

PART ONE : READING AND INTERPRETING

Read the text carefully, then do the following activities:

A study shows that kids are doing more homework than ever. Today, kids find that the amount of homework they get keeps them from playing sports, taking music lessons or just having fun after school. A recent study of the University of Michigan reports that over the past 16 years, the amount of time the average 3 to 11 years old kid spends on homework has increased by 50%. More and more parents are protesting against an over abundance of at-home assignments.

"The question is whether schools are holding our children captives with homework", said Ken Kiewra, professor of educational psychology. He realized one day last year that his sixth-grade son had given up music lessons, the soccer team and his favorite hobby because he was loaded with homework. "I'm home reading the paper and relaxing and this kid who left in the morning before I did, is doing two to three hours of work", remembered Kiewra.

In response, Kiewra wrote an article for the Lincoln newspaper. Although parents responded favorably to his article, the school refused to change their homework policies, Kiewra explained that, from the schools point of view, "Research confirms that doing homework is better than not doing homework". He added that pressure for students to perform well on standardized tests led schools to pile on at-home assignments. All work and no play can make dull kids. "Kids need to play outside and exercise or take art or music classes if they want to", said Ken Kiewra. "At the very least, they need fresh air".

By Melissa Checker, React Magazine, April 2000.

A. <u>COMPREHENSION</u> (7pts)

- 1) Read the text, then circle the right ending for each sentence :
 - a. This document is : a) an interview b) a short story c) an article
 - b. The theme is about :
 - a) Kids hobbies.
 - b) Homework and its influence on children.
 - c) Relations between parents and children.
 - a. **Are these statements True or False? Correct the false ones:** children spend less time on their homework than in the past.
 - b. Ken Kiewra released that his son had no longer time to relax.
 - c. Parents agreed with Ken's point of view.
 - d. The school accepted the parents' opinion on homework.

(15pts)

American

2) Answer these questions according to the text: a. Do kids have fun after school? Why? b. Who are protesting against this homework? c. What is Ken Kiewra's job 3) Pick up from the text a reported statement. Write it down: 4) Find in the text words which are closest in meaning to : a) Children (§1)= b) answer (§3) = **B. TEXT EXPLORATION** 1) Add two more words to the list below : Reported – said - 2) Complete the table below as shown in the example : Noun Adverb Adjective Care Careful Carefully Kindness Happy 3) Express it differently : 4) a. "The question is whether schools are holding our children captives with homework", he said. 1. b. He said a. "Kids need to play outside and take art or music classes if they want to", said Ken Kiewra. 2. b. Ken Kiewra said He asked: "When will teachers stop giving too much homework for our children? a. 3. b. He asked them 5) Cross out the silent letters : Whether - hours - wrote - reading a. Give the correct form of the verbs between brackets : b. If kids don't relax, they (to suffer) from stress. c. Students prefer (relax) at home after school. **PART TWO : WRITTEN EXPRESSION** Choose one of the following topics : Topic I: A reporter made a survey to find the advantages of homework for students. He took these notes. Write a small report using them : Student review their lessons. Widen their knowledge. Have more time at home to concentrate. Allow more practice. Develop self-reliance. Improve student's seriousness.

Topic II: Write a paragraph about the following topic :

What should be done to improve the Algerian educational system ?

1) COMPREHENSION (7pts)

- c. Read the text, then circle the right ending for each sentence :
- d. This document is : c) an article
- e. The theme is about :
 - b) Homework and its influence on children.

5) Are these statements True or False? Correct the false ones:

- e. F
- f. T
- g. T
- h. F

6) Answer these questions according to the text:

- d. No, they don't, because they are doing more homework than ever and that keeps them from other activities.
- e. Parents are protesting against this homework
- f. Ken kiewra is a professor of educational psychology.

7) Pick up from the text a reported statement. Write it down:

He added thatassignments.

8) Find in the text words which are closest in meaning to :

- b) Children (§1)= kids b) answer (§3) = response
- 6) <u>TEXT EXPLORATION</u> Add two more words to the list below :

Reported - said - told - admitted

7) Complete the table below as shown in the example :

Noun	Adjective	Adverb
Care	Careful	Carefully
Kindness	kind	Kindly
happiness	Нарру	Happily

8) Express it differently :

- 4. c. It's a pity, Peter won't come.
- d. I wish Peter would come.
- 5. c. I think governments should fight corruption.
- d. It's high time governments fought corruption.
 - c. They are building a new school.
- 6. d. A new school is being built by them.

9) Cross out the silent letters :

Whether – hours – wrote – reading

d. Give the correct form of the verbs between brackets :

- e. If kids don't relax, they will suffer from stress.
- f. Students prefer **relaxing** at home after school.