text again and complete this table

(0.5 mark x 4 = 2 marks)

Two things teens need:	4.
	5.
Two things parents must avoid:	6.
	7.

C/ Find in the indicated paragraphs words which are closest in meaning to the following:

(0.5 mark x 4 = 2 marks)

8. really (paragraph 3) =

9. have confidence in : (paragraph 4) =

10.do not allow : (paragraph 4) =

11.journey (paragraph 6) =

D/ What do these words refer to ?

(0.5 mark x 2 = 1 mark)

12. "this" (line 18)

13. "this process" (line 27).....

II. LINGUISTIC AND COMMUNICATIVE COMPETENCE

(7 marks)

E/ Find in the indicated paragraphs sentences which contain words expressing:

(0.5 mark x 3 = 1.5 mark)

14. **Necessity** (paragraph 2) :

15. **Contrast** (paragraph 3) :

16. **Suggestion** (paragraph 6) :

F/ Complete this dialogue between a mother and her daughter by asking appropriate questions (0.5 mark x 4 = marks)

Mother: Hi, love !

Daughter: Hi, Mum !

Mother: You don't seem to be in good shape.
..... ?

17

Daughter: Actually, I'm a bit angry with you.

Mother: ?

18

Daughter: Because you didn't allow me to attend Arame's birthday party.

Mother: Do you think I should..... ?

19

Daughter; No, I don't, but I need a little freedom.

Mother: Who.....you I don't trust you ?

20

Daughter: It's obvious, Mum. Anyway, let's talk about something else.

G/ Choose the right words from the box to complete this passage about children – parents relationship. (0.5 mark x 2 = 1 mark)

however – so – and –

Parents and children must find time to communicate. Dinnertime seems to be the best opportunity for this., today most families prefer to watch

21

T.V., it is advisable that people change their habits.

22

(0.5 mark x 5 = 2.5 marks)

H/ Binta is attending a workshop on “**Shaping the hopes of tomorrow**” where Aliou made this speech.

“If parents discuss with their kids, they will grow up to be responsible adults. Parents don't always have a positive idea about youngsters. They should give children greater opportunities to become mature decision-makers. If there is no change of attitude, misunderstanding between parents and children will last for ever. Therefore, parents shouldn't be too tough with their children”.

Unfortunately, her colleague who arrived a bit late finds it difficult to understand. She tries to help by reformulating Aliou’s message. **Complete her version below.**

Aliou says that the more parents discuss with their children, the more.....they
23
will be. He wishes theya positive idea about youngsters. He
24
adds that teenagers must bemore opportunities to become
25
mature decision-makers. He warns that, unless therea change
26
of attitude, misunderstanding between parents and children will last for ever. He
concludes by advising parents.....too tough with their kids.
27

III. WRITING (5 marks)

Choose ONE of these topics and write about 150 to 200 words

1. “The role of parents must really change from protector and keeper, to a friend, confidant or guide, as the child grows older”. Do you share this point of view ? Give your arguments.
2. You are in open disagreement with someone who thinks that the more parents are authoritarian and severe, the better educated their kids will be.
Write down your conversation.