



380

BÀI LUẬN

MẪU

TIẾNG ANH

Phần 2

141. ACTING AS A SUBSTITUTE

LÀM NGƯỜI THAY THẾ

Anxious faces **peered out**¹ fourth storey classroom window. Half the class were outside the classroom. Some of them were at the balcony, some were waiting at the steps while some went even further to wait at the school gate. Being the class monitor, I tried to call them back to class. My teacher was at the staff room, walking up and down in front of the telephone. She was waiting for a telephone call from Brenda's mother.

Brenda, the brain of our class, was **hospitalised**.² She had a sudden attack of **asthma**³ during the previous night and was immediately rushed to the hospital. She was to be the last speaker for our class at the finals of the interclass debate to be held that very day. We were confident of her. We were sure that her unbeatable ability to summarise and to **rebut**⁴ would win for our class the prize. This was precisely the reason for everybody's anxiety, waiting for her with hope.

A little while later, my teacher walked into the class. By the look on her face, we could immediately guess the **outcome**.⁵ She said in a **quivering**⁶ voice, "Brenda won't be discharged today. So... I'm afraid,... I'm afraid that we will have to find a substitute." There was dead silence in my class. I was standing at the back of the class. Then, painfully, I felt as if sharp pins were piercing my body, pinning me to the wall. Slowly, my eyes met the eyes of forty-two others.

"But.. but I... I'm not prepared," I said stumbling over my words. Suddenly, an idea struck me, "Surely... surely you won't want m... me to s... **stutter**⁷ like this, do you ?" I said, faking the stutter. To my utter dismay, nobody said anything. The forty-two pairs of eyes kept staring at me. My teacher then broke the silence by the sound of her footsteps, walking up to me. She caught hold of my shoulders and said, "Only you can do it. Please don't let us down." Realizing the hopelessness of the situation, I nodded quietly. I thought I heard thunder roaring across the sky, but I soon realized that it was a tremendous round of applause by my classmates.

There was not much time left. The three other speakers and I rushed to the library. They quickly briefed me on the **motion**⁸ of the debate which was, "Parents should not overburden their children with home tuition." We were supposed to propose the motion. I felt that this was the most difficult task as I relied on a lot on my home tutor. It was certainly difficult to argue for something which we ourselves were against.

At last, the hour arrived. Everybody assembled in the school hall. Backstage, I was sitting at the right hand corner of a semi-circle. Directly opposite me was the last speaker from the opponents. I managed to pass a crooked smile to him. My hands shivered as I held on tightly to the cards which contained the points for my arguments.

The curtain parted. Right through the introduction I kept my head down. Not daring to look at the audience. Time seemed to fly, at a tremendous speed. Before I realized it, the debate was open to the floor. I looked up for the first time as I heard a voice from the corner of the hall rebutting a point made by my third speaker. Suddenly, I felt myself on the defensive. I quickly jotted a point on my card. I glanced through the card and realized that I had written quite a lot of points for rebuttal.

The moment arrived. I stood up, my knees knocking vigorously against each other. I forced my voice out. Beginning with the formal greeting, I found myself speaking,

pouring out argument after argument. I began to enjoy myself especially when the audience clapped at my good points. I did not even want to stop speaking when my time was over, but I had to. I sat quietly, looking at some of the unsaid arguments on my card. I heard the opponent pouring out his final arguments.

The chairman said excitedly, "The long awaited moment has come. I will now call out the winner of this debate. The best speaker is... Maria of Secondary 4/2." The other part of the announcement was drowned in the applause. My classmates rushed up the stage, hugging each other. I knew who had won without even listening to the **verdict**.⁹

I felt elated with pride. My teacher patted me on the back and all the others gathered around me. After the prizes were given away, my classmates again stood up to shout three cheers for 4/2. When every-body else had dispersed from the hall, my teacher unexpectedly shouted, "I knew I had chose the right substitute."

1. peer (out) /pɪə(r)/ (v) nhìn, nhòm, ngó (qua)
2. hospitalise /'hɒspɪtəlaɪz/ (v) gửi hoặc đưa (ai) vào bệnh viện
3. asthma /'æsmə/ (n) bệnh hen, bệnh suyễn
4. rebut /rɪ'bu:t/ (v) bẻ lại, bác bỏ - rebuttal (n)
5. outcome /'aʊtkʌm/ (n) hậu quả, kết quả
6. quiver /'kwɪvə(r)/ (v) hơi run run hoặc rung động
7. stutter /'stʌtə(r)/ (v) (cũng stammer) nói lắp
8. motion /'mɒʃn/ (n) kiến nghị
9. verdict /'vɜ:dɪkt/ (n) sự quyết định, lời tuyên bố (một quyết định)

142. LOST LUGGAGE

THẤT LẠC HÀNH LÝ

One fine day, as I was engrossed in my reading, the phone rang. I picked up the receiver and was greeted formally by an unfamiliar voice that asked to speak to me. My hands trembled for a while and strange ideas of imaginary offences shot into my mind.

My worries were unfounded as I received the most wonderful news that I could ever dream of. I had been chosen to study on an overseas scholarship. I was told reply to the offer by the next day.

When my parents came home that night. I broke the wonderful news to them. My father was overjoyed as it was his dream to send me for studies overseas. My mother was, however, not very pleased as she would miss me and she feared that no one would take care of me in a foreign land. After much comforting from my father and me, my mother was finally persuaded.

My father had left the choice of course to me. I chose to take up the course for a Diploma in "Pure Physics" at the Oxford University for a duration of three years. The next day, I called the scholarship board, expressed my thanks and informed them of my choice of course. They gave me three weeks for preparation before they would send me off.

Preparation began at home without any waste of time. My mother started making a list of the things I would need. She herself went shopping for the necessities. Finally, the day for my departure arrived. My mother had prepared a large suitcase **stuffed**¹ with all my belongings. She had also put in a ruby **brooch**² which she had bought for me.

My parents sent me to the airport. After a tearful farewell from my mother and some encouraging words from my father and relatives, I left for England. The plane trip was not as long as I had expected. The plane touched down in England in the evening. I took my luggage from the airport, walked out and **hailed**³ a taxi. I asked the driver to take me to a respectable restaurant near my **hostel**⁴ as I was starving.

He stopped in front of a small but clean-looking restaurant. I paid him the fare, grabbed my hand-bag and hopped out of the taxi. After my dinner, I realized that I had left my extremely valuable suitcase in the taxi's **boot**.⁵ I was at a loss. I neither knew the taxi's licence number nor anybody whom I could ask for help.

I walked slowly towards the hostel, my mind in a mess. I thought of making a long distance call to my mother but I decided against it. I knew better than to worry her with my own troubles. I walked into the hostel and introduced myself to the lady at the information counter. With tears in my eyes, I told her my **plight**⁶ hoping that she could help me regain my lost luggage.

The lady was very helpful. She immediately contacted a few centres and informed them about the loss. She told them to return the lost luggage to the Oxford University Hostel, if it should be found. I thanked her from the bottom of my heart. She then showed me to my room and told me not to worry.

I could not sleep that night. I remembered my mother's advice to me to be careful about the suitcase. I knew that it would break her heart if she were to learn of my carelessness. I cursed myself for being so careless. I began to think of all my documents

in the suitcase without which I could not **enrol**⁷ for the course. Not **withstanding**⁸ all the worries, I fell asleep at last, with complete exhaustion, I guess.

The first thing I remembered the next morning was my suitcase. I got dressed and rushed down the seemingly endless flight of stairs to the information counter. The lady greeted me with the sweetest smile I have ever seen. She told me to come behind the counter. I did and there, behind the counter stood the too familiar, red suitcase. I almost screamed with joy. I squeezed her hands and expressed my deepest thanks.

I picked up my suitcase and ran with it to my room. I knelt down and humbly thanked God for having saved me from the mess I was in. I have learnt my lesson and promised myself to be extra careful in future. I was also determined not to let anyone at home know about this incident forever !

1. stuff /stʌf/ (v) *nhồi nhét cái gì vào đây cái gì*
2. brooch /brəʊtʃ/ (n) *trâm, ghim hoa*
3. hail /heɪl/ (v) *ra hiệu cho (tác xi, v.v...) dừng lại*
4. hostel /'hɒstl/ (n) *nhà ký túc, khu tập thể*
5. boot /bu:t/ (n) *ngăn để hành lý, thường nằm phía sau xe ô tô*
6. plight /plaɪt/ (n) *cảnh ngộ khốn khó*
7. enrol /ɪn'reɒl/ (n) *ghi danh*
8. withstand /wɪð'stænd/ (v) *cưỡng lại*

143. DANGEROUS COMPANION *KẺ ĐỒNG HÀNH NGUY HIỂM*

"All aboard!" The loud commanding voice woke me up from my nap. Grabbing my knap-sack I shoved my way through the crowd towards the train. I jumped onto it and hurriedly moved from **carriage**¹ to carriage trying to locate the one in which Miss Lou was. I could have written to her and asked for the carriage number, but there was no fun in that. I wanted to surprise her.

I glanced at my pocket watch that Miss Lou had given me on my last birthday. I **plunged**² into a nostalgia mood, as I recollected how fondly Miss Lou who is actually none other than my dear auntie had taken care of me when I was young.

"April, April" a shrill, familiar voice cut my thoughts. I looked up to see the ever smiling face of my Aunt Lou. I was filled with joy at seeing her. I explained that I had, at the **spur**³ of the moment, decided to accompany her to Paris. In our excitement, we had forgotten about the other passengers in the carriage. If not for Aunt Lou's elderly companion and nurse, we would have certainly been carried away during this memorable moment. Miss Prude (a very **apt**⁴ name for her, I thought) interrupted us curtly, saying, "Madame, it's time for your medicine".

That night, we had a lovely time together. Aunt Lou was proud to show me her **fabulous**⁵ jewellery collection. Among her favourites and most expensive was an exquisite **diamond-studded**⁶ necklace, intricately and skillfully crafted. On seeing these priceless possessions of hers, I raised my doubts about their safety. She told me not worry as she had always kept them in a "poor-looking box" to avoid suspicion.

In the morning, we had breakfast together and this time we were not bothered and haunted by Aunt Lou's companion. It was on my way to the cashier that I noticed a young and beautiful woman going into the carriage we had been in a short while ago. I tried to recall the instance I had seen that familiar face before but I failed.

When I saw Aunt Lou's smiling face, I forgot everything about that mysterious lady. Both of us then, walked towards our carriage. We knew something was **amiss**⁷ when we saw the door ajar. Aunt Lou turned pale and nearly fainted when she discovered that her jewel box was missing.

I was suddenly reminded of Miss Prude. She was the only person who had **access**⁸ to the carriage. She might have overheard us talking about the box during the previous night. With the help of some concerned passengers and a train officer, we searched high and low for somebody fitting the description of Miss Prude.

We were about to give up our search when my eyes fell upon the beautiful, mysterious lady. Her too-familiar face bore the look of unpardonable guilt. I grabbed the officer's arm and pointed to her. She tried to escape but was caught with the box in her bag.

Aunt Lou praised me for uncovering the **disguise**.⁹ It was later found that before this incident, Miss Prude had used her skills in **theatrical**¹⁰ makeup to deceive some ten to fifteen rich and lonely old ladies who depended on her for companionship. Miss Prude was indeed their most dangerous companion !

1. carriage /'kærɪdʒ/ (n) toa xe lửa chở hành khách
2. plunge (into) /plʌndʒ/ (v) rơi vào một trạng thái
3. spur /spɜ:(r)/ (n) sự thôi thúc, sự khuyến khích
4. apt /æpt/ (adj) thích hợp
5. fabulous /'fæbjʊləs/ (adj) tuyệt vời
6. diamond-studded /,daɪəmənd 'stʌdɪd/ (adj) được nạm ngọc
7. amiss /ə'mɪs/ (adj) sai, không ổn
8. access /'ækses/ (n) cơ hội hoặc quyền sử dụng cái gì hoặc đến gần ai
9. disguise /dɪ'sgaɪz/ (n) sự ngụy trang, sự cải trang
10. theatrical make-up /θɪ'ætrɪkl 'meɪkʌp/ (n) sự hóa trang khi lên sân khấu

144. IT WAS NOT SUCH A GOOD BARGAIN AFTER ALL
RỐT CỤC ĐÓ NÀO PHẢI MỘT MÓN HỜI!

Sitting at a corner of my favourite coffee-shop one morning, I heard some noises behind me. On directing my view to the opposite side of my table, I saw crowd holding a few expensive watches. The pieces of diamond on the watches glittered under the sunlight. With the urge to investigate, I dragged my lazy feet towards them.

To my amazement, there were about half a dozen Rolex watches costing not less than three thousand dollars each. A slim, well-attired man curtly interrupted me and tried to clear my dazed mind with a whisper. "My boy, don't be fooled by that **charlatan**¹ or you'll get into trouble." So saying, he left me without giving me a chance to reply. Being easily tempted and influenced, I found myself standing in front of the crowd directly facing the man who was then the centre of attraction. In spite of the unidentified man's warning, I inquired the seller for the price of the watches.

He was probably taken aback by the question coming from a young schoolboy like me because he stared at me in disbelief. However, he held out to shake hands with me. He asked me a few questions ; I guessed he was trying to see my earnestness at owning the watch. Convinced of my intentions, he told me that he got those watches from his former employer, year after year for he was hardworking and diligent. As he was then financially tight, he had to sell all the watches. I was convinced beyond the shadow of a doubt when the man produced copies of certificates proving the **genuinness**² of the watches.

After **inspecting**³ the watches thoroughly, I again inquired about the price. To my astonishment, the man was willing to sell the watch for a thousand dollars which was only thirty percent of the cost price. My heart almost leapt into my mouth when I thought of this bargain. "Well, son, seeing that you're still schooling and not earning yet, I'll let you have it for \$850," said the man. "Wow ! What a bargain, I'll take it," I replied without second thoughts.

I excused myself and ran to the Cash-On-Line teller across the road. I **withdrew**⁴ the required amount and turned my head towards the watch seller only to find him being held by two police **constables**.⁵ A large crowd has by then gathered in front of the coffee-shop. The police then seized the diamond-studded Rolex watches and led the watch dealer away in their van.

I traced my steps back towards the coffee-shop where my coffee (which had turned cold by then), still stood patiently in the cup, waiting to be drunk. I was disappointed at what had happened. The young, mysterious man who had warned me before came again and this time he said **mockingly**,⁶ "You see ? I told you to be careful. That man was a thief. He stole the watches and some jewellery from a goldsmith shop. Police have been tracking him ever since and thank goodness, at last they found him. The nerve of him trying to cheat a young boy like you. It was lucky that you didn't buy the watch."

Without a single word, I nodded and shook hands with the man. I suppose that **gesture**⁷ was worth a thousand words. The man stroked my hair and said, "Well son, it wasn't such a good bargain after all !"

1. charlatan /'ʃɑ:lətən/ (n) kẻ (bất tài) hay lừa bịp
2. genuineness /'dʒenjuɪnɪs/ (n) tính đích thực
3. inspect /ɪn'spekt/ (v) xem xét kỹ và tử mỉ
4. withdraw /wɪð'drɔ:/ (v) (withdrew-withdrawn) rút (tiền) ra khỏi tài khoản ở ngân hàng
5. constable /'kɒnstəbl/ (n) (cũng police constable) cảnh sát (nam hoặc nữ) ở cấp thấp nhất
6. mocking /'mʌkɪŋ/ (adj) có tính chế giễu, nhạo báng - mockingly /-lɪ/ (adv)
7. gesture /'dʒestʃə(r)/ (n) cử chỉ, điệu bộ

145. CAPSIZED!¹ *BỊ LẬT THUYỀN*

It was a lovely evening when John arrived at his uncle Willy's fish farm. Uncle Willy had promised to take John fishing in a boat. John was very excited at the prospect for he had never been in a boat before.

John found Uncle Willy sitting on the bank of a large fish pond. His uncle was preparing some fishing rods. John greeted him, "Hi, Uncle."

"Ah, John, you are here already," his uncle replied. "Let's get going, You take that fishing rod there and get into the boat".

"Okay, uncle," replied John, He picked up the fishing rod and walked towards the boat.

The boat was floating gently on the water and John did **not have the slightest clue**² how to get in. He put one foot in the boat and the boat started sliding away from him. Startled he withdrew his foot and nearly fell into the water.

"How do I get in?" he asked.

In reply Uncle Willy grabbed the boat with one hand and motioned John to get in. Carefully John stepped into the boat and sat down. He felt strange sitting in a boat that kept bouncing up and down and sideways too.

Uncle Willy untied the **mooring rope**³ and stepped into the boat. He took an **oar**⁴ and expertly **steered**⁵ the boat out into the middle of the lake.

John felt both excitement and fear. It was indeed exciting to be in a boat for the first time. It was also fearful because he was afraid he might fall into the water. Anyhow he watched the boat glide smoothly over the water. The view of the pond from the boat was beautiful. It was great.

After a minute or so Uncle Willy stopped the boat and dropped a brick tied to a rope over the side of the boat. This was his make-shift anchor and it did its job pretty well. "Let's fish," Uncle Willy said to John.

So the two of them got about the joyful task of casting their lines into the calm water of the pond.

Presently John saw his float **jiggle**⁶ a bit before it disappeared straight into the water. Wow! There must be a big fish on his line ! In his excitement John stood up in the boat to pull his line in. That was his undoing. He did not know it was not a good idea to stand in a boat for the boat would become very unstable. Since he had never been in a boat before he did not know that. So as soon as he stood up, the boat gave a mighty **heave**⁷ and capsized dumping both of them into the pond with a big splash.

One moment John was grabbing frantically at his line, the next he was grabbing frantically in the water for something to hold on to. It seemed like **eternity**⁸ before his hands found something solid. He held on tightly. It was part of the boat. However he was still underwater and his lungs ached for air. Instinctively he moved upwards still clutching the boat. Just as his lungs seemed like they would burst, John emerged above the water. What a relief it was. He sucked in the cool sweet air. Never before had he realised that the air was so sweet and soothing. My God, was he glad that he could breathe.

When John could breathe normally again, he realised that the boat had capsized. He looked around to see where his uncle was. He heard laughter behind him. It was Uncle Willy laughing his head off.

"You really look funny, you know?" Uncle Willy **guffawed**.⁹

"What do you mean, uncle?" asked John.

"Do you know you gave such a horrible yell when you fell into the water and was **spluttering**¹⁰ and **puffing**¹¹ when you emerged from it. You looked like a clown in a circus!"

John realised that he must have presented quite a sight to his uncle when he fell into the water. He laughed in return.

"Well, that will teach you not to stand up suddenly in a boat, won't it? Come, let's push the boat to the bank and get it upright again," his uncle ordered.

Together they pushed the upside down boat towards the nearest bank.

1. capsize /kæp'saɪz/ (v) (làm cho một chiếc thuyền) lật úp
2. clue /klu:/ (n) đầu mối, manh mối - not have a clue (idm) không biết (gì) về cái gì, không biết phải làm gì như thế nào
3. moor /mɔ:(r)/ (v) cột, bỏ neo - mooring rope (n) dây chèo neo thuyền
4. oar /ɔ:(r)/ (n) mái chèo
5. steer /stiə(r)/ (v) lái (tàu, thuyền, xe, v.v...)
6. jiggle /'dʒɪɡl/ (v) đưa đẩy, lắc lư
7. heave /hi:v/ (n) sự nhấc nhô
8. eternity /ɪ'tɜ:nɪtɪ/ (n) thời gian (tưởng chừng như) vô tận
9. guffaw /gʌ'fɔ:/ (v) cười ha hả
10. splutter /'splʌtə(r)/ (v) phát ra hàng loạt tiếng phì phì – phun phì phì
11. puff /pʌf/ (v) thổi phì phò, thổi hỗn hển

VĂN TƯỢNG TƯỢNG

Như tên gọi, văn tưởng tượng đòi hỏi người viết phải suy nghĩ hoặc hình dung một sự việc chưa hề xảy ra. Đó có thể là “The year 2990”, “What will happen in the century of twenty-one”, hoặc “If I were a millionaire”. Một loại đề tài thuộc thể loại văn tưởng tượng là yêu cầu viết bản tự truyện của một đồ vật hoặc một con vật nào đó, chẳng hạn như “An autobiography of a butterfly”, “An autobiography of a dancing doll”. Bằng óc tưởng tượng, người viết phải đặt mình vào địa vị của những đối tượng không biết nói đó, và kể lại đời chúng, qua đó có thể nhấn nhủ người đọc phải biết yêu quý, giữ gìn và bảo vệ chúng trong đời sống hàng ngày.

Văn tưởng tượng đòi hỏi một vốn kiến thức sâu rộng, khả năng suy đoán hợp lý cũng như óc tưởng tượng phong phú. Những dữ kiện hoặc chi tiết đưa ra không nên đi quá xa với cái có thể xảy ra, hoặc quá dị thường, quái lạ. Cố gắng dùng từ ngữ đơn giản, rõ ràng và có sức thuyết phục cao.

146. THE YEAR 2990

NĂM 2990

Technology has been **progressing at a great rate**¹ over the past few **decades**.² I think that in a few centuries' time, the world will be very different.

Perhaps, in the year 2990, the world will be entirely **computerized**.³ Every household will have a **mainframe**⁴ which is linked to all other systems. Adults do not have to go to work and children need not go to school as everything can be done at home.

Probably, by then, humans will not even have to take food in the form of meat, vegetables and rice to **survive**.⁵ Tablets containing the ideal proportion of the essential **nutrients**⁶ will be enough for us.

Robots could become so cheap that every household could afford a few of them. Life will be easy and comfortable with all the household chores being done by the robots.

Visiting relatives during Chinese New Year will not be necessary any more. All that the Chinese need to do is to switch on the mainframe and exchange greetings through the big screen. Children could still get their "ang pows," but not directly. The money will be credited to their bank accounts using the mainframe.

All these changes are just my own idea of what life in the future could be like. I wonder if they will come true.

1. progress at a great rate /prə'gres/ tiến bộ vượt bậc

2. decade /di'keɪd/ (n) thời kỳ mười năm – thập niên, thập kỷ

3. computerize /kəm'pjʊ:təraɪz/ (v) đưa vào máy tính để làm công việc của hoặc cho (cái gì)

4. mainframe /'meɪnfreɪm/ (n) (cũng mainfram computer) máy tính lớn, có công sức cao và bộ nhớ rộng

5. survive /sə'vaɪv/ (v) tiếp tục sống hoặc tồn tại, sinh tồn

6. nutrient /'nju:triənt/ (n) chất dinh dưỡng

147. IF I HAD THREE WISHES

NẾU TÔI CÓ BA ĐIỀU ƯỚC

If a fairy were to **grant**¹ me three wishes, I know what I would like to wish for.

First of all, I would wish for plenty of money. With lots of wealth, I could help the poor.

I could donate lots of money to the **orphanages**,² the homes for the aged, the schools for the blind and so on. Many would benefit from the money as it could be put to good use.

Secondly, I would like to wish for the good health of my parents and my family. Health is very important to man. Without good health, it would be impossible to enjoy a lot of things. With good health, we could travel around the world, do whatever we want to do and live our lives the way we want to.

Thirdly, I would like to wish for a book that has everything there is to know in it. It will be thick and informative. There will be science, mathematics and other **topics**.³ I would read it and be a wiser person.

1. grant /grænt/ (v) ban, phát, cấp cho

2. orphanage /'ɔ:fənɪdʒ/ (n) trại mồ côi - orphan /'ɔ:fən/ (n) trẻ mồ côi

3. topic /'tɒpɪk/ (n) chủ đề, đề tài

148. IF I HAVE ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS
NẾU TÔI CÓ MỘT TRĂM DOLLAR

What would you do if you have \$100.00 ?

If I have one hundred dollars, I will not spend it thoughtlessly. I shall try to **invest**¹ it in some small **business**.² I shall start a small business ? - No, no ; I have so much to buy. My parents are not rich so they are unable to buy all the necessary things I require.

I will buy a good **wrist-watch**³ because next year I shall be studying in a secondary school, and I shall need a wrist-watch badly. Then I shall buy a good but cheap camera to keep me occupied in my free-hours. For the remainder of the money, I have an idea. I shall buy a good dictionary and an **encyclopaedia**.⁴ By then, I may have about thirty dollars left. With this money I shall open a Savings Bank account in a post office.

This is my plan of spending or wisely investing the one hundred dollars.

1. invest /ɪn'vest/ (v) đầu tư (tiền bạc) vào công việc kinh doanh, v.v... để kiếm lãi
2. business /'bɪznɪs/ (n) công việc kinh doanh, cơ sở kinh doanh
3. wrist-watch /'rɪst wɒtʃ/ (n) đồng hồ đeo tay
4. encyclopaedia /ɪnsaɪklə'pi:diə/ (n) (cũng encyclopedia) từ điển bách khoa toàn thư, bách khoa thư

149. WHAT I WILL DO WITH A THOUSAND DOLLARS
NHỮNG GÌ TÔI SẼ LÀM KHI CÓ MỘT NGÀN DOLLAR

If I had a thousand dollars, I would be able to do many things which I have always wanted to do.

First, I would buy myself a pair of running shoes which would come in useful in the next track and field meet. I would also get myself a **waterproof**¹ watch for my swimming lessons. With that, I would be informed of the time while swimming.

Secondly, I would buy presents for my whole family. My father would get a **pocket calculator**.² My mother would be pleased with a new **hair dryer**.³ I would give my brother two story books. As for my sister, I would make her a present of the cute **teddy bear**⁴ that she saw in the "Toys-R-Us" shop.

Last but not least,⁵ I would donate a hundred dollars to the Community Chest. In this way, I would be helping the poor.

By then, I would have spent about half of the thousand dollars. The balance would be kept aside for a rainy day. I would deposit it in a bank so that it would earn me extra money in the form of interest.

How I wish I really had a thousand dollars. If I did, I would be able to make many people happy.

1. waterproof /'wɔ:təpru:f/ (*adj*) không thấm nước
2. pocket calculator /'pɒkɪt 'kælkjələtə(r)/ (*n*) máy tính bỏ túi
3. hair dryer /'heə(r) 'draɪə(r)/ (*n*) máy sấy tóc
4. teddy bear /'tedɪ beə(r)/ (*n*) gấu nhồi bông
5. last but not least (*idm*) cuối cùng nhưng không kém phần quan trọng

150. IF I COULD BECOME SOMEONE ELSE FOR A DAY
ƯỚC GÌ TÔI TRỞ THÀNH NGƯỜI KHÁC CHỈ MỘT NGÀY THÔI

When we speak of an ever present danger, it is like a Damocles Sword. This is the tale of the sword. There was a king who was very powerful and everybody praised him. There was a man who envied the King. Somehow this news reached the ears of the King. So he called the man to him and agreed to allow the man to play king for a day. The servants were duly informed. The man was served as a king. He enjoyed the joke of dressing like a king, having recourse to all kingly activities. He was taken into the banqueting hall for breakfast where he sat at the head of the table. The real King was also there at the table. When the man looked up, he saw a sword hanging from a thin **thread**¹ above his head. He could not eat his breakfast nor could he take a **morsel**² of the **delicacies**³ spread before him. When the real King asked him the reason, he pointed at the sword which was self explanatory.

I too wanted to be someone else for a day like the man in the tale. I wanted to be a lazy person, doing nothing and simply whiling away the time on a bridge or a park. I wanted to be a citizen of the world viewing things from a position of **detachment**.⁴

I started the day with a relaxed and unhurried breakfast. Then I went to the newly built **flyover**.⁵ I took a comfortable seat on the **ledge**.⁶ There were others too like me on this flyover which has become a haunt of lazy fellows. As time progressed, the flow of traffic increased. I could see vehicles carrying all sorts of people and luggage, commuters hurrying to office, school children carrying heavy satchels and going unwillingly to school, petty shopkeepers began to put their shops on wheels exhibiting many kinds of wares and a handful of shoe shining boys plying their trade. How they **tackled**⁷ their customers is a lesson in persuasion.

As the morning wore away, the crowd **subsided**.⁸ During the lunch hour again there was some stir. I had a happy afternoon siesta on the ledge.

With the coming of the evening the crowd increased again. I could see men and women with their shopping bags, the newly wed trotting along hand in hand enjoying their newly found companionship, a large crowd emanating from a neighbouring theater and another queue forming to get their tickets for the next show.

Then from my perch on the bridge, I moved into a park. A few lazy people there were looking at the sky. I decided to join them. Groups of children were running about the ponds and playing hide and seek, lovers sitting in lonely places waiting for stolen kisses, the **ubiquitous**⁹ ice seller was there too selling his candies and iced fruits and of course, the peanut man was also there.

By **dusk**¹⁰ I got tired. The mad, meaningless rush of the world had no fascination for me. Man with all the facilities appears to have become an automation. Nature's beauty was lost to many. I couldn't but agree more with the poet that life is not worth a while if one cannot stop and stare. I would rather be one to enjoy nature than one who makes every minute pay in terms of money.

1. thread /θred/ (n) sợi chỉ, sợi len, sợi tơ, v.v...

2. morsel /'mɔ:səl/ (n) mẩu, miếng

3. delicacy /'delɪkəsi/ (n) *cao lương mỹ vị*
4. detachment /dɪ'tætʃmənt/ (n) *sự lãnh đạm, sự thờ ơ*
5. flyover /'flaɪəʊvə(r)/ (n) *cầu chui*
6. ledge /ledʒ/ (n) *gờ, rìa*
7. tackle /'tækl/ (v) *cản lại, chặn lại*
8. subside /səb'saɪd/ (v) *ngớt, giảm bớt*
9. ubiquitous /ju:'bɪkwɪtəs/ (adj) *ở đâu cũng có, có mặt ở khắp nơi*
10. dusk /dʌsk/ (n) *lúc chạng vạng, lúc nhá nhem*

151. AN IMAGINARY ENCOUNTER
MỘT CUỘC GẶP GỠ TƯỞNG TƯỢNG

One night, while I was about to sleep, I noticed an extremely bright star in the sky. Its **dazzling**¹ **glow**² lit the dark night and its **beam**³ fell on my bed. To my surprise, a tiny human-like creature walked down the beam. It had wide blue eyes and sharp-pointed ears. A small star shone on its forehead.

"Hello, I am Starlet from outer space," said the little creature in a high and musical voice. From the high voice, I guessed that Starlet is a female.

Starlet continued, "Today is my birthday and Star Papa gave me a new spaceship. Would you like to ride in it with me?"

I was filled with curiosity and followed Starlet up the beam into her spaceship. Together, we **zoomed**⁴ off to outer space. Looking out of the spaceship, I could see fish-like creatures rushing about in space and looking very busy.

"That is the fish market," Starlet informed me.

Soon, we arrived at a restaurant, McSpace, which was floating in space. It served food which looked like starfruits but which tasted like a mixture of mutton and vanilla ice-cream. It was such fun visiting Starlet's kingdom.

Starlet sent me back to earth before dawn. Before she left, she promised to visit me again on her next birthday.

1. dazzling /'dæzliŋ/ (adj) rực rỡ, lộng lẫy

2. glow /gləʊ/ (n) luồng ánh sáng

3. beam /bi:m/ (n) tia sáng hoặc luồng ánh sáng hay sự bức xạ

4. zoom /zu:m/ (v) phóng vù vù, bay vèo vèo

152. AN AUTOBIOGRAPHY¹ OF A WATCH
TỰ TRUYỆN CỦA MỘT CHIẾC ĐỒNG HỒ

I am a round-faced ladies' watch. I come from a large family in Japan. A watch **merchant**² bought me together with my siblings and sent us on a plane to Singapore.

On arrival, we were comfortably arranged in a showcase of a department store. The salesgirls handled us with care and wiped us with clean dry cloth every day. After each round of cleaning, we would greet our potential owners with brighter smiles.

One day, a couple bought me for their daughter. Betty, my little owner, was overjoyed and took good care of me. However, one day, she forgot to take me off her wrist when she went swimming. Poor me, I was badly **choked** !³ I was sick after that and could no longer keep accurate time. Sometimes, Betty was even late for school because of me !

Betty's parents bought her a new waterproof digital watch and sold me to the **rag-and-bone man**.⁴ I was very upset. Fortunately, the rag-and-bone man gave me to his daughter, Xiaozhen. Like Betty, she took good care of me and loved me dearly.

I am old and sickly now. I may soon be of no use to anyone. Nevertheless, I feel fortunate to have had two such loving owners in my lifetime.

1. autobiography /ɔ:təbaɪ'ɒgrəfi/ (n) *bản tự truyện, lời tự sự*
2. merchant /'mɜ:tʃənt/ (n) *thương gia*
3. choke /tʃəʊk/ (v) *làm tắc (thở), làm nghẹt (thở)*
4. rag-and-bone man (n) *người buôn đồ ngát*

153. AN AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF A PEN
TỰ TRUYỆN CỦA MỘT CÂY BÚT MỰC

I was **manufactured**¹ in a factory five years ago. After I was made, the "cross" was engraved on me. I was packed in a pretty box. Then I was put into a large box together with the other pens. We were happy together and spent a wonderful time talking to each other. I was transported to a large department store. I was taken out of my box and placed in the display tray along with other pens of different **brands**.²

I was on display for only a short period. A grand old lady came to the store one day. She was looking for a gift. She bought me and presented me to a girl named Mary. Mary is a student and used me daily to do her school work. She took good care of me. She always wiped me clean after using me and placed me neatly in the box. She was very **gentle**³ with me and never handled me roughly. I admired my mistress and served her well.

My happiness did not last long. One day her grandmother bought her another pen. She stopped using me, and put me in my box. I am now stored away in her **drawer**.⁴ I live in the dark corner of the drawer hoping that one day she might use me again.

1. manufacture /mænɪʃə'fæktʃə(r)/ (v) sản xuất, chế tạo
2. brand /brænd/ (n) nhãn hiệu (hàng hóa)
3. gentle /'dʒentl/ (adj) dịu dàng, nhẹ nhàng
4. drawer /'drɔːə(r)/ (n) ngăn kéo (bàn, tủ, v.v...)

154. AN AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF A BUTTERFLY

TỰ TRUYỆN CỦA MỘT CON BƯỚM

I am a beautiful Monarch butterfly. My name is Jolly. My mother laid some eggs on the leaf of a milkweed plant. After several days we **hatched**¹ into tiny black and white **larvae**.² At this **stage**³ we were called tiny **caterpillars**.⁴ We moved about the plant and fed on its fleshy green leaves. Since we ate all the time, most of the leaves on the plant were destroyed. We grew so fast and soon, that we were too big for our skin. Then we had to go through a process called **moulting**,⁵ when we grew new skins and then crawled out of the old ones.

We then turned into large grey, yellow and orange **striped**⁶ caterpillars. My next stage was the **pupa**⁷ stage. I crawled under a leaf of the plant and **spun**⁸ a **pod**⁹ of silk and fastened myself to the pod. I moulted once more, but this time instead of getting a new skin, I got a green bag. When the right time came for me to emerge out, the bag changed its colour and **burst**¹⁰ open. I flew out of it into the world. I was a fully grown Monarch butterfly. My wings were beautifully coloured. Wherever I flew people stopped to admire me. I felt very proud of myself. I fluttered from to flower feeding on the nectar. I made my home in a beautiful garden. The old garden keeper loves to admire me. His eyes would brighten up at the sight of me.

One day I laid some eggs on a hibiscus plant in the garden. My life span is short. Soon I will disappear from the face of the world. But more Monarch butterflies will hatch from my eggs.

1. hatch /hætʃ/ (v) nở ra (từ trứng)
2. larva /'lɑ:və/ (n) (sinh larvae) ấu trùng
3. stage /steɪdʒ/ (n) giai đoạn, thời kỳ
4. caterpillar /'kætəpɪlə(r)/ (n) sâu bướm hay sâu ngài
5. moult /məʊlt/ (v) lột xác, thay lông
6. striped /straɪpt/ (adj) có sọc, có vằn
7. pupa /'pju:pə/ (n) con nhộng
8. spin /spɪn/ (v) (spun-spun) (vẽ nhện, tằm, v.v...) nhả tơ, chăng tơ
9. pod /pɒd/ (n) (cũng cocoon) cái kèn
10. burst /bɜ:st/ (v) nứt toác ra (thường do sức ép bên trong)

155. AN AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF A DANCING DOLL¹
TỰ TRUYỆN CỦA MỘT CON BÚP BÊ BIẾT NHẢY MÚA

My name is Rosita. I am a Spanish dancing doll made in Spain. I am dressed in a red **frilled**² dress and I wear a pair of red high-heeled dancing shoes. My hair is black, long and wavy.

My friends and I arrived in Singapore by aeroplane. When we reached our destination we were taken to a big shopping centre and displayed there with many other different dolls. The place was full of toys. I loved looking at the other toys and I enjoyed watching the children playing with them. Some of them would stop to admire me with wide open eyes, but I was too expensive to be bought.

One day a rich, grandly dressed lady came to the store. She looked around the place and her eyes fell on me. She looked at me in admiration. She at once bought me. I was given as a birthday present to her only daughter Pam.

I was very happy with my new mistress but the happy time did not last long. One day Pam's friends brought along their own dolls to play at her house. They envied me because I looked very attractive. Pam refused to let her friends handle me. When Pam was not attending to me, one of her friends picked me up. Pam was furious and tried to pull me away from her friend. In the **tussle**³ they accidentally **ripped**⁴ my pretty red dress. Pam cried and her mother **consoled**⁵ her by promising to buy her a new doll.

I was given away to the servant's daughter, who accepted me with great delight. She skillfully mended the tear in my dress. She treasured me and took very good care of me. I am indeed fortunate to have a mistress who loves me despite the fault in my dress.

1. doll /dɔːl/ (n) con búp bê
2. frilled /frɪld/ (adj) được trang trí bằng diềm xếp nếp
3. tussle /'tʌsl/ (n) cuộc ẩu đả, cuộc vật lộn
4. rip /rɪp/ (v) xé toạc hoặc rách thủng (cái gì)
5. console /kən'səʊl/ (v) dỗ dành, an ủi

156. AN AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF A STORY-BOOK
TỰ SỰ CỦA MỘT QUYỂN TRUYỆN

My name is 'Arabian Nights'. I am a colourful and attractive book. I was printed in New Zealand and was later shipped to Singapore. It was a long tiring journey.

As soon as I reached the Singapore harbour, I was taken to a bookshop. I was displayed on a shelf with other new books. There I met and **befriended**¹ a book entitled "Alice in Wonderland."

One day a few girls entered the shop. They laughed and joked among themselves. They were **browsing**² through the books and one of them picked me up. She was attracted to me and bought me immediately. I was taken to her house and placed on a bookshelf. She took good care of me. After reading me, she would place me carefully on the shelf.

One day, her mischievous cousin visited her. He entered her room without her permission and started tearing her books. Then to my horror, he took me from the shelf and **flipped**³ through my pages very roughly. Just then, my owner stormed into the room and **rescued**⁴ me. She **smoothed**⁵ out my pages and soon I was as good as new. Till today I am with her giving her delight through my stories. I love her very much.

1. befriend /brɪˈfrend/ (v) *đánh bạn, kết bạn*
2. browse /braʊz/ (v) *đọc lướt qua, xem lướt qua*
3. flip /flɪp/ (v) *lật nhanh, giở nhanh*
4. rescue /ˈreskjʊ:/ (v) *giải cứu*
5. smooth /smu:ð/ (v) *vuốt phẳng, làm nhẵn*

157. IMAGINE YOUR LIFE AT THE AGE OF 70
HÃY TƯỞNG TƯỢNG CUỘC SỐNG CỦA BẠN Ở ĐỘ TUỔI 70

I am young for my seventy years though people think I am old. They are **misled**¹ by my white hair and the abundant **wrinkles**² on my face. I have been like that for many years. I sometimes think I was born with an old face and a young heart.

People say the need sleep lessens with the increase in years. I have always been an early riser. I am up and about before everyone else in the house and I hope I am not a source of nuisance to the others. In fact, we are by ourselves, my husband and I ; others, our children and grandchildren, are occasional visitors. It suits us for though we are often lonely, we value our independence. Imaging our going to live with any one of them ! I would hate to be treated as an **appendage**.³ I value my independence.

We are up early ; but I still like to read in bed. My husband is a religious man ; he would rather say his prayers. I like to read with my spectacles and **linger**⁴ over the morning tea. Then I am up with all my aches and pains and the whole process of housekeeping starts. I can't really attend to many chores ; but I can give orders, instruct and check and this I do in plenty. After bathing and washing and prayers, we find ourselves sitting down to breakfast. It is still very early. If you look at the clock, it's just seven thirty ; but we have already been up for some hours.

I have a quiet morning except for an occasional visitor from the neighbourhood. I am fond of listening to music ; **at times**⁵ I get nostalgic and try to arrange my treasures. Old people are as proud of their possessions as children of their collections. I also write my letters at this time of the day. I don't like to rush. We have help in the kitchen, and, therefore, I don't have to worry unduly about that.

My husband still attends to some business. He is an estate agent and goes to his office for a few hours. He comes home for early lunch and a siesta after lunch. Then begins our busy time. Our children, grown-up men and women, and our grandchildren and young teenagers know that if they have the time we would welcome them during this part of the day. Sometimes it's a meeting ground for them ; sometimes only one or two **turn up**⁶. One is a writer and his time is his own. Another is a teacher. She is free in the evenings. Another is a doctor, with the afternoon free. Yet another is a contractor ; so he can always come. We are never alone at teatime. There are noises and activities in the house and shouts of laughter and quarrels and loud arguments. Sometimes some child has come from another town. Then the others come to meet him or her. At times the young people disagree so violently that they shun each other for months and take care never to run into each other. We have then to **mediate**⁷ and advise them. Such periods are rather tense.

By six the **exodus**⁸ begins. They go away to attend to their tasks and I sit down to view the television. My husband meets a friend or two, some workmen, perhaps, and goes for an evening walk which is often combined with the daily marketing. We spend a little time in the garden and then have dinner. It is then time to sleep. Thus loneliness and gaiety alternate with each other in our lives ; but we are together and we are happy. We have the best of both worlds.

1. mislead /mɪs'li:d/ (v) (misled) làm cho ai có ý niệm hoặc ấn tượng sai về ai / cái gì
2. wrinkle /'rɪŋkl/ (n) vết nhăn, nếp nhăn
3. appendage /ə'pendɪdʒ/ (n) người phụ thuộc
4. linger /'lɪŋgə(r)/ (v) nấn ná, chần chừ
5. at times /ət taɪmz/ (idm) đôi khi, thỉnh thoảng
6. turn up /'tɜ:nʌp/ (v) ra mắt, đến
7. mediate /'mi:diət/ (v) làm trung gian hòa giải
8. exodus /'eksədəs/ (n) cuộc ra đi của nhiều người vào một lúc

158. IMAGINE THE LIFE MEN ARE LEADING IN YEAR 2000
HÃY TƯỞNG TƯỢNG CUỘC SỐNG CỦA CON NGƯỜI VÀO NĂM 2000

Modern science has made most things possible and among them is the exploration of other planets. Imaging the world twenty years hence. It is like a journey to another planet. Let me take you along with me to the year 2000, to a world of perfection and comfort.

Life has fallen into a **pattern**.¹ We are no longer human beings, but robots living for years and years. Many of us have false **limbs**² and still others have transplants of all kinds, eye, brain, heart, kidney. We are not individuals but reflections. There are those who can trace their family history but there are also others who owe their existence to test tubes and similar methods of science. Parents and sisters and brothers are there but marriage is not all that sacred. We have very few **inhibitions**³ and believe in both freedom of thought and action.

Dear visitor, why do you continue to stand outside, won't you come and be my guest ? Come inside. I'll get you a cup of tea and we'll watch television. There are **live**⁴ telecasts and I can take you wherever you want without even stirring out. Don't be scared if the chair moves when you sit down. The chair is meant to **adjust**⁵ itself to the **contours**⁶ of your body. The cushion is not of **foam**⁷ or some other material ; it is filled with water so that your back is comfortable. Do you see the walls ? They are made of balloon rubber. I can wrap my house and be on the move whenever I like. Do sit down. Let me press this button. Here is the tea for us. It is a **synthetic product**.⁸ I hope you'll like it.

We hardly ever do any reading or writing. All of us use dictaphones or tapes. We just send them across if we feel the need. We use telephones and planes. You'll find very few trains though cars are common. But we no longer use gasoline. They can be propelled on other kinds of energy. Water, air, alcohol and chemicals are some sources of energy. During summer we also use solar energy.

Do my clothes strike you as something different ? Well they are made of synthetic paper. I wear them, sleep in them, and, when I am tired of the colour and design, I simply throw them into the electric fire - no washing, no ironing, no wardrobes. I go out and buy a fresh suit and that's all.

Music is still very popular. We all like a lot of noise and it keeps us happy. It is difficult to concentrate on anything while this **din**⁹ is going on. But it suits us for we don't have to think. The machines do our thinking and decision-making for us and computers are our teachers.

Shall I pull the curtain ? The evening sky is beautiful. I have many plants in the garden and brightly coloured flowers. I am fond of them. They are a constant reminder of the beauty of the natural world. They still need the sun and the rain. They still have their personalities while we are nonpersons. Don't **contradict**¹⁰ me for I am a man with a memory.

1. pattern /'pætn/ *mẫu, mẫu hình*

2. limb /lɪm/ (n) *chân, tay (hoặc cánh)*
3. inhibition /ɪnhɪ'bɪʃn/ (n) *sự ức chế*
4. live /laɪv/ (adj) (về buổi phát thanh, thu hình, v.v...) *trực tiếp, tại chỗ*
5. adjust /ə'dʒʌst/ (v) *chỉnh, điều chỉnh*
6. contour /'kɒntʊə(r)/ (n) *đường nét (của người, vật)*
7. foam /fəʊm/ (n) *cao su hay nhựa ở dạng xốp được dùng để nhồi ghế, đệm, v.v...*
8. synthetic product /sɪn,θetɪk 'prɒdʌkt/ (n) *sản phẩm (được làm từ chất liệu) tổng hợp*
9. din /dɪn/ (n) *tiếng ồn ĩ kéo dài*
10. contradict /kɒntrə'dɪkt/ (v) *phủ nhận, cãi lại*

159. THE LIFE OF MINE IN YEAR 2000
CUỘC SỐNG CỦA TÔI VÀO NĂM 2000

It was Monday morning in the year 2000. My little solar radio-cum¹-clock by the window burst into music as the seven o'clock sun struck it. I was roused from sleep. I got out of bed and pressed the button at the side of my bed to let the air out of my air mattress. I then pressed another button below it to allow the bed to fold up along the wall so that it looked like a wall cabinet.

I then stepped into the bathroom **adjoining**² my bedroom and showered in water heated by automatic water-heater, brushing my teeth with an electric toothbrush after that. I dried myself with the automatic body drier, so much more hygienic than towels.

Stepping out of the bathroom, I went back to the bed, the underside of which could be opened like a cupboard door and had a mirror on the inner side. There was a little compact shelf beneath the mirror where I kept my comb, cosmetics, watch and contact lens case. I put on my clothes which I hung in a real cabinet next to my bed and made myself presentable.

I went into the kitchen for breakfast, which was always **cornflakes**,³ with milk freshly flown in from Australia two hours earlier by SuperDuper jet and delivered by the milkman. There was always my daily morning dose of Vitamin C tablets too.

After breakfast, I went out of our **bungalow**⁴ which has a solar celled roof, and into the garage where our electric cars were kept. These were about the size of a child's bicycle and my parents and I had one each. We also had a Porsche 149 which we kept only for family outings. I guided the electric car through the early morning light traffic to the Mass Rapid Transit station at Ang Mo Kio. It was a five minute journey, usually by electric car. I left the car at the station and switched on the "Home" button. The car had been pre-programmed to return to my home everytime I alighted at the Mass Rapid Transit station. All the electric cars of this make had such a **device**.⁵ I quickly went to the platform where the train would take me to my school in Katong. The train arrived in fifteen seconds and five minutes later I was alighting at the Mass Rapid Transit train-stop almost right below my school. I took the stairs up to ground level and walked to my school gate which was always shut except from seven-thirty to eight o'clock in the morning. This morning I was late and the gate was shut. I placed my palm on an electronic **screen**⁶ next to the gate and the electronic gate opened to admit me. The screen was for identification purposes and the gate opened only to pupils and staff which it identifies by means of the screen.

I took the lift up, with four other pupils, to my classroom on the fifth floor. There were other pupils who preferred to take the escalators. When we were all assembled in our respective classrooms at eight o'clock, we recited the National pledge over the public-address system and then my teacher began the first lesson for the day, Literature. She had a Shakespearean play for us to watch so she **slotted**⁷ a taping of it into the computer at the side of her table, which then **projected**⁸ the film on a screen at the front of the classroom. At the end of the period, she took the film-tape out and said she would show us the rest in the next lesson. The next lesson was English Language. Our teacher typed out the grammar exercises on the computer and these were transferred and projected on the same screen. All of us then did our exercises.

Before we knew it, it was ten o'clock and time for a break, the onset of which was signalled by the strains of classical, or pop music sometimes, over the public-address system. This music lasts throughout the half-an-hour break. We had a meal of **burgers**⁹- and milk-shake at the self-service cafeteria, laughing and joking about everything under the sun. Then it was back to lessons and the books and screen.

At one o'clock, lessons ended and all of us streamed out of the electronic gate which is programmed to stay open until one-thirty. After that, anyone who had stayed behind had to use the screen again for identification in order to gain exit. My friend Sheila and I decided to return to my home to bake some cookies in my mother's micro-wave oven. I pressed a button on my electronic watch to relay a signal to my mother at home, through her watch. The signal was for my mother to set in motion my preprogrammed electric car to arrive at the Mass Rapid Transit station at Ang Mo Kio where I needed it for my return home. Sheila and I reached Ang Mo Kio base and soon got into the car. It was a tight squeeze inside but rather fun, and we laughed all the way home. After baking the cookies and eating them, Sheila left at about four o'clock, taking my car with her to the station, which she then sent back by pressing the "Home" button.

After that, I did my homework until about seven o'clock, when the whole family had dinner, which consisted of soya flour and sea-weed meat, fresh vegetables, which were again in our green-house under perfect, electrically stimulated, conditions, and orange juice. After that we watched television, which is a computer with a large screen, like the one in school.

I prepared myself for bed at ten o'clock. I pressed the button at the side of the bed to lower it to the floor, and then the other button above it to **inflate**¹⁰ my air mattress. I got into bed and promptly fell asleep after a busy day.

1. cum /kʌm/ (prep) (được dùng để nói 2 danh từ) cũng dùng như, cũng như, kèm
2. adjoining /ə'dʒɔɪn/ (v) ở rất gần, tiếp giáp
3. cornflakes /'kɔːnfleɪks/ (n) bánh bột ngô nướng
4. bungalow /'bʌŋɡələʊ/ (n) nhà nhỏ một tầng
5. device /dɪ'vaɪs/ (n) thiết bị
6. screen /skriːn/ (n) màn hình
6. slot (int) /slɒt/ (v) (làm cho cái gì) chuyển động vào trong một đường rãnh, khe, v.v... - lấp vào
8. project /prə'dʒekt/ (v) chiếu (phim, v.v...) lên màn ảnh bằng máy chiếu phim
9. burger /'bɜːɡə(r)/ (n) (cũng hamburger) thịt bò băm viên bọc, thường rán và ăn với hành, nhiều khi kẹp trong một ổ bánh mì
10. inflate /ɪn'fleɪt/ (v) bơm phồng

160. WHAT WILL HAPPEN IN THE CENTURY OF TWENTY ONE ?

ĐIỀU GÌ SẼ XẢY RA VÀO THẾ KỶ XXI?

Life in the Twenty-first Century ! What a glorious idea to think about ! But it is not so easy to imagine. What it would be like for the agents of change are too many and the forces are yet to form. But from what has happened and from what is happening, one may venture to do a bit of speculation.

To understand the coming century let us see what has happened in this century in the course of the past ninety years. Many great things which we take for granted have come into being in the course of the past nine decades. The beginning of the century saw the birth of the aeroplane which was once a dream. Now there are actually flying **fortresses**¹ carrying hundreds of passengers and cruising at a tremendous speed. Man crossing the sound barrier and planes doing it at **supersonic**² speed are there on the scene.

There came a great revolution in clothing material. Now the synthetics are good competitors trying to push back the nature's fibres like cotton, wool and silk. The **fluorescent**³ tube is a combination in lighting and we don't know what improvement will be **ushered**⁴ in days to come. The birth of the penicillin was a major break through in the field of medicine and has completely **revolutionized**⁵ the treatment of diseases.

The most spectacular thing that happened during the Second World War was the splitting of the atom and the invention of atom bomb. This has been followed by fusion of hydrogen atoms. Getting the required energy through **nuclear reactors**⁶ is an achievement. The greatest achievement if we can say so is the development of space flight and man's landing on the moon. Space laboratories have become possible where man can work away from the dim and noise of earth bound cities.

Since the emergence of what is called the third world forces, family planning and the pill have become important subjects. Cancer continues to defy the medical man. We are having the colour television, colour photographs, robots and computers, only to mention a few.

In the century to come, life will become very automatic. Many things would be done by computerized control. Man will be eating more of prepared and even **predigested**⁷ food. He may wear disposable clothes thus avoiding the laundry cost and the time required for washing. Man's movements may be limited because he can do thing from his desk. Computers may work miracles and with their help man will have less need to use his brains. As a result there may be more experts than ordinary people. Man's ability to think, imagine and create and enjoy would have become much less in importance. The roots of family life would have been cut as man may not be a home making animal. Children if any will be looked after by the welfare state. The atmosphere will be so polluted that man will have to wear masks often and regularly. Energy will be an acute problem since oil resources and to some extent the coal resources would have run out. Man may be using more of the sun's energy which is a limitless source. Space travel would become common as did air travel in this century. Recycling of waste products will be an established fact. With the sources of raw materials having **dismantled**,⁸ the need for recycling will come to the fore.

If history is any indication dictatorial **regimes**⁹ will become a rule rather than an exception. The attempts so far for a world government have not been very successful ; whether the coming century will have achieved it is a question mark. World trade may be streamlined so as to avoid duplication. This will have an answer for **hard nut problems**.¹⁰

There are hundreds of things which we can't foresee at this distance of time. If there is a Rip Van Winkle now and if he were to awake in the course of the next century he would see mighty changes beyond his recognition.

1. fortress /'fɔ:trɪs/ (n) thành trì, pháo đài
2. supersonic /su:pə'sɒnɪk/ (adj) siêu âm, nhanh hơn tiếng động
3. fluorescent /flɔ:'resnt/ (adj) thuộc, có tính huỳnh quang
4. usher (in) /'ʌʃə(r)/ (v) mở ra, báo hiệu, đánh dấu sự khởi đầu của cái gì
5. revolutionize /revə'lju:ʃənaɪz/ (v) cách mạng hóa
6. nuclear reactor /'nju:klə rɪ'æktə(r)/ (n) lò phản ứng hạt nhân
7. predigested /pri:'daɪ'dʒestɪd/ (adj) (về thức ăn) được nấu nướng sao cho dễ tiêu hóa
8. dismantle /dɪs'mæntl/ (v) triệt phá, tháo dỡ
9. regime /'reʒi:m/ (n) chế độ
10. hard nut problem /hɑ:d nʌt 'prɒbləm/ (n) vấn đề khó giải quyết

VĂN TRÌNH BÀY

Văn trình bày là một thể loại khá thông dụng và phổ biến trong các thể loại dành cho bậc trung cấp. Bài luận văn thuộc thể loại trình bày sẽ cung cấp cho người đọc những thông tin thực tế về một vấn đề nào đó, đồng thời người viết cũng sẽ nêu ra những ý kiến của cá nhân kèm theo lời giải thích. Khi viết một bài luận theo thể loại này, bạn sẽ phải tự mình quan sát và nghiên cứu đề tài đã cho một cách thật chi tiết, sau đó ghi chú hoặc lập một dàn bài đại cương có chứa các thông tin mà bạn muốn cung cấp cho người đọc. Các kỹ năng hữu hiệu nhất nên áp dụng cho văn trình bày là định nghĩa, giải thích, phân loại hoặc so sánh. Đề tài dành cho thể loại này rất đa dạng, đòi hỏi bạn phải có một vốn kiến thức phong phú về mọi lĩnh vực của cuộc sống. Đó có thể là trình bày về các khía cạnh trong đời sống của cá nhân bạn: "My ambition", "My favourite subject", "What I like and dislike most", "The way I spend the first few days after examination", "What I hope to achieve in adult life", v.v... Đó còn có thể là các vấn đề xã hội đang được quan tâm đến: "What difficulties are you facing in choosing a career?" "What, in your opinion, are the possible causes of child abuse?" Hoặc những vấn đề có tính tất yếu: "The importance of water", "The value of library" "The use of forest", "Modes of traveling", v.v... Và đó cũng có thể là những chỉ dẫn hoặc lời khuyên về cách thức làm một điều gì đó (có thể dựa vào sự hiểu biết của bản thân nhưng phải hòa hợp với kiến thức và quan điểm chung đã được thừa nhận): "How to be successful in life", "How to be healthy", "How to prepare a good meal", v.v...

161. MY AMBITION¹ HOÀI BẢO CỦA TÔI

My ambition is to become a successful scientist. I have always enjoyed attending science lessons in school. I believe it would be life's greatest joy to **establish**² my career in the scientific **field**.³

Becoming a successful scientist involves a lot of hard work and **dedication**.⁴ I admire great scientists like Einstein and Newton who braved a lot of **setbacks**⁵ to become successful. I am very **inquisitive**⁶ by nature. I do not stop asking questions till I thoroughly understand the answers. In class, I always make sure that I perform each science experiment properly. When in doubt, I **consult**⁷ my teachers.

As a scientist, I would be able to invent new things for mankind. We would then be able to lead a more comfortable life. Perhaps I can invent cars that are operated by robots or a computer that thinks like a human. My parents think highly of my ambition and are very **supportive**.⁸ They always buy me books on science and take me to science exhibitions.

In order to fulfil my ambition, not only must I work hard for it, I must also understand that "**Failure**"⁹ is the mother of success".

1. ambition /æm'biʃn/ (n) *nguyện vọng, hoài bão*
2. establish /ɪ'stæblɪʃ/ (v) *định, xây dựng*
3. field /fi:ld/ (n) *lĩnh vực*
4. dedication /dedɪ'keɪʃn/ (n) *sự tận tụy (với một sự nghiệp hoặc mục đích)*
5. setback /'setbæk/ (n) *trở lực*
6. inquisitive /ɪn'kwɪzətɪv/ (adj) *tò mò, muốn biết*
7. consult /kən'sʌlt/ (v) *hỏi ý kiến, tra cứu, tham khảo*
8. supportive /sə'pɔ:tɪv/ (adj) *đem lại sự giúp đỡ, khuyến khích hoặc thông cảm*
9. failure /'feɪljə(r)/ (n) *sự thất bại*

162. MY IDEA OF A HAPPY LIFE
QUAN ĐIỂM CỦA TÔI VỀ MỘT CUỘC SỐNG HẠNH PHÚC

Happiness is only a state of mind and it is often **associated**¹ with material prosperity. The poor think that happiness is the **monopoly**² of the rich, but the rich are not always happy. They have their problems and difficulties. If a poor man comes by a little wealth, he **craves**³ for more. Men always **pine**⁴ for what is not. A millionaire will not consider his wealth to be sufficient. In fact there is no end to man's **hankering**⁵ after more of worldly goods. Happiness does not go hand in hand with prosperity.

Material prosperity, however, is generally believed to lead to happiness in the world of today. He who is regarded as happy has no wants left unsatisfied, who has a score of servants to attend to his needs and whose wishes are fulfilled at once at his very bidding.

It is true that poverty and happiness go ill together. But there is no doubt that under certain conditions even the poorest man can make himself happy.

1. associate (with) /ə'səʊʃieɪt/ (v) *kết hợp, liên tưởng đến*
2. monopoly /mə'nɒpəlɪ/ (n) *sự độc quyền*
3. crave (for) /kreɪv/ (v) *ao ước mãnh liệt, thèm khát*
4. pine (for) /paɪn/ (v) *mong ngóng (ai / cái gì)*
5. hankering /'hæŋkərɪŋ/ (n) *lòng ham muốn mạnh mẽ*

163. WHAT I WILL DO WITH MY FIRST SALARY
NHỮNG GÌ TÔI SẼ LÀM KHI NHẬN ĐƯỢC THÁNG LƯƠNG ĐẦU TIÊN

I am so grateful to God that I have secured a good **decent**¹ job. I have now completed one month of service. Now I am holding my first paycheck in my hands, feeling a sense of pride in myself. In an hour's time I shall be home to give the salary to my mother and father. Taking some for my daily **expenses**² I shall give the rest to my parents. For what they have done for me all these years, it is my turn to repay them.

I will go to my uncle, sister and other friends' house and give them a treat. My father has promised to throw a small but grand party to my friends. My father has promised to throw a small but grand party to my friends. This coming Sunday happens to be my birthday. Thus I would treat my friends in a grand manner.

I shall buy a fishing line for myself as my favourite hobby is fishing. I shall go fishing with my friends in Changi. As I have so many things to buy I shall buy one item with each month's salary. I have to save some money for my future studies as I intend to do a management course at the college in the evenings so that I will **get promoted**.³

1. decent /'di:snt/ (*adj*) *khá, khỏe đáng, đáng hài lòng, tươm tất*
2. expense /ɪk'spens/ (*n*) *việc chi tiêu, phí tổn*
3. get promoted /get prə'məʊtɪd/ *được đề bạt, được thăng chức*

164. FRUITS I LIKE TO EAT

NHỮNG LOẠI TRÁI CÂY MÀ TÔI THÍCH ĂN

I like to eat fruits. They are sweet, juicy and rich in vitamin C. I believe in the saying, "An apple a day keeps the doctor away". Therefore, I always have a slice of fruit after every meal.

I love to eat honey-dew **melon**.¹ As the name suggests, the fruit tastes honey sweet. It comes in two types ; the green melon and the orange melon. Both taste just as good but usually only the former is used or making dessert. I can't help but long for a bowl of icy cold honey-dew sago on a hot day.

I also like eating **papaya**.² My mother says it helps digestion because it is a natural mild **laxative**.³ I love to drink papaya milk too ! It is easy to prepare and it tastes so good when it is chilled. Each time my uncle visits us, he will bring us lots of papayas and other fruits from his orchard.

Mango⁴ is also one of my favourite fruit. It has a very sweet smell. Mangoes can be made into very tasty mango puddings or cakes. However, too much mango can cause **constipation**.⁵

These fruits that I like can be bought from fruit stalls in wet - markets or at the supermarkets. Luckily, they do not cost as much as fruits like **durians**⁶ or **strawberries**.⁷

1. melon /'melən/ (n) quả dưa

2. papaya /pə'paɪə/ (n) (cũng papaw hoặc pawpaw) quả đu đủ

3. laxative /'læksətɪv/ (n) thuốc nhuận tràng

4. mango /'mæŋgəʊ/ (n) quả xoài

5. constipation /kɒnstɪ'peɪʃn/ (n) chứng táo bón

6. durian /'dʒʊəriən/ (n) quả sầu riêng

7. strawberry /'strɔːberi/ (n) quả dâu tây

165. THINGS I LIKE TO DO
NHỮNG VIỆC TÔI THÍCH LÀM

I have many interests. The activities I spend most of my leisure on, however, are reading, **jogging**¹ and painting.

I enjoy reading very much. I read widely, ranging from fairytales to nonfiction books on outer space and nature. Reading helps to widen my general knowledge and improve my writing skill. Therefore, my parents think well of my hobby and often buy me books that I cannot find in the library.

When my eyes get tired from reading too much, I would go for a slow jog with my dog in the park near my house. Jogging regularly makes one healthier. I have also made a few friends among the regular joggers in the park.

Sometimes, instead of jogging, I would **stroll**² in the park, carrying with me my painting equipment. I love to capture beautiful things on paper. I have taken art lessons since I was nine and I am especially good in water-colour painting. Besides painting pictures of the park, I also like to draw portraits of my family members.

All my interests are fun and useful pastimes. I believe that everyone should spend their time on some useful hobby rather than **laze**³ precious time away.

1. jog /dʒɒɡ/ (v) chạy bộ (như một hình thức thể dục)

2. stroll /strɔːl/ (v) đi dạo, tản bộ

3. laze sth away /leɪz/ (v) ăn không ngồi rồi phí thời gian

**166. THINGS I WOULD LIKE TO DO BUT AM UNABLE TO OR DO NOT HAVE
TIME FOR
NHỮNG GÌ TÔI MONG LÀM ĐƯỢC NHƯNG KHÔNG CÓ KHẢ NĂNG HOẶC
THỜI GIAN ĐỂ LÀM**

First of all, I would like to be able to drive the car. Unfortunately I am not able to because I am underaged. I have to wait until I am seventeen years old before I can apply for a licence. So I have to be patient and wait until I am **eligible**.¹

Another thing I would like to do is to participate in the 100 m finals in the Olympics, and win it. This is just a wild dream for my physique does not allow me even to win a 100 m race in my school. So the Olympics is an impossibility.

One thing that I can do but have no time for, just yet, is to **hitch-hike**² around the country. Right now I am so busy studying for my examinations that I hardly have time for anything else. Perhaps when I leave school in a year or so, I will get on the road and see things a bit. They say that travel is a good way to learn things. I do not know that for sure, so I am going to find out, that is, if my mother allows me to do so in the first place.

Talking of travel makes me dream of travelling around the world visiting interesting places, meeting people and thoroughly enjoying myself. However I can see that, for the time being, it is impossible for me to do such a thing simply because I do not have the means. World-travel costs money, lots of it. Right now I do not even have enough for a bus ticket to Penang. So travelling around the world is **out of the question**.³ Even if someone were to pay my way, I would not be able to go because I have to finish school first, or **incur**⁴ my mother's **wrath**.⁵

Finally I would like to be able to eat everything I fancy and not put on weight. I am one of those less fortunate ones who can put on weight just by thinking about food. I am not exaggerating of course. The point is that it is easy for me to put on weight and I have to watch my diet. I cannot simply eat or I will suffer.

I suppose each person has his or her limitations as to what he or she can do or have time for. No **pygmy**⁶ is going to be a high jump champion just as no seven-footer is going to be a **limbo**⁷ dancing champion. No busy businessman is going to have time to relax and no lazybones is going to be a multi-millionaire. We do what we can or have time for. We leave the rest alone.

1. eligible /'elɪdʒəbl/ (*adj*) có quyền hoặc có đủ tư cách
2. hitch-hike /'hɪtʃ haɪk/ (*v*) đi nhờ xe người khác không mất tiền
3. out of the question /'kwɛstʃən/ (*idm*) không thể bàn đến, không thể được
4. incur /ɪn'kʊ:(r)/ (*v*) gánh chịu
5. wrath /ræθ/ (*n*) sự phẫn nộ
6. pygmy /'pɪgmɪ/ (*n*) người lùn
7. limbo /'lɪmbəʊ/ (*n*) điệu vũ của người Tây Ấn trong đó người múa uốn người và đi qua một thanh ngang hạ thấp dần

167. MY FAVOURITE SUBJECT *MÔN HỌC ƯA THÍCH CỦA TÔI*

As a secondary student, I had to study many subjects but my friends used to advise me to concentrate more and more on Science and Mathematics. But somehow or other, English has become my favourite subject and I use to tell everyone that in University, I shall take English Literature for my first degree. My friends, relatives and even my parents were advising me that there is nothing new to learn in the English Language and I was wasting my time on English. Whatever the advice may be - English is still my favourite subject.

Reading as a hobby itself is a great pleasure. English has a wealth of literature **unsurpassed**¹ by any other language. Studying it **enables**² me to enjoy the language. Studying more about Shakespeare, Shaw, Keat and Hardy gives me an insight into human nature. I have come to realise how a man would react to a given set of circumstances or actions. The more I read, the more I learn in between the lines.

My love for the subject has inspired me so much that I may one day write my own play. As a scholar rightly pointed out that reading **enobles**³ man, makes one more tolerant to the follies of others and **bridges the gap**⁴ between countries and cultures, I hope that it will do so for me too.

1. unsurpassed /ʌnsə'pɑ:st/ (*adj*) *chưa (ai / cái gì) vượt qua được*

2. enable /ɪ'neɪbl/ (*v*) *cho phép, giúp cho, làm cho có thể*

3. enoble /ɪ'nəʊbl/ (*v*) *làm (ai) trở nên cao quý*

4. bridge the gap /'brɪdʒ ðə ɡæp/ (*idm*) *lấp chỗ trống, giảm khoảng cách*

168. MY MOST FAVOURITE SUBJECT *MÔN HỌC TÔI YÊU THÍCH NHẤT*

My most favourite subject is English which is today one of the most important languages in the world. It is spoken and understood in all parts of the earth.

English has become an international language for a variety of reasons. One of the most important of those is that the English people have been well-known for their knowledge of science, medicine, engineering, government and all other matters that are useful for the progress of the human race. It is because of the scientists of England that the motor-engine has become the most important machine in the world today.

In the same way, English scholars have studied the past and discovered many things of great value to the peoples of the world. Some of the things which were useful to men in the early days were later forgotten by others. Such things are now again being used, owing to the work of English scholars.

The **insatiable**¹ thirst for knowledge of the English scholars has contributed to the progress of man in almost all fields of his activity. Thousands of books have been written by such scholars on almost every subject that one can think of. Thus, people whose **native tongue**² is not English have learnt English with great interest as a means of acquiring knowledge of all human affairs.

As a result of this interest English is used almost everywhere in the world. It is used in all the important meetings and conferences and debates, such as in the United Nations. It is also used in all the leading Universities in the world and in international trade and commerce. As it is used so widely, English has indeed become a very rich language. People of all the countries of the world have contributed new ideas and thoughts to this language. Thus, more and more new words are being **coined**³ to make this language more and more useful for the communication of ideas and information among the peoples of the world.

It is for all these reasons that I like to study the English language.

1. insatiable /ɪn'seɪʃəbl/ (*adj*) không thể nào thỏa mãn được, rất tham lam
2. native tongue /'neɪtɪv tʌŋ/ (*n*) tiếng mẹ đẻ
3. coin /kɔɪn/ (*v*) đặt ra, tạo ra (một từ hoặc một cụm từ mới)

169. WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE SUBJECT, AND WHY ?
MÔN HỌC YÊU THÍCH CỦA BẠN LÀ GÌ? CHO BIẾT LÝ DO TẠI SAO LẠI THÍCH
MÔN ĐÓ

My favourite subject is Art.

It is my favourite subject simply because I love to draw. Ever since I was a **toddler**¹ I remember picking up crayons and coloured pencils to **scribble**² on books, pieces of paper and walls. Of course there were instances where I had to be **spanked**³ for dirtying the living room walls and making a mess of my big sister's books. I have learned my lesson and I do not scribble wherever I please anymore.

There are only four periods of Art per week in school and I find that it is hardly sufficient. I notice that time virtually flies during an Art lesson. Eighty minutes feel more like eight minutes when I am drawing something. One moment I am taking out my Art materials, the next the teacher is asking us to hand in our work.

I do not really understand why I love to draw. The fact remains so. So much so every chance I have in between periods I find myself **doodling**⁴ or **sketching**⁵ something. My classmates says that I draw very well and I am inclined to agree with them, without **bragging**⁶ about it. Perhaps it is because I spend so much time practising my skills.

I particularly love drawing cartoons. This is one area where my creativity gets regular workouts. I sometimes draw things that amaze even myself, not less my classmates. One could say that I have a **fertile**⁷ imagination. Sometimes though the imagination borders on the absurd and I have to be careful not to get carried away. I have caricatures of all the teachers I know. Some of them are flattering but some cannot be shown to the persons concerned for they will certainly get upset. They are for my classmates and me to see only.

I also love to draw still life in colour. Colouring is really an art and I have developed considerable skills in it, much to the disbelief of my classmates. Again, as I have had so much practice in colouring, I have a distinct advantage over the rest of the class. Often I show them the finer points in drawing and colouring. I am certain some of them have improved tremendously in their drawing and colouring. In fact most of my classmates are above average in Art. Anyway that is what our Art teacher says.

Finally I have to say that I find that I always feel good when I am drawing something. Perhaps that is why I love Art. It is because of the good feeling that arises everytime I begin to draw. I see drawing as a natural avenue for self-expression so the feeling must be good. There is nothing to remember or work out in Art as in the other subjects. All one has to do is to follow one's feeling and the result is always pleasing.

So I continue to draw. Wouldn't you do the same if you love it ?

1. toddler /'tɒdlə(r)/ (n) *đứa trẻ chỉ mới biết đi*
2. scribble /'skrɪbl/ (v) *vẽ nguệch ngoạc (lên cái gì)*
3. spank /spæŋk/ (v) *phát vào mông (nhất là trẻ con) để phạt*
4. doodle /'du:dl/ (v) *vẽ những hình vô nghĩa, nguệch ngoạc, v.v... trong khi đang suy nghĩ về một cái gì khác*
5. sketch /sketʃ/ (v) *vẽ phác, phác họa*
6. brag /bræg/ (v) *khoe khoang, khoe lác*
7. fertile /'fɜ:taɪl/ (adj) *(về trí óc một người) phong phú*

170. READING IS FUN
ĐỌC SÁCH LÀ MỘT NGUỒN VUI

Since young, my parents have always brought me to the library to borrow books. At first, I thought reading was boring. However, I soon learnt to love reading.

The first books I read were fairytales. I still remember those delightful tales like "Beauty And The Beast" and "The Ugly **Duckling**"¹. One thing I like about fairy-tales is that the kind-hearted always get rewarded in the end.

Now, I prefer books on adventures like Enid Blyton's "Famous Five" series and mysteries like "The Three Investigators" series. Once a fortnight, I will visit the library to get some books to read. I always find it difficult to **put down**² a book once I start reading it.

Reading has improved my command of English. I also gain a lot of general knowledge, especially from reading non-fiction books. I like reading books on subject that I am interested in, like dogs, horses and outer space.

Reading also provides a world where we can experience things which we may never in real life. For example, I may not have the chance to travel in a **caravan**.³ However, reading Enid Blyton's "Five Go Off In A Caravan" tells me what it is like to stay in a caravan. Therefore, I think reading is both fun and beneficial.

1. duckling /'dʌklɪŋ/ (n) vịt con

2. put down /,pʊt daʊn/ (v) bỏ (cái gì) xuống, buông ra

3. caravan /kærəvæn/ (n) xe lớn có bánh, được trang bị để ở và thường do một xe có động cơ kéo

171. MY FAVOURITE AUTHOR TÁC GIẢ ƯA THÍCH NHẤT CỦA TÔI

My favourite author is William Shakespeare, a man who has written enough for **immortality**.¹

Though a few hundred years have elapsed since the death of Shakespeare and volumes have been written on the life and work of this great writer, his early life still remains a subject for speculation and **conjecture**.² It is generally believed that Shakespeare had very little schooling. Yet his keen intellect and mastery of language have earned for him the appreciation and applause of the literary world.

Shakespeare's fame, I think, originates from his ability to identify his readers with the characters in his stories. In most of his stories we find **reflections**³ of our own experiences. This shows strikingly that Shakespeare had an insight into human nature and the problems of life. His tragedies, such as "Macbeth" and "Hamlet", clearly show his deep knowledge of the human mind. Man's ambitions, desperation, sorrows, frustrations and hopes are dealt with in these tragedies with such skill that the reader himself experiences all the mental conflicts and emotions, and thus gets a better idea about human nature. With equal skill, Shakespeare deals with man's joys and pleasures in all his comedies. His comedies like "Twelfth Night" and "As You Like It", are a delight to read. Through the characters in his stories Shakespeare conveys his views on life and the world. Most of his characters, such as Hamlet, are vehicles for moral instruction. Man's nature is the **theme**⁴ of all his writings. By a skilful combination of words and situations, he **reveals**⁵ the worst as well as the best in man. His choice of words is masterly and many of his phrases are literary gems. As man's nature is his theme, what he wrote years ago remains true even today, and it will remain so till the end of time. It is for all these reasons that I enjoy reading Shakespeare.

However, I do enjoy reading the works of other writers too, such as those of Charles Dickens and Jane Austen. But they do not give the satisfaction that Shakespeare gives. I find Shakespeare's stories so interesting that I have read the same stories several times in last few years ; and, everytime I read the same story, I learn something new about human nature. Shakespeare was indeed a genius.

1. immortality /ɪmɔ:'tæləti/ (n) sự bất tử

2. conjecture /kən'dʒektʃə(r)/ (n) sự phỏng đoán

3. reflection /rɪ'flekʃn/ (n) vật phản ánh bản chất của con người, nhiệm vụ, v.v...

4. theme /θi:m/ (n) đề tài

5. reveal /rɪ'vi:l/ (v) bộc lộ, hé lộ

172. HOBBIES

SỞ THÍCH

The word "hobby" is derived from "hobby horse," which is a stick fitted with a wooden horse's head, painted to look real. The child puts this between his legs, and **prances about**,¹ pretending to be riding a horse. From this word "hobby-horse" we get the word hobby, an amusement ; and we speak of a man's "riding" his hobby. Properly, a hobby is any interesting subject or **pursuit**², not our main business, which we take up for our amusement in our leisure hours. What is a business to one man may be a hobby to another. For example, a professional photographer may have gardening as his hobby ; and a paid gardener may make a hobby of photography.

There are very many kinds of hobbies. Many take the form of collecting in some forms. Collecting postage stamps is a common hobby in England, not only with flowers and **ferns**³ and press and **mount**⁴ their **specimens**.⁵ Others take an interest in geology, and find much amusement in collecting **fossils**.⁶ Such hobbies do not cost much, and are within the reach of all. But others, such as collecting pictures, old books, curiosities and **antiquities**⁷ are only for the rich.

Other hobbies take the form of games and sports. Many take up open-air games, like gold, tennis, cricket or football, or indoor games such as chess, draughts and cards, as their hobbies. While hunting, or fishing, or yachting are the favourite recreations of others.

Photography makes an interesting and instructive hobby ; and for those who have the **gift**,⁸ sketching and painting and wood-carving. The latter hobbies require special artistic gifts ; but almost anyone can learn carpentry and picture-framing.

Many people find great pleasure and interest in gardening : especially in cultivating some special flowers, like roses. And boys especially like keeping pets, such as rabbits and fowls.

Every one, young and old, should have a hobby of some sort for his leisure hours ; for it adds greatly to the pleasure of life. It is often an education in itself, and it fills our vacant hours with interest. It gives us, also, something to fall back on when our business days are over, in the leisure times at the end of life.

1. prance (about) /pra:ns/ (v) nhảy dựng lên
2. pursuit /pə'sju:t/ (n) nghề nghiệp, hoạt động
3. fern /fɜ:n/ (n) cây dương xỉ
4. mount /maʊnt/ (v) lắp, dán, đóng
5. specimen /'spesimən/ (n) mẫu, mẫu vật
6. fossil /'fɒsl/ (n) vật hóa thạch
7. antiquity /æn'tɪkwəti/ (n) cổ vật
8. gift /gɪft/ (n) khiếu, năng khiếu

173. MY HOBBIES SỞ THÍCH CỦA TÔI

I have a number of things I like to do in my free time. They are my hobbies. I am sure other people have their hobbies too.

The hobby I like most is playing my guitar. The guitar was given to me by my mother for my tenth birthday. My uncle, who is an accomplished guitarist taught me how to play it. Now I can play a few simple tunes. I have even begun to sing while playing the guitar but I have not been too successful at this. My uncle tells me that all I need is a lot of practice and I should be able to do it. He is very good **accompanying**¹ himself and I admire him very much.

Another hobby that I spend time on is keeping tropical fishes. I have a modest little glass **aquarium**² where I keep a variety of little fishes. Some of them were bought from the shop while some of them were caught from the streams near where I live. They look so beautiful swimming about in the aquarium and I love to just watch them. It is very relaxing to do so. Even my uncle loves watching them.

However they do die and it is not very pleasant to have to remove the dead ones. Also it is quite a **tedious**³ job cleaning the aquarium. I have to do this whenever it gets dirty which is about once in two months.

I keep stamps too. However I would not call myself an **avid**⁴ stamp collector. Actually I just take the stamps from discarded envelopes that my relatives and friends give me. Mostly I get local stamps. Once in a while I get stamps from places like Sweden, Australia, Saudi Arabia and others. I keep the less common ones inside a small album. The common ones I usually give away to others or if no one wants them I simply throw them away.

There are other hobbies that I **indulge**⁵ in once in a while but they are not as interesting as the ones I have mentioned. Those mentioned really keep me occupied and I am glad I am able to do them.

1. accompany /ə'kʌmpəni/ (v) *đệm đàn cho ai hát*
2. aquarium /ə'kwɛəriəm/ (n) *bể nuôi cá cảnh*
3. tedious /'ti:diəs/ (adj) *làm mệt, chán nản vì quá dài, quá chậm hoặc quá tẻ*
4. avid /'ævið/ (adj) *háo hức, tham lam, ham thích*
5. indulge /ɪn'dʌldʒ/ (v) *tự cho phép mình hưởng thụ sự vui thích của cái gì*

174. MY WISH TO BECOME A SCHOLAR *TÔI MONG ƯỚC TRỞ THÀNH MỘT HỌC GIẢ*

I do not believe in dreams and **miracles**,¹ I believe in hard work. I have my own hopes and ambitions and I always **strive**² hard to achieve them.

Since young my father has been a great inspiration to me. He helped me develop the habit of reading. I became fond of reading books. I also like playing challenging games. I created my own skateboard on which I practise daily. Also, I learn **martial arts**³ for self-defence. When I was three, my father taught me how to swim. Since then I swim regularly. I have an ambition to become a top class swimmer.

These things are not going to satiate me. I have started to concentrate on my studies. I have a burning desire to become a scholar--a professor. Now I am in secondary school, I hope to do well in all my examinations. Since my childhood days, I have been interested in books of all subjects, such as general knowledge, aptitude and encyclopedia. After completing my national service, I would like to go to University. I will work towards a **Doctorate**⁴ degree.

Why become a professor ? My teachers have always been my inspiration. They lead the students to the right path. Their patience and their simplicity cannot be achieved in any other profession. The respect for professors is something unique which has its own unexplained meaning.

I never like being a doctor, I have no desire to do engineering, neither do I like the Business and Commercial line. I believe a scholar commands respect and **adulation**.⁵ I hope to be a scholar one day, I am glad, I am trying hard to be one.

1. miracle /'mɪrəkl/ (n) phép lạ
2. strive /straɪv/ (v) cố gắng, phấn đấu
3. martial arts /'mɑ:ɪl ɑ:ts/ (n) võ thuật
4. doctorable /'dɒktərəbəl/ (n) học vị tiến sĩ
5. adulation /ædʒə'leɪʃn/ (n) sự ngưỡng mộ, sự tâng bốc

175. MY NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS CÁC QUYẾT TÂM NĂM MỚI CỦA TÔI

The new year approaches and as usual there are great hopes, dreams and resolutions to make for the coming year. However I will **desist**¹ from hoping and dreaming this time and **stick**² to the resolutions only.

My past experiences have taught me that hoping and dreaming are useless wastes of energy for they usually do not come true or they come horribly short of the target. Only resolutions can be kept, to a certain degree of success.

First of all, I resolved to spend less time talking and more time acting. The past year had been a very noisy one as my friends and I spent so much time **gossiping**³ and talking nonsense. This year we cannot afford such a luxury. There is much work to be done if we are to make it in the coming examinations. So it is action time and I shall devote the year to it.

Secondly I have to spend less time in front of the television set, the hi-fi set and the computer. These are fun things but they are also very time-consuming. The time is better spent with my books. Otherwise I might run out of time in the end. I have to make the effort to get away from these very **addictive**⁴ time-wasters.

Next I resolved to cut down on my physical activities in school as well as outside school. It is fine to score a few goals and be a hero for a short spell, but sport-heroes are quickly forgotten. It is better to do well in the examinations than on the field. The legs get old and cannot kick the ball for very long. The brain is much more durable.

Physical activities also include the time wasted in shopping malls and fast food outlets. Again these are fun things to do while they last, but I have to outgrow them. Besides these activities are heavy on the pocket. Money can be more well-spent than on a piece of fried chicken or a glass of **fizzy**⁵ drink.

Lastly I resolve to keep these few resolutions. Previously, I used to make tons of resolutions which I had no chance nor intention of keeping. So I was just **bluffing**⁶ myself in making many wishful resolutions. This state of affairs has to stop or I will keep bluffing myself. A few resolutions are far easier to remember and so to keep than a dozen which are quickly forgotten and thus are impossible to keep.

So the old year gradually draws to a close and new year appears. It is with determination and courage that I shall strive to keep my resolutions and not let them drop away like so many useless words.

1. desist (from) /dɪ'zɪst/ (v) ngừng cái gì / làm cái gì; chấm dứt

2. stick (to) /stɪk/ (v) bám lấy, giữ lấy

3. gossip /'gɒsɪp/ (v) tán gẫu, ngòi lê đôi mách

4. addictive /ə'dɪktɪv/ (adj) gây nghiện, gây nghiện

5. fizzy /'fɪzɪ/ (adj) (về thức uống) có nhiều bọt ga, sủi bọt

6. bluff /blʌf/ (v) lừa phỉnh, bịp

176. THE WAY I SPEND THE FIRST FEW DAYS AFTER EXAMINATION *CÁCH THỨC TÔI HƯỞNG THỤ VÀI NGÀY ĐẦU TIÊN SAU KỲ THI*

It has always been my habit, during exam periods, to stick my head into my text for half an hour and concentrate hard on my studies. For fifteen minutes after this, I will relax my mind and then resume work for another half an hour. This routine will continue until the day my exams are over.

During my fifteen-minute-breaks, I usually have a cup of cool beverage and listen to some songs. Sometimes I **munch**¹ some biscuits. On the days when I feel extra helpful, I utilize the time to help my mother with household chores.

One day, I decided to spend my fifteen minutes planning how I would spend the first few days after the examinations are over. I have planned specific days for myself, my family and then my friends. Here is how I will spend my time.

During the first day, after the examinations, I will relax in my room. I will virtually lock myself in with some biscuits and snacks and a few canned drinks. I will watch some of the good movies my brother had video taped for me, which I had been unable to watch when they were **telecast**.² How I miss movies !

The next day, I will spend cleaning my room. I will clear all the notes that have **infested**³ my table and put them all away, together with my textbooks into the last drawer of my study table so that I will not be further burdened by their sight. During the afternoon, I will bring my nephews shopping. Since I have not been eating out nor have I been shopping during the few months of **torture**,⁴ I can afford to spend my savings on my little darlings.

The third day I will spend with my family. My father has promised to bring us across the **causeway**⁵ to visit some relatives. I always enjoy myself at the village. My relatives live a life of simplicity. Their innocence and warmth always touches me. I **long to**⁶ see them again. I will persuade my father to allow us to spend the night at the village, which is the birthplace of my brother and I. We will then come back to Singapore the next morning.

The fourth day, after a short rest, I will spend the day swimming with my friends at the East Coast Parkway. We will bring some picnic lunch packets and, of course, our tents. We will **laze around**⁷ at the beach chatting and eating snacks.

I guess, on the fifth day I will go to the market in the morning, sweep and **mop**⁸ the floor and help my mother with other household chores. During the afternoon, I will start looking for a job. I will look up the job vacancies in the classified ads and present myself for immediate interviews. I will be satisfied with a decent job that pays me enough money to buy myself a bicycle. The job will be worth my time while I wait for that piece of paper which will determine my future.

1. munch /mʌntʃ/ (v) *nhai nhóp nhép*

2. telecast /telɪ'kæst/ (v) *phát (chương trình truyền hình)*

3. infest /ɪn'fest/ (v) *đầy rẫy*

4. torture /'tɔ:tʃə(r)/ (n) *sự tra tấn, sự hành hạ*

5. causeway /'kɔ:zweɪ/ (n) *đường đắp cao*

6. long (to) /lɒŋ/ (v) *khao khát, ước ao mãnh liệt*

7. laze (around) /leɪz/ (v) *ngủ ngơi, thư giãn*

8. mop /mɒp/ (v) *lau chùi (cái gì) bằng cán lau nhà*

177. HOW DO YOU RELAX WHEN YOU ARE TIRED, NERVOUS OR ANGRY ?
BẠN THƯ GIÃN RA SAO KHI MỆT MỎI, CĂNG THẲNG HOẶC MỆT MỎI?

To **let off**¹ steam is the best thing a person can do when he is tired, nervous or angry. There are ways and means for a person to do that. Usually it depends on the person's nature. For me, relaxing when I'm tired is a **must**.² To start with, I would take a long, luxurious warm bath and **wallow**³ in the warmth of the water. The stickiness on my body would be gone by then and I would finish it off with a cold shower, which will leave my skin soft and **tingling**.⁴ Bath completed, time to get myself into a loose fitting garment and there's nothing better than curling up, with a good book in hand. With the radio on, playing sentimental music and a plate of fresh fruits besides me, I would then take a bite or two between every few pages of reading. Snacks have to be by my side in case I run out of food. Full and contented, taking a nap is the next best thing. Lowering my head, **propped**⁵ with two **fluffy**⁶ pillows, I'll be off in dreamland for the rest of the day. When I wake up, I would switch on the television for my favourite shows, stretched full length on the sofa, eyes fixed to the set. Sometimes when none of the good shows are on television, my next relaxing routine is just to feel the cool breeze on my face, teasing my hair, relaxing in a park near my house. Life is so beautiful at times.

Tiredness is one thing but nervousness is another. Although I feel nervous at times, especially during examinations, I'm not that bad. However, I find that nervousness is something which is difficult to conquer. Some people bite their nails, others twirl their hair around their fingers and a few shift from foot to foot. But for me, to **curb**⁷ nervousness I go for a jog around the evening when the weather is cool and crisp. After which a cold chocolate **sundae**⁸ would top it off. Screaming is the next best thing on my list. Then I'll have a pillow fight with my sister because with screaming I'd feel I'd got rid of the **tension**⁹ which is thick enough to cut with a knife. Tension is something that would drain me out if I don't do anything about it. But when I'm not that hysterical, I'd go window shopping browsing thoroughly in a particular section I like and if my cash is sufficient, I'll buy a few things. If not, browsing won't hurt. At least it can help me forget my nervousness. It also helps me to enjoy my life while it's still there. Some people are **gluttons**.¹⁰ I do that sometimes myself and believe it or not, it helps! A lot.

Counting till 100 is my best weapon against anger. I'd count very slowly till my anger melts away. But if counting doesn't help, crying does. It's with crying, you show what you really feel, and when I cry, my anger is washed away by my tears. Crying helps me to relax because I don't keep my feelings bottled up and feel like a nervous wreck deep down. I scream too. Loudly sometimes so that I throw away my anger at everything especially the walls. As walls can't fight back, I'd feel much better and satisfied like a cat getting a saucer of cream. When I'm angry, I like to be alone. I can't bear the sight of anybody and I feel rotten. So the place I'd go to is the beach. Listening to the sound of the waves, watching them curl and lap at the beach's edge, my anger will subside. I feel that the beach is a place which symbolizes **tranquility**,¹¹ serenity and beauty. I can let my feeling dance with the white horse riding in the water, while I away my time writing poems, day-dreaming. Anger is a very strong weakness which many can't fight but, no matter how strong it is, it is no match for a thing of beauty. The easy way to get rid of

anger is to look at mirror, the wrinkles in forehead, and hardening of cheekbones which is being reflected will immediately bring own anger, you may even try it for good result !

1. let off /let ɒf/ (v) để chảy máu (nước), để bay máu (hoi)
2. must /mʌst/ (n) sự cần thiết (phải làm cái gì)
3. wallow /'wɒləʊ/ (v) đắm mình (trong nước, v.v...)
4. tingle /'tɪŋɡl/ (v) có cảm giác nhói nhói nhẹ trong da
5. prop /prɒp/ (v) dựa ai / cái gì vào cái gì
6. fluffy /'flʌfɪ/ (adj) mịn, nhẹ và thoáng
7. curb /kɜ:b/ (v) kiềm chế, chế ngự
8. sundae /'sʌndeɪ/ (v) kem nước quả
9. tension /'tenʃn/ (n) tình trạng căng thẳng (về tinh thần, xúc cảm hoặc thần kinh, v.v...)
10. glutton /'glʌtn/ (n) người ham việc
11. tranquility /'træŋkwɪləti/ (n) sự yên tĩnh

178. WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE TIME OF YEAR? WHY
THỜI GIAN BẠN YÊU THÍCH NHẤT TRONG NĂM LÀ LÚC NÀO? NÊU LÝ DO

My favourite time of the year is naturally the time when I have the most fun. To me, that time of the year falls during the December holidays, or rather, it starts during the last term of school.

It may sound strange of me to include the period of examinations. But I like the way teachers leave us, students, by ourselves to do our own revision. There is hardly any homework to be done but there is a lot of studying to take up our time. Finally, when the examinations are over, we can all heave a joyful sigh of relief and look forward to the seemingly eternal holidays stretching out before us. Just before school breaks up for the holidays, there are a host of post-examination activities, among which is mass dancing in the school hall. This is something I enjoy very much as I get to dance to the newest pop music with all my friends. The opportunity to "break-free" from serious activities of school and to sing and dance there is a truly welcome event.

The last day of school comes and goes and the holidays start. The first thing I do is to go to the library and borrow as many books as possible to fill my holidays. I simply love reading book after book without having to worry about putting aside time for schoolwork. I make it a habit to read books of a particular author each holiday.

Within the second week of the holidays my birthday arrives. I enjoy helping my mother prepare my favourite food for my birthday. I do not have big birthday parties - my birthday is celebrated within the family and I eat all my favourite food, with several helpings. Of course, I enjoy receiving presents and birthday cards from family members and friends.

December is cool in Singapore and that is one reason why I appreciate the month so much. I do not like hot sunny was.

Christmas also makes the season all the more exciting. It would be impossible for me to sit at home and just read when so much is going on outside. Therefore, my friends and I take trips to Orchard Road, adding to the **hustle and bustle**¹ of Christmas shopping. We do not buy anything but just window-shop leisurely and watch the excitement of Christmas shoppers. Orchard Road is **illuminated**² with colourful lights for Christmas. I usually view these lights twice ; once before Christmas and once after, sometimes cruising along Orchard Road with my neighbour's family in a rented van, alongside an ordered mass of other slow-moving vehicles. We usually have a good time on these trips, joking and laughing.

Programmes based on Christmas are also shown on television to add more joy to the season. I never tire of watching the **animated cartoons**³ or motion pictures of classics like "A Christmas Carol" by Charles Dickens.

Finally, after Christmas, I have to start buying my school-books for the new academic year. These books have a lovely "off the press" smell which makes me feel that I have to work hard the following year and make good use of these brand new and precious books which no one has ever used before.

The last day of the holidays is the end of my favourite time of the year and school starts the following day. I fell excited, but I also know that once school starts I would be

caught up with work. However, I do know that the days will fly by so fast that I shall experience my favourite time of the year all over again.

1. hustle and bustle /'hʌsl ənd 'bʌsl/ (*idm*) *sự hối hả nhộn nhịp và lăng xǎng bận rộn*
2. illuminate /ɪ'lu:mɪneɪt/ (*v*) *chiếu sáng, soi sáng*
3. animated cartoon /,ænɪmeɪtɪd kɑ:'tu:n/ (*n*) *phim hoạt hình*

179. WHAT DIFFICULTIES ARE YOU FACING IN CHOOSING A CAREER ? *BẠN PHẢI ĐƯƠNG ĐẦU VỚI NHỮNG KHÓ KHĂN NÀO KHI CHỌN NGHỀ?*

Almost every school leaver is confronted with a very important question that is nearly impossible to answer : The question of what to do next. As for me, I was **bugged**¹ by my plans for the future from the very moment I finished my last examinations. In addition, there is also the question of passing time during the few months of waiting for my results. During this time, I had a choice of enjoying myself or looking for a **temporary**² job or even taking up an interesting course. I did all three of them. Unfortunately I was not successful in getting to a university, so I had to enter the job market.

I had always desired to take up teaching as a career. First of all I love children. Secondly I believe teachers are important people as they **groom**³ the citizens of tomorrow. As I grew older my exposure to the outside world has made me believe that there are many other careers that could interest me. I believe that I am facing the problem or psychological changes that any teenager would be facing during the period from childhood to adulthood.

I tried relief teaching during my holidays in search of the teaching career. The experience I had was valuable as I managed to **grasp**⁴ the duties, responsibilities and challenges of a teacher. I discovered my lack of working experience. Since I gathered quite a lot of information from the short period of teaching, I decided that I could choose any career by working experience. Since I gathered quite a lot of information from the short period of teaching, I decided that I could choose any career by working on a temporary basis. The successful stories of how some people started off doing only odd jobs in beginning spurred me on. However this does not seem possible in the present gloomy economic situation. I also face of another problem where employers are not too keen in employing job hoppers like me.

My third problem concerns professional skills. For instance a secretary or computer programmer requires a certain level of knowledge in the field of typing, **filing**⁵, **shorthand**⁶ and computer programming. These **prerequisites**⁷ can only be achieved through comprehensive courses. My concern is over which skill I should acquire and discover the abilities **inherent**⁸ in me.

These are the problem I face in choosing a career like other school leavers. I believe parents play an important role in choosing a career by allowing the children to expose themselves to part-time jobs. This way they can narrow down their career choices more easily. Seminars, talks or discussions on careers can also help.

1. bug /bʌg/ (v) *khó chịu, làm bực mình*

2. temporary /'tempərəri/ (adj) *tạm thời, nhất thời*

3. groom /gru:m/ (v) *chọn lựa, chuẩn bị và đào tạo (một người trẻ) vào một nghề đặc biệt*

4. grasp /græsp/ (v) *hiểu thấu (cái gì)*

5. file /faɪl/ (v) *lưu trữ hồ sơ giấy tờ*

6. shorthand /'ʃɔ:θænd/ (n) *tốc ký*

7. prerequisite /pri:'rekwɪzɪt/ (n) *điều kiện tiên quyết*

8. inherent /ɪn'hɪərənt/ (adj) *vốn có*

180. THE KIND OF WORK WHICH YOU HOPE TO DO WHEN LEAVING SCHOOL *LOẠI CÔNG VIỆC MÀ BẠN HI VỌNG SẼ LÀM KHI RA TRƯỜNG*

It is very interesting to speculate as to what one could do after leaving the school. Normally it is too early for one leaving the school to decide upon a definite career. One is not mature at this stage to decide upon a future course. Everything is tempting and attractive and it is tough making a decision.

A career depends on many factors. The occupation of one's parents, a successful neighbour or even an imaginary ideal, may influence the kind of work which one hopes to do. If one's parent is a doctor or a lawyer one may decide to follow the same path. A book one had read or a popular movement may also influence one's future.

I have made up my mind to become a doctor. With all the science's achievements man is not able to overcome diseases. He has found out machines and ways to combat diseases but there is no way to **eradicate**¹ them. As far as **humanity**² is there, there will be diseases. Rich or poor, man suffers from diseases and the number of hospitals is a glaring witness to the presence of diseases. So there is more pleasure for me in serving the suffering humanity.

I got the inspiration from Mother Teresa who got the Nobel Peace Prize. What a glorious service she has been doing for the sick and the dying in the streets of Calcutta. I may not rise to that rare height.

A medical man is not merely a man who can prescribe a few tablets and give a shot here or there. In one sense he plays the role of a helper of the creator saving as many patients as possible. To be a good doctor requires a lot of insight into the patient's **constitution**³ and mind. A medical man must be careful in dealing with individual cases and he must be sympathetic. When a doctor replaces a heart or kidney, he saves a patient. It is a challenge which is worthwhile. Since a medical man deals with humanity, he must be humane. Another fact is that a medical man is always intimate with his patient so it is also **ethical**⁴ not to **divulge**⁵ a patient's sickness to anybody.

Without **fleeing**⁶ a patient, a doctor can earn a tidy sum of money if he has created a good name in his special field. So for these reasons I am attached to medicine.

1. eradicate /ɪ'rædɪkət/ (v) *trừ diệt, thủ tiêu*

2. humanity /hju:'mænəti/ (n) *lòng nhân đạo*

3. constitution /kɒnstɪ'tju:ʃn/ (n) *tình trạng cơ thể của một người về mặt sức khỏe, v.v... – thể trạng, thể chất*

4. ethical /'eθɪkəl/ (adj) *về đạo đức hoặc những vấn đề về đạo đức*

5. divulge /dɪv'vʌdʒ/ (v) *tiết lộ*

6. fleece /fli:s/ (v) *thu được (số tiền lớn) của ai, đặc biệt bằng cách tính quá giá hoặc lừa đảo người đó*

181. WHAT I HOPE TO ACHIEVE IN ADULT LIFE *ĐIỀU TÔI HI VỌNG SẼ ĐẠT ĐƯỢC KHI TRƯỞNG THÀNH*

It is worthwhile and proper that one should plan about one's future early or may end merely as dream. Everyone is given with certain talents and one should make full use of them for one's future welfare and happiness. Some people desire to make money, some to make a name and some to be useful to society. So I have decided to become a social worker and serve the poor, the suffering and the needy.

This idea of becoming a social worker has not come to me all of a sudden. In a way it has been the result of reading the lives of great men and women who **dedicated**¹ their lives to the service of the suffering. From Gautama Buddha to Mother The *refsa*, I have studied something about their lives and how they suffered and worked for others. Gautama, the prince became the Buddha after seeing the sufferings of his people. Much nearer there are instances of Father Damien who lived and died for the sake of the lepers. Dr. Schwertzer obeyed a call and went to Central Africa and served the people by establishing a hospital at Lambarence. Then there is the example of Gandhi who worked to improve the **lot**² of the so-called **untouchables**³ who were social **outcasts**.⁴ He called them affectionately the Harijans or the people of God. Then there is Mother The *refsa* who got the **coveted**⁵ Nobel Prize for peace for her service to the sick, the suffering and the dying in the streets of Calcutta. The more I read about them and the more I thought of them, I too was interested in becoming a social worker. After all, what is the point of being a human being if one cannot serve his fellow beings. True, good **samaritans**⁶ are rare ; but there is nothing wrong in a person trying to become one.

To become a good samaritan is not easy. One must be prepared and get mentally the necessary training for it. As the saying goes "charity begins at home". So I started helping my people at home in every possible way. I would help mother in her kitchen, my father polishing his shoes, wash and iron the family clothes and other house chores. I also started helping my neighbours once in a way by running errands for them. I began loving the old people, visiting the **slum**⁷ areas and talk to people about their difficulties. I would also go round collecting my old clothes and distributing them to the poor.

It was not exactly what I did but it also how I reacted. My mental make up was ready to serve, once I erased the self. So as a social worker, I was not on the look out for any personal gain whenever I did something for someone.

To become a social worker I began studying some books on **sociology**⁸ to know something about it. Theory was not enough ; so I got into touch with several societies doing social work. For example, there is the Red Cross Society doing a good lot of work, both in peace and war. There are also other voluntary organisations doing social work.

There are of course difficulties on the way. My parents never approved because my career as a social worker did not bring any money or fame. Life itself may be hard as a social worker and, until one's work is recognized one may not be regarded as genuine and is appreciated. Even friends may **scoff**⁹ at the notion and even society itself may be suspicious till one's **bona fides**¹⁰ are proved.

Still after taking all these into consideration, I have made up my mind to become a social worker.

1. dedicate /'dedɪkeɪt/ (v) hiến dâng, cống hiến
2. lot /lɒt/ (n) số phận
3. untouchable /ʌn'tʌtʃəbl/ (n) tiện dân
4. outcaste /'aʊtkɑːst/ (n) người bị ruồng bỏ
5. coveted /'kʌvɪtɪd/ (adj) đáng thèm muốn
6. samaritan /sə'mærɪtən/ (n) người bác ái, người hay làm phúc
7. slum /slʌm/ (n) khu nhà ổ chuột
8. sociology /səʊsɪ'blɒdʒɪ/ (n) ngành xã hội học
9. scoff /skɒf/ (v) nhạo báng, chế giễu
10. bona fides /ˌbɒnə 'faɪdɪz/ (n) thiện ý

182. THE PLEASURES OF LIVING IN A VILLAGE

THÚ VUI SỐNG Ở THÔN QUÊ

A village is a quite place where the influence of the city is not felt much. It is indeed a very good place for rest and relaxation.

In a village people do not live very close to one another. Their houses are far **apart**.¹ Each house therefore has a lot of space around it. So, almost every house is surrounded by flower and fruits plants and vegetables. All these make the village look green and fresh. There are also tall trees everywhere which provide shade from the sun and keeps the village cool.

Some villages are surrounded by paddy-fields or mountains. There are also many streams and rivers in most villages. All these add great beauty and variety to the village scene.

The people of village are very simple in thought and behaviour. They are therefore very friendly and helpful. So, the crimes of the city are almost unknown in a village. The people here work together and live in peace. Whenever they celebrate a festival, they dance and sing together and the whole village is in a **gay**² **mood**.³

Living among such friendly and simple people, in such a quiet place, is indeed a real pleasure.

1. apart /ə'pɑ:t/ (*adv*) xa, ở cách xa
2. gay /geɪ/ (*adj*) vui tươi, hớn hở
3. mood /mu:d/ (*n*) trạng thái, tâm trạng

183. MOUNTAINEERING

LEO NÚI

Man basically has a challenging **nature**.¹ He feels great when he accepts challenges and achieving of his targets. Mountains have always challenged the spirit of man and man has always accepted the challenge. The **loftier**² the mountain, the greater has been the desire of man to conquer it and climb to the highest peak to enjoy the thrill of victory. The persistence and perseverance of the man has driven him to conquer all the mountains of this world.

Mount Everest, the world's tallest peak first conquered by Sir Edmund Hillary and sherpa Tensing is very much **vulnerable**³ to man. Several expeditions by the British, Swiss, American, Indian and Japanese have **scaled**⁴ that peak successfully. Life offers a variety of challenges. Some adventurers are fascinated by these dangerous **enterprises**.⁵ Dangers and adventures are basic to their lives. Mountaineering is a dangerous sport and no one can deny it.

The mountaineer has to start his venture with numerous apparatus like spike shoes, ice pick axes, oxygen tanks, tents, sleeping apparatus with canned food. The climber finds it really hazardous during climbing because at any moment he may stumble or slip and crash. They are often overtaken by storms and glacier **blizzards**.⁶ The cold will be so severe that the climbers feet, toes and fingers are liable to **frostbite**.⁷

Mountain climbing requires special knowledge, skills and equipments. The climber must be in good physical condition and have good sense of judgement. They should have **thorough**⁸ knowledge about how to read maps and compasses. They should use ropes to tie themselves when scaling **steep**⁹ rocks and **plodding**¹⁰ over snowfields and glaciers. In on the climber is a real sports man who often walks on the edge death but will succeed with courage and determination.

1. nature /'neɪtʃə(r)/ (n) bản chất
2. lofty /'lɒftɪ/ (adj) rất cao; cao lừng lững
3. vulnerable /'vʌlnərəbəl/ (adj) dễ làm hại, có thể gây nguy hiểm hay thương tổn
4. scale /skeɪl/ (v) trèo leo lên (bức tường, vách núi, v.v...)
5. enterprise /'entəpraɪz/ (n) công việc khó khăn đòi hỏi lòng dũng cảm và tinh táo bạo
6. blizzard /'blɪzəd/ (n) trận bão tuyết dữ dội
7. frostbite /'frɒstbaɪt/ (n) sự tê cóng
8. thorough /'θʌrə/ (adj) thấu đáo, triệt để
9. steep /sti:p/ (adj) (về một mặt dốc) dốc, dốc đứng
10. plod /plɒd/ (v) đi chậm chạp và nặng nhọc, khó khăn

184. ADVERTISEMENT

QUẢNG CÁO

Advertisement is one of the human **institutions**¹ highly developed nowadays. **To some extent**² nature itself advertises her **wares**,³; for instance, the colour and smell of flowers is nothing but advertisement to attract the attention of insects and birds and the promise of honey is the gift.

Advertisement is one of the media to draw the attention of the public and to inform them regarding a particular product. This may be called the **psychology**⁴ of persuasion and a way of converting people to a way of life or thinking. For example, a new drink may be introduced. It is not enough if the product is good but the public must be made to realize its existence. So the manufacturer adopts **subtle**⁵ ways of advertising. There must be appeal to visual and aural senses. Since advertisement has become very important and its methods are many, it has been professionalised and it is a trade today. In fact advertising agencies do good business. Since they employ specialists like artists and script writers, the advertiser can have expert service at a price.

There are hundreds of ways of advertising. Generally they may have visual, audio and audiovisual appeal. **Leaflets**⁶ and **brochures**⁷ are produced colourfully describing a product. Free **samples**⁸ are freely given. Even for established products they give free samples now and then so that new customers may be found for the product. **Calendars**⁹ are quite common and from very plain ones to pictorials are there. Some of the calendars are really so fine that they are being preserved. So calendar manufacturing during the season is a big business and there are people who hunt after calendars.

Perhaps one of the most popular media of advertisement is the newspaper. Since newspapers reach a very wider public, advertisement in the papers is a common feature. Some products are being advertised throughout the year and advertisements are the major source of income for the newspaper. Here the pictures and the script play a very important part.

Nowadays small gifts like key chains, purses, table ware and so on are used to advertise various products.

An advertisement cannot be useless. After it has achieved its purpose the general public may think it is useless. When an advertiser uses a lot of paper for printing his advertisement, the common man may question the wisdom behind it. If you go on throwing some mud on the wall, some is sure to stick ; so too with the advertisement. The advertisement acts as a middleman in a trade bringing the prospective buyer and the product nearer. With the complexity of the market and with dozens of products competing, advertisement is one of the ways of winning the market.

Of course there are advertisements which are really misleading. Some medicines that are advertised claim to be **panacea**¹⁰ for all bodily ills. But very few could claim that honour. Some of the consumer products are not of that quality as claimed by the advertisement. Take for instance, some of the tooth pastes. They claim to give all protection to the teeth but they prove the other way. In America this subtle way of persuading the public has been questioned when a number of products advertised could not stand the test of proof.

We can conclude in spite of its limitations, advertisement is an institution that has come to stay.

1. institution /ɪnstɪ'tjuːʃn/ (n) *thể chế*
2. to some extent /tə'sem'ent/ (idm) *trong chừng mực nào đó*
3. wares /weə(r)z/ (n) *món hàng*
4. psychology /saɪ'kɒlədʒi/ (n) *tâm lý học*
5. subtle /'sʌbl/ (adj) *khéo léo và tài tình*
6. leaflet /'liːflɪt/ (n) *tờ in rời*
7. brochure /'brɔʃə(r)/ (n) *sách mỏng hoặc nhỏ chứa thông tin hoặc quảng cáo về cái gì*
8. sample /'sæmpl/ (n) *hàng mẫu*
9. calendar /'kælɪndə(r)/ (n) *lịch*
10. panacea /pə'næ'siə/ (n) *thuốc trị bá bệnh*

185. THE WORK OF A NEWSPAPER REPORTER CÔNG VIỆC CỦA MỘT PHÓNG VIÊN BÁO CHÍ

Newspaper are the windows of the world and give citizens an idea of what has happened and what is happening. The success of a newspaper depends on how swift and **reliable**¹ the news it gives to the public. There are times when details of news are anxiously awaited and this is where newspapers must help. If this is done ably then that paper is popular. There are very many great newspapers in the world like the Times of London, New York Times, Manchester Guardian, Le Monde, The Times of India, The "Hindu" and so on. These papers depend on the reporters and its representatives for the news.

A reporter may be permanent or special. Big papers have their permanent representatives in important cities. A reporter must be well qualified and must be proficient in the language he uses and must have a university degree, especially in literature and humanities though there are reporters who are proficient in sciences. He must have an eye for news and report it in attractive language. He must have a **taste**² for many kinds of arts and be able to give a critical view. He must be an outgoing and sociable man and a reporter should have a thorough knowledge of current history, and should know something about the personalities on the scene. He should also have a **flair**³ for language.

A reporter should be able to **cover**⁴ the day to day incidents quickly. The reports must be genuine and reliable, otherwise very soon the paper will lose its name. He must be capable of meeting important persons and if need be, interview them. He must be capable of getting local news so that the public will be aware of local happenings. Report on the general election or budget session of the Parliament may be important. A reporter may be able to give an **inkling**⁵ as to why certain things are happening the way they do or like to take place. Sometimes it may be investigative reporting. This is very important because it helps to alert people and to warn those who are the wrong doers. In fact a good reporter may help **sway**⁶ the public opinion.

A reporter should also be a good photographer in order to be able to catch the best of the person or the incident. A quick correct flash of an important event will be valued very much. A reporter has to travel. He must have an idea of what different people do and live in different countries without affecting the philosophy and stand taken by his paper. His reporting must be **unbiased**.⁷

A reporter is responsible for the paper he represents. The paper's name and fame depends on its news. The reporter must be aware of his responsibilities.

1. reliable /rɪ'laɪəbl/ (adj) có thể tin cậy, chắc chắn, xác thực
2. taste /teɪst/ (n) khả năng cảm thụ cái đẹp; khiếu thẩm mỹ
3. flair /fleɪə(r)/ (n) khả năng tự nhiên làm tốt cái gì – khiếu
4. cover /'kʌvə(r)/ (v) bao gồm cái gì, đề cập đến
5. inkling /'ɪŋklɪŋ/ (n) ý niệm mơ hồ
6. sway /sweɪ/ (v) tác động đến hoặc làm thay đổi ý kiến của ai
7. unbiased /ʌn'baɪəst/ (v) công bằng, vô tư, không thiên vị

186. SELECT THREE OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTORS ON THE FIELD OF MEDICINE AND STATE THE SPECIAL CONTRIBUTIONS EACH HAS MADE
HÃY CHỌN BA NHÂN VẬT NỔI BẬT VÌ NHỮNG ĐÓNG GÓP TRONG LĨNH VỰC
Y HỌC VÀ TRÌNH BÀY NHỮNG ĐÓNG GÓP ĐẶC BIỆT CỦA MỖI NGƯỜI

There are many contributors who have done something **significant**¹ in the field of medicine. Thus let us consider the contributions of Edward Jenner, Louis Pasteur, Fleming, Florey and Chani. Jenner is remembered for his **smallpox**² **vaccine**.³ Before his time thousands upon thousands of people became a victim to this **scourge**.⁴ Besides those who died, there were people who were deformed and those who lost their eyesight. Now with vaccination, the disease has been defeated completely. Smallpox is a **viral**,⁵ airborne disease and very difficult to control. The best way to combat is to build an **immunity**⁶ within the body.

Jenner noted that people who were dealing with the cows with pox did not suffer much even when they had smallpox. So he concluded that the cowpox had something to do with the lowering of the rigour of smallpox. He drew the **lymph**⁷ from the sores of the cow affected with cowpox and vaccinated ordinary persons. The result was wonderful. Those who were vaccinated had some fever and that was all. When they were exposed to smallpox, they never got it. So vaccination with smallpox lymph has become universal and all countries have made vaccination, especially of babies, compulsory. Since vaccination as such can not give life long immunity, periodical vaccination is recommended. The civic bodies who are also responsible for the health of the people have been authorized to vaccinate.

Louis Pasteur is remembered for his **antihydrophobic**⁸ vaccine. Hydrophobia or **rabies**⁹ is caused by the bite of a mad dog or wolf. It is a dreaded disease. The victim develops a fear of water and in extreme cases howls like a mad dog and finally dies. The poison is passed through the **saliva**¹⁰ of the biting animal. Now Pasteur discovered that by injecting the brain tissues of a mad dog in small measured doses, the body can overcome the effects of a dog bite. Pasteur took the calculated risk and tried his vaccine on a boy and for fourteen feverish days he examined the blood of the boy. It did not show any positive indication of the presence of hydrophobia. Now Pasteur vaccine is available in big hospital and none need to suffer from hydrophobia.

No medicine in recent times has made such a headway as Penicillin which is the forerunner of many **antibiotics**.¹¹ This has **ushered**¹² in a new world of medicines and has become almost a household word. Alexander Fleming found a sort of a **moss**¹³ like substance in his **culture**¹⁴ dish. Where this mould was formed, the culture was clear. He separated it and found it to have a very powerful effect on **organisms**¹⁵ by **detering**¹⁶ their growth. He named it penicillin. But this knowledge was kept private for nearly ten years or more and only during the Second World War of 1939-1945, was penicillin thought of and in 1940 Florey and Chani tried it on persons suffering from **syphilis**¹⁷ and other similar diseases. They found excellent results and penicillin was used in the treatment and control of diseases caused by organic **infection**.¹⁸ At first it was found difficult to manufacture and preserve. Now alternate methods of manufacture have been found, so it costs almost nothing and refrigeration is not required. It is not an

exaggeration to say that penicillin has opened a new era of medicine and for this discovery Fleming and his associates were awarded the much coveted Nobel Prize.

1. significant /sɪɡnɪfɪkənt/ (adj) có ý nghĩa; quan trọng, đáng kể
2. smallpox /'smɔːlpɒks/ (n) bệnh đậu mùa
3. vaccine /'væksɪn/ (n) chất tiêm vào mạch máu để bảo vệ cơ thể, bằng cách làm cho cơ thể bị một dạng bệnh nhẹ - vaccinate /'væksɪneɪt/ (v) chủng, tiêm chủng (ngừa bệnh gì, v.v...) - vaccination /-neɪʃn/ (n)
4. scourge /skɜːdʒ/ (n) tai họa
5. viral /'vaɪərəl/ (adj) gây ra bởi virus
6. immunity /ɪ'mjuːnəti/ (n) khả năng miễn dịch
7. lymph /lɪmf/ (n) bạch huyết
8. antihydrophobic /æntɪhaɪdrə'fəʊbɪk/ (adj) chống bệnh dại (ở người) - hydrophobia /haɪdrə'fəʊbɪə/ (n) bệnh dại ở người
9. rabies /'reɪbiːz/ (n) bệnh dại
10. saliva /sə'laɪvəl/ (n) nước bọt, nước dãi
11. antibiotic /æntɪbaɪ'ɒtɪk/ (n) chất kháng sinh
12. usher /'ʌʃə(r)/ (v) mở ra, khởi đầu
13. moss /mɒs/ (n) rêu
14. culture /'kʌltʃə(r)/ (n) việc nuôi cấy một nhóm vi khuẩn để phục vụ cho nghiên cứu y tế và khoa học
15. organism /'ɔːɡənɪzəm/ (n) sinh vật, cơ thể
16. deter /dɪ'tɜː(r)/ (v) ngăn, ngăn cản
17. syphilis /'sɪfɪlɪs/ (n) bệnh giang mai
18. inflection /ɪn'fekʃn/ (n) sự nhiễm trùng

187. FIVE THINGS I LOVE MOST NĂM ĐIỀU TÔI YÊU THÍCH NHẤT

This world is full of many wonderful and lovely things. Man is trying to utilise the maximum resources of his intellect for finding out various types of inventions and discoveries and thus **endeavouring**¹ to make the things more lovely and worth enjoying. The process of beautifying the world is a continuous process. There is no end to it. Since there are many beautiful and lovely things, it becomes very difficult to pick and choose. Somehow, with great care, I have selected five things I would like to adopt in my future life.

Firstly, I love nature. I am **fed up**² of this artificial and momentary pleasure which we derive from the city. I would like to settle in some village where I would be able to enjoy nature. Nature can be a true friend and guide for man. Wordsworth, the great lover of Nature, has also acknowledged this fact in his poems. I am very anxious to go and enjoy the scenery of steep hills ; greenery of the own valleys, cool breeze and other natural things. There I would find people who will be quite different in nature from the city dwellers. Their motto of life is "simple living and spiritual thoughts" Thus I will have the priviledge of coming in contact with simple and straight forward people.

Secondly, I would like to **take up**³ teaching as my career. I am deeply pained to find **illiteracy**⁴ in my country. For the successful functioning of Democracy, it is essential that we reduce illiteracy to the minimum. I want every young man and woman to get educated. There is a **dire**⁵ need for spreading education to every nook and corner of the country. I hope that by selecting this profession, I would be serving my country in the most appropriate way.

Thirdly, I am a keen and **voracious**⁶ reader. Reading novels is my favourite pastime. Reading widens the door of knowledge. They give us an insight into this world. Sometimes we are able to resolve many difficult problems by reading. We are able to chalk out many schemes which can be useful in our day-to-day life.

Fourthly, I love my country. I can forego anything just for the honour of my country. If somebody were to ask me to go to a foreign land and serve there, and get a handsome salary I will be the first to bluntly refuse this offer. I am very fond of the way of life, food and sunshine of my country. If I were to go to a foreign country for employment, I would not be doing justice to my Motherland.

The last but not the least, I love my home - sweet home. The saying "East or West, home is the best" is correct. I live in a small house which does not contain all the modern **amenities**,⁷ but still it is not less than a paradise. I have been to my friend's houses where I find ultra modern decorations and lavish furnishing. I do not like this type of artificial life or home.

The selected items above are the five things which I hold dearest to my heart and are the very essence of my being.

1. endeavour /ɪn'devə(r)/ (v) cố gắng, nỗ lực
2. fed up /fed ʌp/ (adj) mệt mỏi hoặc chán ngấy
3. take up /teɪk ʌp/ (v) nhận làm, bắt đầu vào (nghề)

4. illiteracy /ɪˈlɪtərəsi/ (n) *sự thất học, sự mù chữ*
5. dire /ˈdaɪə(r)/ (adj) *cực kỳ, hết sức*
6. voracious /vəˈreɪʃəs/ (adj) *khao khát, ham mê*
7. amenity /əˈmi:nəti/ (n) *thú vui, tiện nghi*

188. THINGS YOU LIKE AND DISLIKE ABOUT SCHOOL
NHỮNG GÌ BẠN THÍCH VÀ KHÔNG THÍCH VỀ HỌC ĐƯỜNG

School is a place I have to go to five days a week, except on Saturdays and Sundays and the holidays. I spend a lot of time in school. Thus I cannot help liking some aspects and disliking other aspects of it.

I like recess most of all. This is especially so after a few hours of torture trying to figure out some tough sums and listening to the history teacher **drone**¹ on about some half-forgotten war. The relief of consuming the food and drinks at the tuckshop is really satisfying. What more, my friends are always there to provide great company. We **yack**² on and on about nothing in particular. It is great to be among those you know well.

The bell that signals the end of recess is not what I like. Judging from the audible moans from those around me the bell is not very popular with the others as well. So we **trudge**³ reluctantly back to class to undergo another few hours of lessons.

The lessons are not totally torturous. Much depend on the teachers. Some teachers have a **knack**⁴ of making their lessons interesting, so it is pleasant to learn something. These teachers really do take the trouble to teach us and we appreciate them very much.

Unfortunately there are some very obnoxious teachers who purposely **pick on**⁵ us. These are usually the older ones who have lost their **zest**⁶ for teaching. Who could blame them after having to repeat the same things year after year? I have been picked on several times for very trivial things. These occasions are what I dislike. Nobody likes to be sent out of the class for forgetting to bring a book. Also nobody likes to stand on the chair for one whole period for talking in class. I have undergone these punishments and they are not pleasant.

P.E. (Physical Education) is one lesson I like. Here we can play around with each other. Our P.E. teacher is a young man who knows many types of games and sports. So we have a wonderful time learning from him. Unfortunately we only see him twice a week. This is really insufficient for each session only lasts about 40 minutes minus the time needed to reach the field.

I like the bell when it signals the end of the day. Immediately flagging spirits give way to laughter as we head home. The atmosphere is a happy one when we go home.

The week before the Annual School Sports Day is what I like too. Usually a week before the sports the school will be very busy preparing for it. Lessons are disrupted and we have a great time talking in class. Sometimes we are asked to help a bit. I like that too. It beats working out sums.

When the examinations approaches it is the time of woe. I for one dislike examinations. It is not that I am afraid that I might fail. I usually pass anyway. It is the tension and the stress of waiting for the examinations that are so unpleasant. During the time prior to an examination, no one has time for a chat anymore. Everyone is so engrossed in his or her work. This is a time of **gloom**.⁷

However gloom disappears like magic the moment the examinations are over. This is the best time of school. The tension is gone and lessons are virtually non-existent. Normally it is also the end of the term and the holidays are around the corner. What joy I feel as we wait gleefully for the holidays so that we may get to do the things we want to do.

Holidays are great but they never seem to last. Soon it is time once again to go back to school, back to the things I like and dislike.

1. drone /drəʊn/ (v) *nói với một giọng đều đều tẻ ngắt*
2. yack (on) /jæk/ (v) *ba hoa*
3. trudge /trʌdʒ/ (v) *lê bước*
4. knack /næk/ (n) *sở trường*
5. pick on /pɪk ɒn/ (v) *chọn ai để tròng trị, chỉ trích hoặc lên án – trù dập*
6. zest /zest/ (n) *sự say mê, sự thích thú*
7. gloom /glu:m/ (n) *cách âm đạm, buồn thảm*

189. WHAT CHANGES WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE TAKE PLACE IN YOUR COUNTRY WITHIN THE NEXT 10 YEARS ?
BẠN THÍCH NHÌN THẤY NHỮNG THAY ĐỔI NÀO SẼ XẢY RA Ở NƯỚC BẠN TRONG VÒNG 10 NĂM TỚI?

Prosperity,¹ **stability**² and **harmony**³ have always been goals of countries and these take a lifetime of planning to achieve. By virtue of her smallness and **dynamism**,⁴ Singapore has taken a relatively short time, since her independence, to change and develop herself into an urban, industrialised city. Singapore will continue to change and develop into what I hope will be a better place to live in.

Family planning measures were introduced in Singapore in the early seventies. The results show that the public has accepted the scheme well. The prospect of achieving a zero population growth within a decade is very promising.

This will solve the pressing of public housing in our limited land area. The planning authorities will then be able to convert the **surplus**⁵ land into schools, swimming pools and pockets of green parks. With more land to spare, residents in public housing estates will feel encouraged to start their own little patches of gardens in front of their flats. This will certainly prevent Singapore from rapidly turning into a concrete jungle.

Singapore could be in danger of facing a shortage of two important resources in future : energy and water. I hope that within the next few years the public would have learnt how to conserve and make the most economic use of these resources. I also hope to find more buildings constructed with specialized roofs designed to utilize solar energy. We will also be able to find a cheaper method or recycling sea water for domestic use. Perhaps this way people will realise how important it is not to pollute our seas.

It would be a welcome change to have our schools function as full day schools instead of the present two session schools. This way lessons, homework assignments and extra **curriculum**⁶ activities can be carried out within a planned time-table. The importance of physical of physical education needs to be further stressed to cope with the increasing problem of **obesity**.⁷ School children also need to be taught about dental health and major diseases such as high blood pressure, cancer and **diabetes**.⁸ Moral education too should be made to cut across the entire curriculum instead of being confined to one or two period per week. This would hopefully bring forth in well balanced, responsible and caring individuals.

Too often nowadays, people engrossed in the search for luxury and status forget simple courtesies and the beauty of **filial piety**.⁹ I hope, in future, to find that care, concern and consideration for the weak, poor, elderly and handicapped would not be reduced to lipservice and donations by public members. Institution such as the old folks homes and homes for the mentally retarded need not be built in future if people learn how to deal with these problems.

I hope to find Singaporeans who have learnt from the current recession, not to take our 25 years of economic prosperity for granted. It would be nice to see Singaporeans shed their selfish work attitudes and stop job hopping and contribute through hardwork, discipline and teamwork. A large pool of housewives will be free from their domestic chores and be able to contribute to the nations economy if attitudes towards **menial**¹⁰ jobs changed.

In view of the present state of the world's unrest, Singapore should be prepared to defend itself. Within the next couple of years, I hope every able Singaporean will be equipped with skills to deal with the ordeals of war, be it with a gun or with bandages. Lastly, as a member of a multi racial society, I hope to find **prejudice**¹¹ and barriers among different cultures and religions disappear in the next 10 years. A better understanding that results will pave the way for the cultures to **interplay**.¹² Perhaps with time we might be able to emerge with a truly unique Singaporean culture that is so often talked about.

1. prosperity /prɒ'sperətɪ/ (n) *sự thịnh vượng, sự phồn vinh*
2. stability /stə'biləti/ (n) *trạng thái ổn định, bền vững*
3. harmony /'hɑ:məni/ (n) *sự hòa hợp, sự hòa thuận*
4. dynamism /'daɪnəmɪzəm/ (n) *sự năng động*
5. surplus /'sɜ:pləs/ (adj) *thừa, dư thừa*
6. curriculum /kə'rɪkjələm/ (n) (sinh curricula) *chương trình học / giảng dạy*
7. obesity /əʊ'bi:səti/ (n) *chứng béo phì*
8. diabetes /daɪə'bi:ti:z/ (n) *bệnh đái đường*
9. filial piety /,fɪliəl 'paɪəti/ (n) *lòng hiếu thảo đối với cha mẹ*
10. menial /'mi:niəl/ (adj) *(về công việc) có tính giản đơn*
11. prejudice /'predʒʊdɪs/ (n) *sự thành kiến, định kiến*
12. interplay /'ɪntəpleɪ/ (n) *sự tác động qua lại*

190. YOU ARE ABOUT TO LIVE PERMANENTLY IN ANOTHER COUNTRY AND ARE WAITING FOR TRANSPORT TO TAKE YOU THERE. WRITE DOWN YOUR THOUGHTS AND FEELINGS ABOUT YOUR PAST LIFE AND WHAT LIES AHEAD

BẠN SẮP SỬA ĐỊNH CƯ VĨNH VIỄN Ở MỘT ĐẤT NƯỚC KHÁC VÀ ĐANG CHỜ CHUYỂN BAY ĐƯA BẠN ĐẾN ĐÓ. TRÌNH BÀY NHỮNG SUY NGHĨ VÀ TÌNH CẢM CỦA BẠN VỀ CUỘC SỐNG ĐÃ QUA VÀ NHỮNG GÌ ĐANG Ở PHÍA TRƯỚC

The large world map designed impressively on the wall of Changi International Airport caught my eyes. I walked towards it and **scrutinized**¹ it as though searching for a lost ring in the midst of the jungle. My eyes finally rested on an island at the tip of West Malaysia. It was in this place that I was born, brought up, educated and married. She was indeed my beloved country and home. Besides, her citizens have provided me an insight into human nature. I learnt the most valuable lesson about true friendship and mere **hypocrisy**.²

I fell into a reflective mood. Why should people become materialistic and **self-centred**³ when they become successful ? Is this inevitable or is it deliberately designed for man ? I was holding the rank of **Superintendent**⁴ of Police when it all happened. It was after midnight when that man came running into the police station. He was holding a briefcase. He came in breathless and shouted frantically, "My wife has been murdered !" Being in command, I told some constables to rush to the site where the murder was reported. I was left alone in the station with that man and one of my junior officers. Working in the night shift was a bore !

I tried to calm the almost hysterical man. I asked the officer to bring coffee for him. When my officer went out, that awful man suddenly got up. He opened his briefcase and there, to my utter astonishment was thousands of dollars. Unfortunately, at that very moment, my assistant superintendent stepped in with some constables. He looked astonished and speechless when he saw both of us with the opened briefcase on the table. "**Bribery**"⁵ ! How could you ?" he shouted and picked up the phone, dialed the number for police headquarters and reported what he had seen. Indeed, he had done wrong. A respectable police officer must never accuse another without sufficient proof. Well, maybe he was sure he had proof.

I demanded the case to be brought to court. Inevitably, I won the case and in return I **sued**⁶ him for disgracing me publicly. He wasn't satisfied. He went around back-biting me with the most unspeakable slander. He was indeed influential as I found myself slowly losing the favours of my "friends".

Now, here I was, waiting for the plane which will take me to Malaysia. The announcement for the arrival of a plane interrupted my nostalgia. I looked intensely at the plane...

In Malaysia, I will buy a decent house near the town so that my wife can buy the daily necessities easily and my children may go to school. I will buy a piece of land and cultivate cash crops. I will start on a subsistence basis and will finally end up in commercial farming.

As my business prospers, I will export the cash crops. Then, I will build houses and provide free accommodation for my workers. I will develop a processing plant and

employ more workers. By then, I will have time to volunteer for social work. I always feel that rural dwellers are full of gratitude towards their benefactors ; this virtue, however is slowly disappearing from the hearts of the materialistic urban dwellers.

"Passengers of flight 209, Boeing 747, please report at the departure hall. Thank you." The announcement echoed in our ears. Before long, I found myself, **flanked**⁷ by my wife and children running to the departure hall.

1. scrutinize /'skru:tɪnaɪz/ (v) *nhìn hoặc xem xét (cái gì) cẩn thận và tỉ mỉ*
2. hypocrisy /hɪ'pɒkrəsi/ (n) *đạo đức giả*
3. self-centred /,self 'sentəd/ (adj) *nghe quá nhiều về mình và quá ít về người khác*
4. superintendent /su:pərɪn'tendənt/ (n) *sĩ quan cảnh sát có cấp bậc trên chánh thanh tra*
5. bribery /'braɪbəri/ (n) *sự cho hoặc lấy của hối lộ*
6. sue /sju: / (v) *kiện (ai) trước pháp luật*
7. flank /flæŋk/ (v) *kèm, đi kèm*

191. THE EVILS OF DRUG ADDICTIONS¹ *THẨM HỌA CỦA VIỆC NGHIỆN MA TÚY*

Our ancients have spoken of five **cardinal**² sins which must be avoided by all means though they may appear to bring profit or pleasure for the time being. They are gambling, stealing, murder, **unchastity**³ and drugs. The history of humanity is replete with examples where people have been ruined by following the path of one or others of them. A whole nation was brought to disgrace because of **opium**.⁴

Why then does man take to drugs ? Some think it adds to pleasure ; some others think that it takes away physical weariness. Still others take it to forget their worries, while others take it in order to please the company they keep. In cold countries they take it to keep themselves warm. While in very small doses drugs act as medicines, they can only bring harm in large doses. They have a doping effect and hence, at the spur of the moment, the person may act more vigorously but only to find himself weaker later. Sustained consumption of them in large quantities will lead to dependency and addiction.

From time immemorial⁵ man has known to make drugs. Today's, various kinds of addiction like wine, brandy, whisky, morphine, heroine, cocaine and opium are prevalent. These drugs affect the nervous system, especially the brain which controls the voluntary action. So a man under the influence of a drug is unable to walk properly and he **staggers**.⁶ It deadens the senses so a man under the influence of drugs does not know what he does or speaks. Very often under the influence of a drug, he can do shameful acts. Continued addiction upsets the digestive system, especially the liver, leading eventually to death.

The **mental faculties**⁷ will be **numbed**.⁸ In order to forget worries people take drugs but that is not the answer to one's worry. Drug addiction brings **moral degradation**.⁹ The addict himself knows it and so he consumes them only in secret and no addict openly will come forward to say he is an addict. It is against all religious **sanctions**.¹⁰ It leads to immoral and evil activities. Socially also an addict is looked down upon and people would try to avoid a drug addict. He would be a nuisance wherever he is at home or in company. He would bring untold misery to his people and those around him. Except in the company of addicts, he would be looked upon as a leper. His family also will share the **ignominy**¹¹ because people will point the accusing finger at such a family. Financially it ruins the addict. The money would go down the drains as it were for what could be spent for the betterment of the self or the benefit of the family could easily be wasted on drugs. So considered wisely, one should avoid drugs.

Nowadays drugs like marijuana, L.S.D., opium and others are being taken by youngsters under false pretences. It is really unfortunate if they don't realize the harmful effect. Certainly the drugs will not and cannot add and bring pleasure. If one thinks in that way it is only an illusion. So it is best to avoid the company of those who have recourse to drugs or peddle them. Remember the physical ruin, mental upset, moral degradation and social and financial breakdown. So, for God's sake, one should never be tempted by them.

1. addiction /ə'dɪkʃn/ (n) *sự nghiện ngập* - addict /'dɪkt/ (n) *người nghiện*
2. cardinal /'kɑ:dɪnəl/ (adj) *chính yếu, chủ yếu*
3. unchastity /ʌn'tʃæstətɪ/ (v) *thối dâm dục, thói dâm ô*
4. opium /'ɒpjəm/ (n) *thuốc phiện*
5. from time immemorial /ɪmə'mɔ:riəl/ (idm) *thuở xưa, từ ngàn xưa*
6. stagger /'stægə(r)/ (v) *đi loạng choạng, lảo đảo*
7. mental faculty /'mentl 'fækltɪ/ (n) *khả năng trí tuệ*
8. numb /nʌm/ (v) *làm tê liệt*
9. moral degradation /,mɔ:rl deɪgrə'deɪʃn/ (n) *sự suy thoái về đạo đức*
10. sanction /sæŋkʃn/ (n) *sự thừa nhận, sự phê chuẩn*
11. ignominy /'ɪgnəmɪni/ (n) *sự nhục nhã*

192. HOME ACCIDENTS AND ITS PREVENTION

CÁC TAI NẠN Ở NHÀ VÀ CÁCH NGĂN NGỪA

Accidents are becoming common these days. Any incident which happens without any intention is an accident. They can lead to mild or severe injuries and sometimes become fatal. Carelessness is the main reason for accidents. Accidents may happen on the road, during a journey, on air, sea or even at home. Let us examine the home accidents and try to prevent them in future. Home accidents may lead to disablement and sometimes even fatal. So one must be aware of the immediate steps to be taken in case of accidents.

As to the proverb "prevention is better than cure", it is always better to prevent an accident. Cutting, burning, scalding and falling may lead to fractures, and poisoning, electric shock, etc, may lead to death. Accidents at home can take place in any part of the home, in the drawing room, bathroom, bedroom or kitchen. Let us consider the preventive aspects first.

One must be careful in using cutting instruments such as knives in the kitchen. Only those who have experience should use them. Care must be taken when dealing with very hot things. It should be kept in out of reach. We have to use **tongs**¹ to remove hot things from the oven. Falling down in bathroom and off the staircases is another example. One should ensure that ladders are properly **installed**,² **stools**³ are stable. The bathroom floors should not be slippery and therefore have to be cleaned daily.

Electrical wiring should be **periodically**⁴ checked. Electrical appliances should be **insulated**⁵ or properly handled. The kitchen windows and bedroom windows should be properly grilled and locked in order to prevent children from climbing out. The bathroom sinks, toilet bowls and buckets should always be covered. Some babies have fallen into these items and died. There were many such cases recently. Medicines must be kept away out of children's reach. Nowadays kitchen accidents involving gasleaks, fires, burning of oil are becoming common. Youngsters must be taught lessons in prevention. If everyone is careful then there will be no accidents.

1. tongs /tɒŋz/ (n) cái kẹp, cái cặp (dùng gắp than, nước đá, v.v...)
2. install /ɪn'stɔ:l/ (v) lắp đặt, cài đặt
3. stool /stu:l/ (n) ghế đẩu
4. periodically /peri'ɒdɪklɪ/ (adv) một cách định kỳ
5. insulate /ɪn'sju:leɪt/ (v) cách ly

**193. "SAVE WATER" CAMPAIGN - WRITE ABOUT THE SCARCITY OF
WATER AND WAYS AND MEANS TO SAVE WATER**
**CUỘC VẬN ĐỘNG "TIẾT KIỆM NƯỚC" – HÃY VIẾT VỀ SỰ KHAN HIẾM NƯỚC.
NHỮNG PHƯƠNG CÁCH VÀ PHƯƠNG TIỆN TIẾT KIỆM NƯỚC**

Food, air and water are essential elements for man. Three fourths of the earth's surface is covered with sea water which cannot be consumed fresh by men. There are many places on earth which do not have sufficient water. Drinking water is therefore a **rare**¹ **commodity**.²

Rain falls in many places, catchment areas, rivers and lakes. Can man drink water directly from the rivers ? No. Water from rivers and lakes is **contaminated**³ and not fit for drinking. It contains minerals as well as organic **impurities**.⁴ In cities, due to industrialisation, the industrial wastes will contaminate rain water, so water needs treatment before it can be consumed by man.

To supply the cities with treated water costs money. Firstly, the water has to be **recycled**⁵ by **filtering**⁶ the impurities. The water is then chlorinated and pumped to a storage tank. Water is then supplied to the people through pipes. It is a well-known fact that when we turn on the **tap**⁷ and water flows from it, it is water that has been treated and we have to pay for the water.

In spite of the increasing cost of treating water, the population fails to understand the importance of water. Water is wasted thoughtlessly. They depend on the authorities to provide them water without bothering about the water. Is this the correct attitude ? Certainly not ! The "Save Water" campaign is in full force. One must remember not to waste water. There are many ways in which water is wasted. The predominant one is the leaking tap. This can be curbed by periodic checks to arrest any leakage. People should be made aware that water is precious. They should stop immediately if they see running water from an unattended tap. They should inform the authorities about burst pipes. When leaving home they should ensure that all taps have been turned off. We must change our ways.

Most water is used for washing, cleaning and bathing. Strict prudence should be exercised. No one should stand under a shower for hours. Water used for washing clothes can be used to wash toilets as well.

Industries should help to save usage by recycling water wherever possible. One must bear in mind when water is wasted they are depriving another man of his share. Water may be scarce in the following years especially with the growth of industries.

1. rare /reə(r)/ (adj) hiếm
2. commodity /kə'mɒdətɪ/ (n) hàng hóa, tiện nghi
3. contaminate /kən'tæmɪneɪt/ (v) làm ô nhiễm
4. impurity /ɪm'pjʊərətɪ/ (n) tạp chất
5. recycle /ri:'saɪkl/ (v) tái chế
6. filter /'fɪltə(r)/ (v) lọc
7. tap /tæp/ (n) vòi (nước, v.v...)

194. THE TEACHERS' CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE PROGRESS OF A COUNTRY NHỮNG ĐÓNG GÓP CỦA THẦY CÔ GIÁO ĐỐI VỚI SỰ TIẾN BỘ CỦA ĐẤT NƯỚC

This is a very interesting analysis. The development of a nation depends on so many factors. The most important is the contribution of the citizens, the politicians, traders, scientists, and farmers etc. should contribute to the development of the nation.

Let us analyse how everyone can serve the country. The politicians or the law makers lead the country on the right path. The country's economic development rests with the traders as the import and export goods by maintaining the balance of trade. This determines the value of country's money. Scientist creates new inventions that will benefit all. The farmer feeds the country. There is a saying that the farmer lives alone and the other depend on him. The farmer's work is not a white collar job. He has to plough the fields, sow the seeds to **reap**¹ the benefits.

However, the teacher contributes as much if not more than the farmer. If food is essential, knowledge is vital. The teacher is the one who educates politicians, traders, scientists, farmers etc. He is the basis of the whole structure. Without knowledge, man cannot progress. The progress of a nation depends on the teachers. The teacher educates the man right from his childhood and help him to acquire knowledge. From the **medieval**² ages teachers were given a lot of respect and held in very high **esteem**.³

Today most developed and developing nations place primary importance and attention on education. The future of a nation rests in the hands of teachers. The service that teachers provide in the development of a nation is long and lasting.

1. reap /ri:p/ (v) *gặt hái, thu hoạch*

2. medieval /medi'ɪ:vəl/ (adj) *thuộc về thời Trung cổ (khoảng từ năm 1100 đến 1400 sau CN)*

3. esteem /i'sti:m/ (n) *lòng quý trọng, sự kính trọng*

195. HOW TO BE SUCCESSFUL IN LIFE

LÀM THẾ NÀO ĐỂ THÀNH CÔNG TRONG CUỘC SỐNG

What we call life is a very complex affair. It is not simply eating, reproducing and finally dying. Every creature does these. But in the case of man he has to lead a highly complicated life. It is like going through a **maze**¹ and coming out. He has to earn, make a home, look after his people, attend to his obligations to the society and the Government. So in order to be successful, in all these he has to develop certain qualities.

What do we mean by saying a man is successful ? If in his occupation he can do satisfactorily both for himself and others then he is successful. He must be able to look after his people and **bring up**² good children. If he becomes a professional man like an engineer, doctor or lawyer, making money should not be the only **criterion**,³ he must also be able to satisfy his clients and be honest at it.

In order to be successful one should develop certain qualities. At first he must realize his purpose ; in other words what he would like to be. This is the **crux**⁴ of the problem, for the choice does not come to him. Parents decide it very often for them. Let us suppose he decides to be somebody in his life. Once having decided he must work for attaining certain standards in that line. Only hard work would make him fit for the job. It is rightly said that it is 5% inspiration and 95% **perspiration**.⁵ One must deserve before desiring. One must remember one's education does not stop with the school or college. It is a life long process. Professional people must keep themselves up to date.

Then one must get on with others. In the chess board of life one may find himself in any position, it may be the all powerful queen or simply a pawn, must be remembered that given the chance, even a pawn can destroy a queen. This means in a complex society, everyone finds oneself in a particular position; there may be some above and some below. One need not be favouring and **flattering**⁶ those above and be **arrogant**⁷ with those below. "What can I do for you" is the correct attitude and having done it go about your duty. In getting on with others, sweet temperament is really an asset ; then only others will like to transact with one. One must

not be easily irritable nor give irritants to others. Then one must be reliable. One may be clever but if he is not reliable, he cannot achieve success in a great measure because others will have very little to do with him.

Another important quality that would make up for success is doing things then and there. **Procrastination**⁸ is the thief of time. **Postponement**⁹ of doing things means **swelling**¹⁰ of work for the next day. A small **chink**¹¹ may be easily closed today but tomorrow it may be late. If we analyse the life of successful people, we could easily see they have been through and never postponed doing things.

Still another quality is not to argue. The other may be really wrong. By pointing out that he has been wrong you are not going to improve matters, on the other hand you can help him correct. Arguing not only takes away precious time but also causes irritations. Especially one's superior may not like arguing. Instead of argument, one must be able to meet the situation something like this : "You may be right, sir", or "This is all right", or "What about our alternative ?" and so on.

One must be capable of learning from experience. One must be able to learn from the mistakes of others. Only when nations and individuals fail to learn from the past mistakes, they are ruined. History is replete with examples.

1. maze /meɪz/ (n) mê cung, mê lộ
2. bring up /brɪŋ ʌp/ (v) nuôi nấng, dạy dỗ, giáo dục (ai)
3. criterion /kraɪ'tɪəriən/ (n) (sinh -ria) tiêu chuẩn
4. crux /krʌks/ (n) điểm then chốt (của một vấn đề), phần khó khăn nhất (của một công việc, v.v...)
5. perspiration /pɜːspə'reɪʃn/ (n) sự đổ mồ hôi – mồ hôi
6. flatter /'flætə(r)/ (v)âng bốc, xu nịnh, bợ đỡ
7. arrogant /'ærəɡənt/ (adj) kiêu căng, hách dịch, ngạo mạn
8. procrastination /prəʊkræsti'neɪʃn/ (n) sự trì hoãn, sự chần chừ
9. postponement /pəʊst'pəʊnmənt/ (n) sự trì hoãn
10. swelling /'swelɪŋ/ (n) sự tăng lên (về cường độ, khối lượng hoặc số lượng)
11. chink /tʃɪŋk/ (n) khe hở nhỏ, chỗ nứt, chỗ rạn, chỗ thủng

196. HOW TO BE HAPPY LÀM THẾ NÀO ĐỂ ĐƯỢC HẠNH PHÚC

Happiness is a shy bird. If you hunt it, it will fly away. It is better to set a trap for it, and look the other way. Pleasure seekers miss it. They are **restless**,¹ discontented people, who, having no **inward**² happiness, seek it in outward things, where they do not often find it. It is a common mistake to think that money brings happiness. "If only I were rich !" we sigh. Money is not to be **despised**;³ and it can do much to make life pleasant. Yet the rich are sometimes unhappy, and some poor men sing. So the source of happiness cannot be simply in wealth, and even those who will never be rich can still be happy.

There are some outward conditions that make for happiness. First, good health. A man who suffers from **chronic indigestion**⁴ or a **deranged liver**,⁵ cannot feel very happy. There is a lot of truth in the famous joke in Punch : "Is life worth living ? It all depends on the liver !" And yet it is wonderful how some **invalids**⁶ rise above their pain and weakness, and keep smiling faces. But these are brave souls, who find happiness within, in spite of their ailments. Every one is not a hero ; and few can resist the depression and gloom that bad health brings. So to be happy we must keep well, and observe the laws of health. An idler is rarely a happy man. Most **grumblers**⁷ are lazy people with nothing to occupy their minds and their time. Workers are generally cheerful. A man who has a **congenial**⁸ occupation finds great happiness in his work. And even if one's work is not always as pleasant as it might be, the necessity of doing it, and doing it regularly, saves one from a lot of **brooding**⁹ and **melancholy**¹⁰ thoughts.

We should have healthy amusements and hobbies to fill our leisure hours. "All work and no play, makes Jack a dull boy" ; and a man who has not learnt to use his leisure time, will not be happy. Games, sport, music, reading, any pleasant and wholesome occupation we most take to, will add immensely to the pleasure of life.

And pleasant **social intercourse**¹¹ is a great source of happiness. Man is a social animal, and few of us can lead entirely solitary lives. True friendship is one of the most precious treasures of life and blessed is he that has a real friend ; but even the pleasant companionship of acquaintances is a joy.

But the true source of happiness lies within. Happiness depends not so much on our circumstances, as on ourselves. The kingdom of happiness, like the kingdom of heaven, "is within you". A poor man may be happy in a hut, and a millionaire unhappy in a palace. In unselfishness, kindness to others, **humility**,¹² a clean mind, a clear **conscience**¹³ and an **upright**¹⁴ life in these things lies the secret of happiness.

"The mind is its own place, and of itself
Can make a hell of heaven, a heaven of hell."

1. restless /'restlɪs/ (adj) *bồn chồn, nôn nóng*
2. inward /'ɪnwəd/ (adj) *ở bên trong, thuộc về bên trong (nhất là trong tâm trí hoặc tinh thần)*
3. despise /dɪ'spaɪz/ (v) *coi thường, khinh miệt*
4. chronic indigestion /,krɒnɪk ɪndɪ'dʒɛstʃn/ (n) *chứng khó tiêu hóa mãn tính*
5. deranged liver /dɪ'reɪndʒd 'lɪvə(r)/ (n) *lá gan bị rối loạn*
6. invalid /'ɪnvəlɪd/ (n) *người bệnh tật, kẻ tàn phế*

7. grumbler /'grʌmblə(r)/ (n) người hay cằn nhằn
8. congenial /kʌn'dʒi:nɪəl/ (adj) dễ chịu hay vừa ý vì thích hợp với bản chất hoặc sở thích của mình
9. brooding /'bru:diŋ/ (n) sự buồn rầu, ủ rũ
10. melancholy /'meləŋkɒli/ (n) sự u sầu
11. social intercourse /,səʊʃl 'ɪntəko:s/ (n) mối quan hệ xã hội
12. humility /hju:'mɪləti/ (n) sự khiêm tốn, thái độ khiêm nhường
13. conscience /'kɒnʃns/ (n) lương tâm
14. upright /ʌp'reɪt/ (adj) chính trực, ngay thẳng

197. HOW TO AVOID WASTE OF ENERGY

CÁCH THỨC TRÁNH LÃNG PHÍ NĂNG LƯỢNG

With the fast growth of civilization there is also an ever mounting need for energy. Energy may be in the form of fuels or electricity. The world appears to have reactivated energy to a liquid fuel like petrol. This is likely to be exhausted in the course of a few years at the rate man is using it. Electricity depends on oil or water resources and when oil goes, water resources cannot **keep up with**¹ the demand. Everybody is caught up with the problem of **conservation**² of energy.

To **meet**³ the challenge various methods have been suggested. One is to **suppress**⁴ the demand. **Rationing**⁵ has to be brought in by means of **legislation**⁶ so that non-essential consumption may be brought to the minimum. In fact this is being done when the power supply becomes chronically short. There can be a power cut. During certain hours of the day the power supply can shut down, thus power is saved or conserved for better use. Energy conservation is possible through modernisation of plant and equipment. In fact where obsolete equipment is in use it can be replaced by modern, energy-saving ones. Energy can be saved at domestic levels by better house keeping. Modern **gadgets**⁷ consuming energy can be used only when they are absolutely necessary. Luxury items like the television, radio and record player can be used **sparingly**.⁸ Wasteful usage of lights can be avoided. Meaningless illumination can be saved. It is also possible by reorganizing and streamlining systems through structural changes as in modernising equipment. For example by adopting a better design in electrical motors, efficiency can be improved.

Energy can be saved on transport by the following methods. People should commute by the rail rather than by cars and vans. Animal-drawn vehicles may be encouraged for very short distances. This is being done in countries where there is a village economy and animals like **bullocks**⁹ are not scarce. The transport system must be improved with a view to sparing the energy. Cities must be planned in such a way that the commuting distance is minimised.

In industry many things could be done to reduce waste of energy or to economise energy. The **maintenance**¹⁰ may be tightened; waste heat must be utilised properly. If systems are streamlined, economy in fuel could be obtained. Instead of using material requiring higher energy, those which require lower energy can be used. By effecting minor changes in the existing plants, economy in energy could be achieved.

Energy question is a major global problem and is drawing the attention of all. But we can hope man with his ever rising urge for existence will cope up with this major and the most urgent problem and find alternatives.

1. keep up with /ki:p ʌp wið/ (v) theo kịp, bắt kịp
2. conservation /kɒnsə'veɪʃn/ (n) sự bảo toàn, sự bảo tồn
3. meet /mi:t/ (v) đáp ứng, thỏa mãn
4. suppress /sə'pres/ (v) chặn lại, ngăn cản
5. rationing /'ræʃənɪŋ/ (n) chế độ phân phối
6. legislation /ledʒɪs'leɪʃn/ (n) sự lập pháp

7. gadget /'gædʒɪt/ (n) thiết bị hoặc dụng cụ cơ khí nhỏ
8. sparing /'speəriŋ/ (adj) tiết kiệm, dè xẻn - sparingly /-lɪ/ (adv)
9. bullock /'bʊlək/ (n) bò đực đã thiến
10. maintenance /'meɪntənəns/ (n) sự duy trì, sự bảo quản

198. KEEPING FIT GIỮ CHO KHỎE MẠNH

Keeping fit means maintaining good health. Looking at history in the West, the activities connected with keeping fit first started in Greece where the Olympic Games were born. In those days these activities were pursued for sportsmanship. The Chinese have their unique form of exercises for keeping fit. These have been developed from methods used a thousand years ago. Examples are Taiji, Gongfu and Waidangong which are among the most popular in Singapore.

Many people here began to take an interest in physical fitness exercises in the early sixties. By 1970 it became so popular that today we can see hundreds of people taking part in these exercises in every park and any available open space. People from all **walks of life**,¹ male and female, young and old do these exercises under the instructions of professional instructors. There are many factors which may **account for**² this popular involvement. Technology has made a lot of improvements in the last few decades. As a result, machines are used extensively at work and also at home. Machines save time and effort. This means that man not only does less manual work, but also has more free time. Hobbies are pursued, pastimes are created, and too much leisure leads to **sloth**.³ People who develop a habit of laziness normally find that it affects their ability to work effectively. As a result the past competitive decades have woken up men from their **sleep of indolence**.⁴ Men have learnt to fill up their free time with activities to keep fit. Science has both **curse**⁵ and **blessing**⁶ with various new diseases and cures. Some of these diseases are different in that they affect even those who eat nutritious food, live in a clean environment and have access to health facilities. Previously diseases resulted from lack of **hygiene**⁷ and nutrition deficiency. These normally affected the poor and under-privileged. Doctors say that the present life style has in some ways created a new range of diseases like "heart attacks", cancer and diabetes. Large **intake**⁸ of **junk food**⁹ and preservatives, air pollution and insufficient physical activity have been identified as some of the causes of the new range of diseases. A new awareness to change our way of life and the realization that health is more important than wealth has taken place.

We are presently in the midst of a **craze**¹⁰ to keep fit. The media has been very successful in informing the public of the importance of physical fitness. Physical fitness has been described as a factor that can bring about a long life, free from diseases. Men, women, children and the old are encouraged to sweat it out in fitness activities.

However, we must not forget that physical fitness programmes have their limits. An overdose of anything can be **lethal**.¹¹ Over exertion may cause serious injuries. Injuries may result from improper and incorrect application of techniques of fitness. So a person embarking on a physical fitness programme to become healthy may end up being seriously injured.

1. walk of life /wɔ:k əv laɪf/ (*idm*) tầng lớp xã hội

2. account for /ə'kaʊnt fə(r)/ (*v*) giải thích cho

3. sloth /sləʊθ/ (*n*) sự lười biếng, sự uể oải

4. indolence /'ɪndələns/ (*n*) sự lười biếng, không hoạt động

5. curse /kɜ:s/ (n) *tai họa*
6. blessing /'blesɪŋ/ (n) *diễm phúc, phúc lành*
7. hygiene /'haɪdʒi:n/ (n) *vệ sinh*
8. intake /'ɪnteɪk/ (n) *sự lấy vào*
9. junk food /dʒʌŋk 'fu:d/ (n) *quà vặt (như khoai tây rán, v.v...)*
10. craze /kreɪz/ (n) *sự say mê (nhất thời)*
11. lethal /'li:θl/ (adj) *gây thiệt hại, có hại*

**199. WHAT CONTRIBUTIONS CAN WRITERS MAKE TO THE PROMOTION
OF GOODWILL AMONG THE PEOPLE OF A COUNTRY ?**
***NHÀ VĂN CÓ THỂ CÓ NHỮNG ĐÓNG GÓP NÀO ĐỂ THỨC ĐẨY THIỆN CHÍ
GIỮA MỌI NGƯỜI Ở MỘT ĐẤT NƯỚC?***

Since remote **antiquity**¹ writers in every country have **exerted**² a profound influence on the minds of the people. The writings of political philosophers, like Rousseau and Voltaire, have even caused revolutions and diverted the course of history. Such is the power of writers who express their ideas and views with **lucidity**³ and **cogency**.⁴

Most writers who **dwell upon**⁵ the affairs of their countries are deeply conscious of their responsibility towards their countries and **compatriots**.⁶ This consciousness not only **impels**⁷ them to avoid issues which tend to divide the people but also to express their view on delicate issue in the most temperate language. Their main aim is to promote goodwill among the people of the country, and this they try to achieve in various ways.

In a country dominated by people of the same race and language, writers can promote goodwill among its people by clarifying political and economic issues which the people understand only vaguely. If the people are divided by ideological differences or by differences of economic status, writers can exercise their influence to remove the resentment and prejudices among the people. Even those who write on social problems can emphasise the issues that tend to unite the people. They can also suggest ways and means of removing the causes of resentment and frustration that exist among the people. As the written word is more effective than the spoken word, people tend to accept the view of writers more readily than those expressed verbally by various people.

But it is in countries in which people of various races reside that writers can make the greatest contribution to the promotion of goodwill among the people. In a country like Malaysia, for example, writers can concentrate on the issues that tend to unite the people. They should not be too critical of the attitudes of one race to gratify the emotions of an other race. If they do so, they will **incite**⁸ racial **discord**⁹ and even violence which may affect the whole country adversely. If short speeches to a small group of people can cause **riots**¹⁰ and racial conflicts in all parts of the country, writers can do greater harm, for the written word circulates more extensively for a longer period.

This power of the written, however, could be used by writers for the benefit of the whole nation. By giving prominence to the social aspects of life that affect the people as human beings and as individuals of a particular race, writers can help in the development of a common outlook among the people. They could also help in making the people realise the benefits in peace and harmony. A study of the history of very country reveals how the ways and habits of its people are influenced by the pen of distinguished writers. Even the leaders of the country are often guided by the opinions of noted writers.

Indeed, in times, of great discontent in a country, writers advise the people to exercise patience and moderation in expressing their grievances. There are many examples of how writers in various countries have been able to remove feelings of hatred among the people. The newspaper, for example, which is the product of the combined effort of

many writers is able to exert a restraining influence on people who are easily **provoked**.¹¹ This is the best example of what writers could do to promote goodwill among the people of a country.

1. antiquity /æn'tɪkwəti/ (n) *thời cổ xưa*
2. exert /ɪɡ'zɜ:t/ (v) *đưa ra (một kỹ xảo, sức ép, ảnh hưởng, v.v...) và sử dụng*
3. lucidity /lu:'sɪdəti/ (n) *sự rõ ràng, dễ hiểu; sự sáng sủa, minh bạch*
4. cogency /'kɒdʒənsɪ/ (n) *sự thuyết phục*
5. dwell upon /'dwel əˌpʊn/ (v) *viết, nói mãi về cái gì*
6. compatriot /kəm'pætriət/ (n) *đồng bào*
7. impel /ɪm'pel/ (v) *ép buộc hoặc thúc giục ai làm cái gì*
8. incite /ɪn'saɪt/ (v) *kích thích, xúi giục*
9. discord /'dɪskɔ:d/ (n) *sự bất hòa, sự xích mích*
10. riot /'raɪət/ (n) *cuộc bạo loạn*
11. provoke /prə'vəʊk/ (v) *khiêu khích, chọc tức*

**200. WHAT PART SHOULD THE TEACHING OF CRAFTS¹ HAVE IN THE
SCHOOL CURRICULUM ?**
**VIỆC DẠY NGHỀ THỦ CÔNG ĐÓNG VAI TRÒ GÌ TRONG CHƯƠNG TRÌNH HỌC
Ở TRƯỜNG**

The curriculum **comprises of**² what the pupil is supposed to learn and study at the school. As knowledge expands, the curriculum also grows. The aim of education is to prepare the pupil for life such that he or she can settle in life as useful citizen, to themselves and to society at large. In order to be useful one should be trained to use his faculties or talents in the best way possible. The faculties are physical, mental and intellectual. There should be a sort of **co-ordination**³ between these faculties and they should be **integrated**⁴ in the course of education.

In ancient days and even quite recently education meant only training in the three R's viz--Reading, Writing and Arithmetic. But those days are gone. Many abilities other than that will have to be built in the child so that he may leave the school prepared to face the challenges of life.

Such abilities include the use of the hands as well. Man is not all brain. The curriculum must provide opportunities for motor activities. They can be conveniently called doing activities. These doing activities involve muscular co-ordination.

Man is an **aesthetic**⁵ animal, he can appreciate and admire good and beautiful things. Given the chance and training man imitates nature and creates beautiful things. Man is the only creative animal. What we are today and all that our culture stand for, we own man's spirit of creation. Man has created a lot of beautiful artifacts. From the ordinary pin to the much **sophisticated**⁶ supersonic planes and computers, man has shown his ability to create and even to surpass nature.

This spirit of creativity involves what is called crafts in the school curriculum. Whenever the pupil uses his hands and fingers in doing and creating beautiful pictures of things, it is called art and craft. Art and craft can be learnt for its own sake or it can be also applied to science and technology.

Craft work pleases the person who practises it. From the child who makes castle in the sand the designer of complicated machinery, there is the pleasure in creation. Not only from the utility point of view but also from the point of view of pleasure, crafts must find a place in the school curriculum.

Another psychological factor involves the importance of teaching crafts. A normal child is active and wants to use his hands and feet. This is evidenced by many a child's activity. This **instinct**⁷ to act is being channeled on useful ways in the teaching of crafts. So crafts can bring about a psychological transformation in the child. In fact it is the expensive medium for a not-too-intellectual.

There are many crafts like drawing, painting, carpentry, **weaving**⁸ and **bookbinding**.⁹ Some of these crafts have a professional value as well as recreational value. Realizing their educational value, Gandhi introduced his famous craft centered education which he called 'Basic Education.' Some of the crafts can be taught in the curriculum of special schools. Crafts have some value later in life for the students. He can practise crafts peculiar to a locality. For grown-up boys crafts with utility value like watch repairing,

electric wiring and radio repairing should be taught. This may mean extra work for the staff and additional expense to the society but it is worth the effort.

1. craft /kræft/ (n) *thủ công, nghề thủ công*
2. comprise of /kəm'praɪz/ (v) *bao gồm, gồm có*
3. co-ordination /kəʊɔ:di'neɪʃn/ (n) *sự phối hợp*
4. integrate /'ɪntɪɡreɪt/ (v) *hợp nhất, hòa nhập*
5. aesthetic /i:'sθetɪk/ (adj) *có thẩm mỹ*
6. sophisticated /sə'fɪstɪkətɪd/ (adj) *tinh vi, phức tạp*
7. instinct /'ɪnstɪŋkt/ (n) *bản năng*
8. weave /wi:v/ (v) *đan, dệt*
9. bookbinding /'bʊkbaɪndɪŋ/ (n) *việc đóng bìa sách*

201. WHAT IS YOUR IDEA OF BEAUTY ?

QUAN ĐIỂM CỦA BẠN VỀ VẺ ĐẸP

There is a saying "beauty is in the eyes of the **beholder**¹." What one individual considers beautiful may not be beautiful to another. To me, beauty is not only something that pleases the eyes, but also pleases the other senses and the mind. I think true beauty makes you see beyond the lovely sight. It will give you insight or realisation of something interesting beyond just the outward appearance.

When we talk about beauty in people, we often refer to their physical attractiveness. Of course, a beautiful or handsome face is pleasant to look at. But I find that the most memorable "beautiful people" are those who have **captivating**² personalities behind the pretty faces. In one of my previous classes, there were two beautiful girls, Sue and Lin. Both had almost **flawless**³ faces and trim figures. But Lin was used to getting her way. She felt that her looks could help her get anything she wanted, especially among the boys. Sue, on the other hand, treated her beauty in a **matter-of-fact**⁴ way and she was nice to everyone. She was also a member of the debating team. Her personality made her a more outstanding beauty than Lin.

There is another kind of beauty in people that attracts me greatly. This is what is known as inner beauty. People who have this kind of beauty have **attained**⁵ inner peace. They care about their fellow-man, and try to right the injustices in this world. Two well-known personalities who exemplify this are Nelson Mandela and Mother Teresa. Mandela is willing to sacrifice his life and freedom to obtain equal rights for the Blacks in South Africa. Mother Teresa's mission is to help the poorest of the world's poor.

In fact, even around me, I know some people who are always ready to lend a hand to a person in trouble. I greatly admire the beauty of these people because they are the ones who make the world a better place. This inner beauty, I notice, gives a certain **radiance**⁶ to their looks.

I also love the beauty of art. I enjoy classical art as well as folk art which is painted by untrained artists. To me, the beauty of an artwork is not just in the skills involved. A painting that attracts me is one which **evokes**⁷ an emotional reaction. When I gaze at a painting, I am trying to **figure out**⁸ the artist's point of view. The beauty of art, to me, is that it gives a **glimpse**⁹ into the artist's life or his surroundings.

Where places are concerned, to me, there is nothing comparable to the sea. It may take on different colours, or be calm at one beach and **choppy**¹⁰ at another. But it is like a timeless beauty - always a pleasure to look at and often so appealing that you cannot resist jumping in for a swim.

Some people think that things of beauty are only attainable if you are rich. I disagree completely with this. Everyone has his idea of beauty, and we need to have things, people and places of beauty in our everyday life. In the words of a poet "a thing of beauty is a joy forever".

1. behold /br'həʊld/ (v) nhìn (nhất là cái gì bất thường) - beholder /br'həʊldə(r)/ (n)

2. captivating /'kæptɪveɪtɪŋ/ (adj) quyến rũ, mê hoặc

3. flawless /'flɔ:lɪs/ (adj) hoàn hảo, hoàn mỹ

4. matter-of-fact /'mætə(r) əv fækt/ (adj) *thản nhiên*
5. attain /ə'teɪn/ (v) *đạt được, giành được*
6. radiance /'reɪdɪəns/ (n) *sự rạng rỡ, sự hớn hờ*
7. evoke /ɪ'vəʊk/ (v) *gây ra, đem lại (một phản ứng, một sự đáp ứng, v.v...)*
8. figure out /'fɪɡərəʊt/ (v) *phát hiện, hiểu được*
9. glimpse /ɡlɪmps/ (n) *cái nhìn thoáng qua*
10. choppy /'tʃɒpi/ (adj) *(về biển) hơi động, sóng vỗ bập bềnh*

202. BEAUTY IN NATURE

NÉT ĐẸP TRONG THIÊN NHIÊN

Beauty is hard to define but easy to recognise. In nature, beauty may be **discerned**¹ in all things and places, even in the most unexpected regions of the earth.

There is beauty in the infinite variety of flowers, birds, animals and plants, many of which are vividly colourful. There is beauty in mountain, valleys and hills, and in the skies. Thus, beauty can be found in all the creations of God. Then hunter who scans the forests for his quarry is often fascinated by the beauty that he finds in objects, which **conceal**² beautiful flowers from human sight, suddenly reveal their secrets to him when he **stumbles**³ over them. The fisherman who turns to the sea for his livelihood is fascinated by the beauty of the **multitudinous**⁴ creatures that swam in the seas. Many of these creatures are found even on the shore. But the oceans often conceal the beauty that lies below their surface, and to catch a glimpse of the beauty of the world below the sea, hundreds of divers everywhere explore the bottoms of the oceans, even at the risk of losing their lives in the unknown regions of the world below.

Even the farmer and the traveller appreciate the beauty that is found in nature. The farmer finds beauty in the variety of the plants that he grows. The traveller is **impressed**⁵ with the beauty of distant hills and mountains, and the beauty of **meandering**⁶ river in large valleys. He is also appreciative of the beauty of the night. As he travel in the moon-light, he looks at the landscape and is lost in admiration of it.

The beauty in nature is also appreciated by others. Almost every one delights to see the rushing streams and the numerous birds and animals that may be found in every part of the earth, for these are part of the ornaments of nature. Even the tiniest of creatures has a beauty of it own. In search of this beauty in nature, men in all parts of the world are travelling great distances and spending a great deal of money, even in some cases, even their life savings. It is this appreciation of natural beauty that impels men to visit distant lands, which have a beauty of their own. Men have also visited the islands that are spread throughout the world in search of the natural beauty. Many have visited the cold deserts in the Artics as well as the hot deserts where few plants grow, in search of the beauty that may be found in these regions, despite the lack of vegetation and animals life. The deserts are indeed the home of many beautiful plants and animals which find sufficient refuge in these parts, and many of the birds too, are remarkable for their beauty.

But the person who is most appreciative of natural beauty is the poet, who finds music and beauty even in the movement of the clouds and winds. His deep appreciation of the beauty that he finds around him impels him to give **utterance**⁷ to it in the most expressive language, which is itself often of **imperishable**⁸ beauty.

1. discern /dɪ'sɜːn/ (v) nhận rõ (bằng giác quan, trí óc, v.v...)

2. conceal /kən'siːl/ (v) che giấu, che đậy

3. stumble (over) /'stʌmbəl/ (v) vấp, sẩy

4. multitudinous /mʌltɪ'tjuːdɪnəs/ (adj) rất nhiều, vô số

5. impress /ɪm'pres/ (v) gây ấn tượng

6. meandering /mɪ'ændərɪŋ/ (*adj*) ngoằn ngoèo, uốn khúc
7. utterance /'ʌtərəns/ (*n*) lời phát biểu, lời bày tỏ
8. imperishable /ɪm'perɪʃəbl/ (*adj*) bất hủ, bất diệt

203. WHAT, IN YOUR OPINION, ARE THE POSSIBLE CAUSES OF CHILD ABUSE ?¹

THEO Ý BẠN, ĐÂU LÀ NGUYÊN NHÂN CÓ THỂ CÓ CỦA VIỆC ĐỐI XỬ TÀN TỆ VỚI TRẺ EM?

Most child-abuse **victims**² seem to be children of parents who are too busy earning a living and do not have much time for their children. Also more cases seem to occur in and around big cities like Kuala Lumpur. The rural areas do not generally have this problem.

So child-abuse is less likely to occur in a family where the parents have stable jobs and can spend time with the children. Children really have only a few basic needs. Besides food, shelter and love and care, they do not need anything else. But if any of these are not given, they may become very demanding. In turn the parents may turn on them and this can lead to abuse of the children.

Any parent who is **obsessed**³ with his or her work obviously has no time for the children. By the time he or she returns from work, all he or she wants is some rest and not for anyone to bother him or her. A child, who has spent the whole day without the parent, **yearns**⁴ for attention and thus may demand it from the parent. In such a case, which I suspect, occurs in just about every household, the parent will have to be very careful not to let his or her temper loose. So in many cases, the parent may **pacify**⁵ the child with presents or a trip to town to have a drink or a bite to eat - anything for a bit of peace and quiet.

Sometimes however, anger may **overwhelm**⁶ the parent and he or she releases violence onto the child. If this becomes habitual, then the child will most likely be abused.

In a modern city like Kuala Lumpur, living is not easy. Most have to struggle to make ends meet. So the demands of work is already enough to **fray**⁷ the nerves of the parents. Further demands from the children at home might cause a nervous reaction on the part of the parents.

Some parents in order to escape from the demands of the children, hand them over to **child-minders**.⁸ This handing over of responsibility does not solve the problem. All too often the minders are suffering the same difficulties of making a living and take on the children to supplement their income. So they are surely not going to be patient with someone else's children. Child-abuse is the result, often worse than what the parents can **mete out**.⁹

People living in the country are less prone to child-abuse simply because they do not have the stress of city-living. They are still closer to nature and this has the effect of making life easier and simpler. Children are less demanding as there are less things to demand. So rarely we hear of child-abuse in the villages. Also neighbours know each other pretty well and any abuse that is going on is soon found out. In impersonal cities, the abused victim can get killed and no one might even know.

So perhaps we can take a cue from the country folks. Parents will have to **reappraise**¹⁰ their **priorities**.¹¹ Is making a living the only important thing, or is the **welfare**¹² of their children of greater importance ? Which is more valuable, money in the bank or children who love them in the home ? They will have to answer these questions themselves.

1. abuse /ə'bjʊ:s/ (v) *đổi xử một cách tồi tệ; lạm dụng*
2. victim /'vɪktɪm/ (n) *nạn nhân*
3. obsess /əb'ses/ (v) *ám ảnh*
4. yearn for /jɜ:n/ (v) *ao ước, khao khát, mong mỏi*
5. pacify /'pæsɪfaɪ/ (v) *làm dịu, làm nguôi*
6. overwhelm /əʊvə'welɪm/ (v) *khuất phục, áp đảo*
7. fray /freɪ/ (v) *(làm cho cái gì) trở nên căng thẳng và bối rối*
8. mind /maɪnd/ (v) *chăm sóc hoặc chăm lo đến ai / cái gì* - child-minder (n) *người giữ trẻ*
9. mete (out) /mi:t/ (v) *đưa ra hay thi hành (sự tặng thưởng, trừng phạt)*
10. reappraise /ri:ə'preɪz/ (v) *đánh giá lại, xem xét lại*
11. priority /praɪ'ɒrəti/ (n) *điểm ưu tiên*
12. welfare /'welfeə(r)/ (n) *hạnh phúc, sức khỏe tốt, v.v... của một người hoặc một cộng đồng*

204. WHY SHOULD WE HAVE GOOD MANNERS ? TẠI SAO CHÚNG TA NÊN CÓ NHÂN CÁCH TỐT ?

Good manners are important to live happily among people. Without good manners we are only slightly better than animals.

The modern society consists of more people than it did in the past. These people are of various cultural, racial, religious and professional backgrounds. To live among such people therefore requires great powers of endurance and abilities of mixing with people. Good manners enables us to tolerate the disagreeable attitudes of others to a great extent. They also help to promote friendship among the people around.

If we have good manners we are respected by those who associate with us. Having good manners, however, does not mean that we should be polite, understanding, and sympathetic only when we are outside our home but also inside our home. There are many people who are very kind and polite to people outside their homes, but within their own homes they are worse than the devil themselves. Such people do not really have good manners.

Having good manners means that we should always be good to others. Our speech and habits as well as our behaviour should not hurt the feelings of others or cause them any inconvenience. We should also not **talk ill**¹ about others or **boast**² about our achievements or personal possessions. We must not laugh at the weaknesses and failure of others. Further, if we are angry we must try to use words in such a way that others are not **offended**.³

If we have all these qualities, we will have more friends and well-wishers. We will also have less trouble from others, and those who associate with us will also learn how to behave well. In this way, our good manners will help to spread better understanding and good-will among others. Thus, we can live a happier life. It is for all these reasons that we should have good manners.

1. talk ill /tɔ:k ɪl/ *nói xấu*
2. boast /bəʊst/ (v) *khoe khoang, tự kiêu*
3. offend /ə'fend/ (v) *làm xúc phạm*

205. WHY IS AGRICULTURE¹ IMPORTANT IN THE WORLD TODAY ?
TẠI SAO NGÀY NAY NÔNG NGHIỆP LẠI CÓ VAI TRÒ QUAN TRỌNG TRÊN THẾ
GIỚI ?

Since the **dawn**² of history, agriculture has been one of the important means of producing food for human **consumption**.³ Today more and more lands are being developed for the production of a large variety of crops. In Asia, vast areas of land are being used to produce rice, wheat, rubber and a variety of other crops. More than half of the land occupied and developed by man beings in the world are devoted to agriculture. The fact that agriculture is one of the most essential mean of producing food is realised easily when we think of the types of things that we eat. The rice or wheat that we eat comes from the land. Even potatoes and other roots or vegetables and even leaves such as tea, as well as the fruits that men eat are the products of the soil that covers the earth. In fact, everything that we eat, except meat, fish and other kinds of **flesh**⁴ comes from the land, and what grows on the land is part of agriculture. Even the sugar, oil coffee and other beverages that we use are products of plants that grow on land. In the same way, many of the medicines that we use are made of plants that grow in various parts of the world. The tobacco that we use for relaxation also comes from a plant. Thus, it can be easily observed that without agriculture we would be almost without food. It is true, however, that in the remote past men did live mainly on flesh that he obtained by hunting. But such a kind of life was unhappy and inconvenient, for animals were not found every-where easily. Therefore, men turned to agriculture for his livelihood. Today, agriculture continues to provide almost all the foods that men require to survive on the earth.

1. agriculture /'ægrɪkʌltʃə(r)/ (n) *nông nghiệp*
2. dawn /dɔːn/ (n) *bình minh, buổi đầu*
3. consumption /kən'sʌmpʃn/ (n) *sự tiêu thụ*
4. flesh /fleʃ/ (n) *thịt (động vật)*

206. WHY WE ARE TAXED¹

TẠI SAO CHÚNG TA PHẢI ĐÓNG THUẾ

Nobody likes paying taxes. Even those who know that taxation is necessary and just, do not welcome the tax-collector as a **bosom friend**.² It is not pleasant to see part of your monthly income taken away from you in **income tax**³; and the farmer feels **aggrieved**⁴ that so much of his rents, or the profits of his labour, is carried off by government officials. Ignorant people think this is an injustice and make a **grievance**⁵ of it; so it is just as well that we should know why we are taxed, so that we can see the **fairness**⁶ of the system.

Every country must have a government of some sort, or life would be impossible. The primary duties of a government are to protect the life and property of the citizens, to maintain law and order and settle disputes between citizens in a just and orderly way through the law-courts, to defend the country from foreign **foes**⁷, and to maintain and roads and highways. Besides this, many governments maintain and direct education, provide hospitals for the sick, and attend to **sanitation**.⁸ All these great public duties need money: an army and navy have to be kept up, the police force and the judges have to be paid, schools have to be provided and teachers supported, expert health-officers and sanitary engineers have to be employed. Now where is all the money needed for these public services to come from? That question is answered by another; For whose benefit are all these services maintained? The answer is, for the public. It is the people as a whole, rich and poor, that benefit by security of life and property, by the **sound**⁹ administration of justice, by the maintenance of roads, by the public hospitals, public schools, and good sanitation. Therefore it is only right that the public, the individual citizens of the country, should contribute the money needed; for the money they give comes back to them in the shape of these public benefits which all enjoy.

So long, therefore, as we have a good and efficient government, so long as our money is being used in the right way, and so long as the burden of taxation is **distributed**¹⁰ fairly, as different classes can bear it, we have no right to grumble at having to pay our share of the taxes.

1. tax /tæks/ (v) đánh thuế, bắt đóng thuế - taxation /tæk 'seiʃn/ (n) hệ thống thuế
2. bosom friend /'bɒzəm frend/ (n) người bạn tâm phúc
3. income-tax /'ɪnkʌm tæks/ (n) thuế thu nhập
4. aggrieved /ə'gri:vɪd/ (adj) phẫn lòng, oán giận
5. grievance /'gri:vns/ (n) lời kêu ca phàn nàn, sự bất bình
6. fairness /'feəns/ (n) sự công bằng
7. foe /fəʊ/ (n) kẻ thù
8. sanitation /sæni'teɪʃn/ (n) hệ thống vệ sinh (câu cống, v.v...)
9. sound /saʊnd/ (adj) kiện toàn, chu đáo
10. distribute /dɪ'strɪbjʊ:t/ (v) phân phối, phân phát

207. QUALITIES OF A GOOD CITIZEN *CÁC PHẨM CHẤT CỦA MỘT CÔNG DÂN TỐT*

A good citizen is one who is a good person. There seems to be no **scope**¹ for **differentiating**² between the two - for a weak or a bad person cannot be a good citizen and it holds true the other way round also. It is a man's everyday behaviour and his every day virtues which count and contribute to his character. A good citizen is one whose behaviour is consistent with the **canons**³ of **self-respect**⁴ and social justice and he should be reliable both in peace and war.

The first and **foremost**⁵ quality asked of a good citizen is **patriotism**.⁶ He should have a genuine love for his country and should have a sense of involvement in its day-to-day affairs, in its economic policies and its international relationships. All this cannot be achieved overnight : it is the product of a good training and a good **heritage**⁷ and various other factors contribute towards patriotic feelings. The first among these is the right kind of upbringing. If a child hears only stories of **betrayal**⁸ and listens to a discussion of the various methods of making easy money, he is unlikely to **imbibe**⁹ any good qualities. The hand that rocks the **cradle**¹⁰ shapes the world. Honesty, **integrity**¹¹ and self-respect are the qualities that can only be **nurtured**¹² at home. These form the foundation of good citizenship.

A home and a family are a **miniature**¹³ group. If a person gets his values and priorities correct while living in it, he will make a good citizen. A good citizen must put the interest of his country before his own personal interest and he should not enter into any contract which may prove harmful to the interest of his country and he must do his share of the work and share due responsibilities. These are the qualities which add up to strength and character. A good citizen puts his country before self. There are many jobs which if correctly performed add to the national progress. Industries, when expanded properly, become a part of national wealth. They provide opportunities for employment and development. A farmer, a teacher, a soldier each one is important in his own role. He who loves his country puts his heart in his job and does it to the best of his ability. A good citizen stays away from anti-social activities like **smuggling**¹⁴ and **corruption**.¹⁵

It is not only the passive virtue of not being anti-social which is important, but the positive quality of asserting oneself, being fearless enough to point out and face anti-social elements. It is not enough to slink out of their way and say that we are not concerned. Courage is not only physical but also moral : one does not require it only when faced by an enemy or in a moment of crisis but in day-to-day decisions and activities. Courage is intimately connected with self-respect. A man who is **servile**¹⁶ and can **stoop down**¹⁷ to any level will not be brave and will not be honest. A man who has a great deal of self-respect will be courageous in the face of odds.

Another thing which is necessary is good health. There may be circumstances which may be beyond our control ; but by and large it is the duty of a good citizen to look after his health. For if a man is healthy, he can **bestir**¹⁸ himself for others ; if he is healthy he can do his duty and can afford to be brave ; he can also save the most of many precious man-hours. A healthy mind finds its natural **habitat**¹⁹ in a healthy body.

Added to all these is the sense of pride a person has in his cultural tradition, the feeling of identification he has with his background. However, this pride should not be allowed to **deteriorate**²⁰ into **chauvinism**.²¹ It should be seasoned with the proper degree of humility. No country is too small to be on its own ; and no country too big to learn from others. And a country needs its citizens to be free and fearless to make it strong. For as the poet has said :

Not gold but only men can make
A nation good and strong
Men who for truth and honour's sake
Stand fast and suffer long.

1. scope (for sth/to do sth) /skəʊp/ (v) *cơ hội để làm (cái gì)*
2. differentiate /dɪfə'renʃieɪt/ (v) *phân biệt*
3. canon /'kænən/ (n) *qui tắt, tiêu chuẩn để đánh giá (cái gì)*
4. self-respect /self rɪ'spekt/ (n) *lòng tự trọng*
5. foremost /'fɔ:məʊst/ (adj) *quan trọng nhất, chủ yếu*
6. patriotism /'pætriətɪzəm/ (n) *lòng yêu nước và sẵn sàng bảo vệ tổ quốc*
7. heritage /'herɪtɪdʒ/ (n) *di sản, tài sản kế thừa*
8. betrayal /brɪ'treɪəl/ (n) *sự phản bội*
9. imbile /ɪm'baɪl/ (v) *tiếp thu hoặc hấp thụ cái gì*
10. cradle /'kreɪdl/ (n) *cái nôi*
11. integrity /ɪn'tegərɪtɪ/ (n) *phẩm chất trung thực và chính trực*
12. nurture /'nɜ:tʃə(r)/ (v) *nuôi nấng, nuôi dưỡng*
13. miniature /'mɪniətʃə(r)/ (n) *vật thu nhỏ*
14. smuggling /'smʌɡlɪŋ/ (n) *nạn buôn lậu*
15. corruption /kə'rʌpʃn/ (n) *sự tham nhũng, sự đồi trụy*
16. servile /'sɜ:vəl/ (adj) *quỵ lụy, khúm núm*
17. stoop down /stu:p daʊn/ (v) *cúi xuống, khom người*
18. bestir (oneself) /brɪ'stɜ:(r)/ (v) *trở nên linh hoạt hoặc bận rộn*
19. habitat /'hæbɪtæt/ (n) *nơi cư trú, nhà ở*
20. deteriorate /drɪ'tɪəriəreɪt/ (v) *trở nên xấu đi về chất lượng hoặc trạng thái*
21. chauvinism /'ʃəʊvɪnɪzəm/ (n) *chủ nghĩa sô-vanh hiếu chiến*

208. THE DUTIES OF A CITIZEN *TRÁCH NHIỆM CÔNG DÂN*

The word citizen has three shades of meaning. It may mean to town-dweller as distinguished from a villager ; or, secondly, the member of a city, who has recognised municipal **privileges**¹ and duties--as, a citizen of Manchester, or of Bombay ; or lastly, it may mean the subject of a **sovereign state**,² in which sense we speak of an English citizen, or a French citizen.

The first meaning may be left aside here ; for the subject is concerned with the second and third meanings only. What, then, are the duties of a citizen to his city and his country ?

A citizen is the member of a community, whether that community is a town or a great country : and as the member of a community he has both privileges and duties. For we may think of a community as existing for the sake of its individual members, or, the individual members as existing for the sake of the community. The first view, held by **individualists**,³ emphasises the privileges of a citizenship ; the second view, held by **socialists**,⁴ emphasises the duties of citizenship. One says, the State exists for the good of the citizen - and that is true ; the other says, the citizens exist for the good of the State - and that also is true. Both view must be combined and a citizen must recognize that the State he belongs to has a duty to him (his privileges) and that he has an **obligation**⁵ to it (his duties).

However, as we are in no danger of forgetting our privileges as citizens, it is wise to emphasise our duties.

The first obvious duty of a citizen is loyalty to the country of his birth or adoption. Patriotism does not mean "My country, right or wrong" ; but it does mean that in a national crisis or danger, a citizen must be prepared to support and defend his country even, if necessary, with his life.

Secondly, it is the duty of a citizen to obey his country's laws. He must have no sympathy with crime, which is a breach of law. He may consider some laws imperfect, unwise and even unjust ; and he may, and should, use all **constitutional**⁶ means in his power, such as public speaking, writing to the press, organisation, and the use of his vote, to get such laws reformed or abolished. But so long as a law is a law, he must obey it.

Thirdly, he must do more than keep the law himself ; he must, as occasion arises, actively assist the guardians of the law in the performance of their duty in putting down crimes and arresting criminals. Criminals must be made to feel that they have, not only the police, but also all respectable citizens against them.

Fourthly, he ought to take an intelligent interest in politics ; for as a citizen he has a vote, and he is responsible for using that vote for the good of his country as a whole. He must form definite opinions as to what is best for his country, and what men are the best to rule it, and what new laws and reforms it needs, and then actively use such influence as he has to **forward**⁷ such measures.

Lastly, a citizen must be ready, if he has the ability and is called upon to do so, to render active voluntary service to his city or country, by serving on municipalities, education committees, and other public bodies, or even in the **central legislature**.⁸ Good citizens have no right to leave the management of local or national institutions to professional politicians.

1. privilege /'prɪvəlɪdʒ/ (n) *đặc quyền*
2. sovereign state /'sɒvrɪn steɪt/ (n) *quốc gia có chủ quyền*
3. individualist /,ɪndɪ'vɪdʒʊəlɪst/ *người theo chủ nghĩa cá nhân*
4. socialist /'səʊʃəlɪst/ (n) *người theo chủ nghĩa xã hội*
5. obligation /,ɒblɪ'geɪʃn/ (n) *nghĩa vụ, bổn phận*
6. constitutional /,kɒnstɪ'tju:ʃənl/ (adj) *về hiến pháp, hợp hiến pháp*
7. forward /'fɔ:wəd/ (v) *xúc tiến*
8. central legislature /,sentrəl 'ledʒɪsleɪtʃəl/ (n) *viện lập pháp trung ương*

209. MODES OF TRAVELLING CÁC PHƯƠNG THỨC DU HÀNH

People travel for various reasons -- for business, pleasure and discovery ; in different elements -- land, water and air ; and by **divers**¹ methods, from walking to riding in train, ships and aeroplanes.

The simplest way of travelling by land is on **Shanks's mare**² -- that is, on foot. This is the only mode of travel for the poor man; but some who could afford to tour by train or motor car, prefer, when travelling for pleasure, to walk.

From the most ancient times men have trained animals, such as the camel, the elephant, the donkey, and especially the horse, to carry them, or to draw wheeled vehicles in which they could rest in comfort ; and in the days before railways were introduced, most travellers rode on horseback, or in **chariots**,³ carts, carriages and **coaches**.⁴

But in these days, mechanical carriages, steam--or petrol-driven, have largely taken the place of horse carriages. Even the poor can now travel quickly and comfortably in the railway trains, and the well-to-do tour all over the country in their motor-cars. The humble bicycle, too, is a great help to men of **moderate**⁶ means.

The boat, **propelled**⁷ by oars, and the sailing-ship are very old inventions, and most of the famous explorers made their discoveries in wooden sailing-vessels. But the sailing-ship has now been almost driven from the ocean by the great steamers, which enable travellers to **accomplish**⁸ sea voyages in weeks, which formerly took months, and even years.

And now in our own century man has conquered the air, and travel as the birds travel. The wonderful invention of the air-ship (or **dirigible**⁹ balloon) and the aeroplane will, when regular lines of air-craft are established, enable travellers **to cover**¹⁰ in days distances which take the fastest steamships weeks.

In all these modes of travel, men by their higher intelligence have **harnessed**¹¹ the forces of nature, to carry them over the world -- animal strength, wind, steam, gas and electricity.

1. drivers /'daɪvə:z/ (adj) khác nhau, nhiều loại
2. ride Shank's mare /raɪd 'ʃæŋksmeə(r)/ (v) cưỡi bộ
3. chariot /'tʃæriət/ (n) xe hai bánh, không mui, do ngựa kéo
4. coach /kəʊtʃ/ (n) xe ngựa lớn (4 bánh xe)
5. take the place of thay thế
6. moderate /'mɒdəreɪt/ (adj) phải chăng, điều độ
7. propel /prə'pel/ (v) đẩy đi, thúc đi
8. accomplish /ə'kʌmplɪʃ/ (v) hoàn thành, hoàn tất
9. dirigible /'dɪrɪdʒəbl/ (adj) có thể điều khiển được
10. cover /'kʌvə(r)/ (v) đi được (một quãng đường nào đó)
11. harness /'hɑ:nɪs/ (v) chế ngự; khai thác để sản xuất điện, mã lực

210. THE BENEFITS OF WORKING FOR A LIVING

ÍCH LỢI CỦA VIỆC LÀM VÌ SINH KẾ

Most of us would like to have been **born with a silver spoon in our mouths**.¹ We often envy the man who inherits wealth, and who can therefore live a life of idleness and pleasure. As we have not been born to riches, we sometimes hope that we may some day suddenly become rich by a lucky ticket in a lottery. Fancy not having to work for one's living !

Yet it is certainly a good thing for the community, and probably a good thing for us, that we cannot live without working. And, in our **saner**² moments, we probably feel it is a good thing on the whole that God from the first said to man, "In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread"; and recognise the soundness of the **apostle's**³ rule, "If a man will not work, neither let him eat!"

The necessity of working for a living gives a man the proud spirit of independence. The beggar who lives upon alms, the **parasite**⁴ who attaches himself to some rich patron and earns his **keep**⁵ by insincere flattery, are types which all right-minded people pity or despise. Why, then, should we envy the idle rich, who live upon the wealth produced by others, and, like drones in the hive, produce no honey themselves ? The worker earns his keep by honest labour, and can look the world in the face, because he **owes**⁶ no man anything. And while he supports himself and his family with his own labour, he knows he is contributing useful goods or services for the benefit of the whole community. For him :

"Each morning sees some task begin,
Each evening sees its close;
Something attempted, something done,
Has earned a night's **repose**⁷".

Then again the regular daily work, which must be done, produces good habits--such as perseverance, **application**,⁸ punctuality, thoroughness, attention to details, and the habit of industry. These virtues may be **humdrum**⁹ and **commonplace**¹⁰ ; but many a **promising**¹¹ life has come to nothing **for lack of**¹² them. And no idler can acquire them. So, blessed be **drudgery**¹³!

Lastly, **compulsory**¹⁴ work is often necessary to bring out and train a man's talents. Many an author who has risen to fame would never have written a book if he had not had to earn his living by his pen ; and many a successful business-man would never have developed his gift for organisation and management, if he had been born rich. How many of the rich and aristocratic classes ever do anything **of note**¹⁵ ? Most of us would remain undeveloped and untrained if we could.

1. born with a silver spoon in one's mouth *sanh ra trong một gia đình sung túc*

2. sane /seɪn/ (adj) *có đầu óc lành mạnh, tỉnh táo, không điên*

3. apostle /ə'pɒsl/ (n) *thánh Tông đồ*

4. parasite /'pærəsart/ (n) *kẻ sống bám vào người khác*

5. keep /ki:p/ (n) *cái để nuôi thân*

6. owe /əʊ/ (v) *mắc nợ*

7. repose /rɪ'pəʊz/ (n) *sự nghỉ ngơi*
8. application /æplɪ'keɪʃn/ (n) *nỗ lực*
9. humdrum /'hʌmdrʌm/ (adj) *buồn tẻ, không hào hứng, đơn điệu*
10. commonplace /'kɒmənpleɪs/ (adj) *tâm thường*
11. promising /'prɒmɪsɪŋ/ (adj) *nhiều hứa hẹn, đầy hi vọng*
12. for lack of (for want of) /læk/ *vì thiếu*
13. drudgery /'drʌʒəri/ (n) *công việc cực nhọc và buồn tẻ*
14. compulsory /kəm'pʌlsəri/ (adj) *cần phải làm, cưỡng bách*
15. of note /nəʊt/ (idm) *quan trọng, nổi bật, nổi tiếng*

211. PROGRESS - ITS BENEFITS AND HARMS

TIẾN BỘ – ÍCH LỢI VÀ TÁC HẠI

Progress normally means improvement, that is, a movement towards something better than what is. It is undoubted that progress does make living easier for mankind. It is also undoubted that we have to pay a price for progress. Thus progress has its benefits as well as its undesirable companion, harms.

The town I live in is undergoing great changes. A few years back there was greenery all around the town. Now the hills and forests are quickly removed for building houses. I admit that the houses are urgently required for the ever expanding population and the building of these houses certainly do benefit the residents. If these houses are not built then the result will be that illegal **squatters**¹ will **spring up**² and make matters worse.

However, progress for us has to be paid with a terrible price. The price of this is the loss of the hills and forests, and together with it the natural habitat of the **flora**³ and **fauna**⁴ that cannot say anything in protest. So a benefit for human beings results in harm to the natural environment. Which is more important, human benefit or natural preservation? I really cannot answer that.

This trend of progress whereby it is beneficial to man and harmful to the environment is evident everywhere. The **likelihood**⁵ is that this trend will continue and probably get more intense. Look anywhere in the world where man has chosen to make progress and the evidence of environment destruction is plain to see.

For instance, the construction of super highways is definitely necessary for the old system of roads simply cannot cater for the number of vehicles using them. These highways are of great benefit and convenience to human beings. To the environment, however, the highways are like great dividing lines that cut the land into many sections. No animal, and for that matter, human being, is allowed to cross from one side of the road to the other. In other words, physical contact between both sides of the road is restricted. An animal cannot go from one side to the other without the risk of being run over. **Carcasses**⁶ of such creatures can be seen daily on these highways. These dumb creatures do not know any traffic rule. So they get killed needlessly.

So the factories and other human constructions continue to eat into the natural environment. We human beings benefit each day as we grow in wealth and power. Our living become easier and more convenient as we invent more and more gadgets to do our chores for us. We enjoy the fruits of our progress.

The Earth, however, has to provide us with all our comforts and as such, the natural world has to be **denuded**.⁷ So far the Earth can still cope with the unnatural demands of human beings. One day when we have exhausted our natural resources we may find that, despite all our modern conveniences, and because of them, our world is no longer fit to live in. We would have destroyed it.

1. squatter /'skwɒtə(r)/ (n) người chiếm dụng nhà hoặc đất đai mà không có phép

2. spring up /sprɪŋ ʌp/ (v) xuất hiện, phát triển, v.v... một cách nhanh chóng và bất ngờ

3. flora /'flɔ:rəl/ (n) quần thực vật (tất cả các cây cỏ của một vùng đất hoặc một thời kỳ riêng biệt)

4. fauna /'fɔːnə/ (n) *quần động vật (toàn bộ động vật của một khu vực hoặc một thời kỳ)*
5. likelihood /'laɪkliːhʊd/ (n) *sự có khả năng*
6. carcass /'kɑːkəs/ (n) *xác động vật*
7. denude /dɪ'njuːd/ (v) *làm cho (cái gì) trần trụi*

212. TELEVISION - ITS USE AND ABUSE

VÔ TUYẾN TRUYỀN HÌNH – CÔNG DỤNG VÀ SỰ LẠM DỤNG

Television must be the most popular **pastime**¹ for human beings today. Just about everyone watches television and just about every house has a television set. Every day and night people **glue**² their eyes on their sets watching their favourite shows. So television exerts a very large influence on us.

It is fine if we just use television as a source of entertainment or to be informed about things happening around the world. In fact documentaries are very **informative**³ and we do learn many things from such programmes. News keep us **up to date**⁴ with latest developments. Cartoons keep children entertained. For all people there are numerous programmes they can watch.

There is nothing wrong in watching these programmes, but they must be done in moderation. Then we use television wisely and do not get attached to it. However there is always the danger of making a habit of watching television.

A habit is something we always do and might get upset if we could not do it for some reason or other. A man who has made smoking a habit would be very upset if he is not allowed to do so. Someone who must have a cup of coffee every morning would be upset if he could not get one. Similarly a person who makes a habit of watching television would be upset if he misses his favourite programmes. These are all **symptoms**⁵ of addiction, not unlike a drug addict.

To be addicted or attached to television is to abuse it, that is, one feels compelled to have the television on. In other words one becomes a kind of slave to it and may spend hours just watching it. The first thing my uncle does whenever he comes home is to switch on the television. He used to watch the television a lot. Now he just switches on the set and does something else. I have on occasions switched off the set because no one was watching it only to have my uncle switch it on again almost immediately. I asked him why and he said that he just wanted the set on. It is quite ridiculous really, but I noticed he is addicted to the sound from the television. He finds it unbearable not to have the set on.

One great abuse of television is on the part of advertisers. It is of enormous benefit to both advertisers and television station to have advertisements on television. The viewers also get to know what products are available. However, the situation on television now is such that the time allocated for advertisement is about the same as that for the actual programmes. In fact, in some popular programmes, the station spends more time screening advertisements than the actual show. This is sheer abuse. No one wants to have their programmes interrupted so often by repetitions of advertisements that become so boring after a while.

So we watch television. Finally only we know whether we are making use of it wisely or we are abusing it. Whichever it is we reap the results of our actions.

1. pastime /'p@:staɪm/ (n) trò tiêu khiển, trò giải trí
2. glue /glu:/ (v) dán vào, bám chặt lấy - glue one's eyes on sth : dán mắt vào cái gì
3. informative /ɪn'fɔ:mətɪv/ (adj) cung cấp nhiều tin tức, có tác dụng nâng cao kiến thức
4. up-to-date /ʌp tə 'deɪt/ (adj) có hoặc bao gồm những thông tin mới nhất; cập nhật
5. symptom /'sɪmptəm/ (n) triệu chứng

213. THE USE AND ABUSE OF PRIVATE TUITION¹ *CÔNG DỤNG VÀ SỰ LẠM DỤNG CỦA VIỆC DẠY TƯ*

Private tuition as against what is being done in regular school is resorted, to certain cases where the pupil is not able to follow his lessons well and wants to improve his performance. In some cases the parents want to make their child sit at his studies and in others it is a matter of prestige.

Whatever the reasons may be for private tuition, it can certainly complement and supplement the class work provided the teacher and his ward cooperate. It can be complementary when the lessons done in the class have not been fully understood by the student and he may have to be told more than to impress upon him for the lesson done in the class may not have caught his brain. For this reason, tuition at home may be the answer.

Generally, a classroom is not **conductive**² for individual teaching. The teacher-pupil **interaction**³ highly spoken of is not possible in the class. A teacher normally tries to avoid a dull student. So, such a student may fail to catch the eye of the teacher. In such cases private tuition may be helpful. The pupil may not only be taught but also be made to work at exercises which they would normally avoid in class. If the tuition master is earnest, the pupil can progress and improve gradually.

Some of the topics that they are not covered in the class or which requires supplementary reading could very well be done in the tuition hour. Additional exercises could be done, better reading is possible which may lead to better comprehension. Discussion and dialogue may lead to better understanding.

Private tuition becomes necessary where the student would not be capable of sitting at his studies by himself because he has no inclination or the parents have no time to look at their child's academic progress. Most pampered children need a private tutor as a permanent feature.

From the examination point of view some may seek tuition. The students who want to achieve very good results in competitive courses may resort to tuition. This has become a common practice for getting seats in medical, engineering and technological courses. An ordinary classroom lecture does not **cater to**⁴ the needs of such students. For many **aristocratic**⁵ families, it is a prestige to arrange for tuition in music and dancing.

Let us now look at the abuses. Tuition may lead to too much of pampering and may kill the self effort of the student. The student would not touch the book unless the tuition master turns up. Instead of his working and learning on his own, he becomes so dependent on the tuition master that ultimately the gain would be **perceptibly nil**.⁶

There are also pupils adopting **devious**⁷ means through the tuition masters to get a pass. The poor tuition master makes himself cheap and worries more about the promotion of his **ward**⁸ than about his own children. Often it is not uncommon to see a boy having more than one tuition master for each one of his subjects. Because he pays for the tuition, he looks down upon the poor teacher who is likely to lose his **dignity**.⁹

But one fact that stands foremost is that tuitions cannot be thorough learning and at best there can only be nibblings of the learning process as the student **has recourse to**¹⁰ likely questions that may come in the examination through the tuition teacher.

In order to avoid the evils of private tuition, educational institutions themselves may arrange tutorial classes. If the regular teachers cannot attend to the tutorials special, tutors may be appointed to attend to very small groups of needy students. Such contacts may help build confidence in the students. Such tutorial classes may be complementary as well as supplementary. The tutorial system when properly organised will go a long way to improve the efficiency of the student.

1. private tuition /'praɪvɪt tʃu:'tʃn/ (n) *sự dạy tu, sự dạy thêm (cho cá nhân hoặc nhóm nhỏ)*
2. conductive /kən'dʌktɪv/ (adj) *có thể dẫn đến*
3. interaction /ɪntər'æksjən/ (n) *sự hợp tác, sự phối hợp*
4. cater (to) /'keɪtə(r)/ (v) *cố thỏa mãn hay đáp ứng nhu cầu hoặc đòi hỏi đặc biệt*
5. aristocratic /æ'rɪstə'krætɪk/ (adj) *thuộc hoặc tiêu biểu cho tầng lớp quý tộc*
6. perceptibly nil /pə'septəbl nɪl/ *coi như số không*
7. devious /'di:vɪəs/ (adj) *không ngay thẳng, không thật thà, láu cá, ranh ma*
8. ward /wɔ:d/ (n) *người (thường là một đứa trẻ) được bảo trợ*
9. dignity /'dɪgnəti/ (n) *phẩm giá, phẩm cách, lòng tự trọng*
10. have recourse to (sb/sth) /r'kɔ:s/ (idm) *trông cậy vào*

214. THE ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES OF THE CINEMA *NHỮNG THUẬN LỢI VÀ BẤT LỢI CỦA RẠP CHIẾU BÓNG*

Cinemas are a common sight nowadays. They are found in every town. The existence of so many cinemas reflects their popularity. They have indeed become the most popular places of entertainment.

The cinema attracts large numbers of people everyday. It is the magnet of the town. It sometimes attracts even those who do not wish to see a film.

As it is so popular, the cinema exerts a **profound**¹ influence on the minds of many people, young and old. The influence is sometimes good, and sometimes it is bad. Films showing **criminal**² activities and the **sensual desires**³ of man have caused much harm to many youths. Some youths have become criminals themselves though almost every film shows how the good always triumphs over the evil. The cinema has also caused many people to waste money. Such people have become so addicted to visiting the cinema that they see almost every film, good or bad. In this way money is wasted not only on purchasing tickets for **admittance**⁴ to the cinema but also on travelling and many other things.

Often, however, the cinema helps to spread knowledge. There are many films which show the activities of the various races of people living in the remote regions of the earth. Some films show how man has struggled through the centuries to make the world a better place to live in. There are also films which show the events that led to some of the important battles in the past. They are shown with so much **realism**⁵ that one remembers them for a long time. Such films are indeed invaluable, especially to those who are illiterate. In this respect the cinema could be regarded as a school. Even the dullest student learns many things if he sees an educational film in the cinema, though he may learn nothing from his teacher or his books. Such is the effect of the film, and in many countries, educational authorities are trying to make the best use of the cinema to spread knowledge and information.

It is therefore clear that the cinema has many advantages as well as disadvantages. Often the advantages **outweigh**⁶ the disadvantages. Those who visit the cinema with the purpose of learning something good are sure to benefit from almost every visit to the cinema.

1. profound /prə'faʊnd/ (adj) *sâu sắc*

2. criminal /'krɪmɪnəl/ (adj) *liên quan đến tội phạm* – (n) *người phạm tội ác*

3. sensual desire /,senʃʊəl dɪ'zɑːə(r)/ (n) *ham muốn tình dục*

4. admittance /əd'mɪtns/ (n) *quyền được vào*

5. realism /'rɪəlɪzəm/ (n) *chủ nghĩa hiện thực*

6. outweigh /aʊt'weɪ/ (v) *có giá trị hơn hoặc quan trọng hơn (cái gì)*

215. THE ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES OF A GOOD MEMORY *NHỮNG THUẬN LỢI VÀ BẤT LỢI CỦA MỘT TRÍ NHỚ TỐT*

There is no need to dwell on the importance of having a good memory. A bad memory is such a **handicap**¹ in life that everyone realises the advantages of a good one. By a good memory we mean a **retentive**² and accurate memory, one that will **retain**³ for us knowledge once gained, and retains it correctly. How slow and **erratic**⁴ is the progress of a student who cannot remember what he has learnt ! He is like Sisyphus, the poor wretch the Greek fable tells about, who was condemned to push a stone up a hill in **Hades**⁵, which was forever rolling down again before it reached the top. In business life, a man who cannot remember his appointments and is always forgetting the orders he receives will soon be left behind. A servant who forgets to do his work at the proper time, quickly losses his job. One of the poorest **excuses**⁶ we can make for work undone is, "I am awfully sorry ; but I forgot!" And it is an excuse that is not **excused**⁷ if it is made too often. A good memory is essential for the student, the businessman, the employee, the politician, the statesman -- in fact for every one in every walk of life. It is necessary, too, in social life ; for a person who forgets his social **engagements**⁸ and can never remember the faces of those he has met will not be a social success.

People with bad memories, however, need not despair ; for even the worst memory can be improved by training, like every other faculty. The chief cause of a bad memory is **inattention**,⁹ lack of **concentration**.¹⁰ We often blame our memories for not retaining knowledge, when as a matter of fact we never gave it the knowledge to retain. It is not the memory that is to blame, but our lack of attention, when learning. You read a book, and at once forget all about it ; you forget it because you never really read the book. Your eyes passed over the words on the page, but your mind was **wandering**,¹¹ and you never really took into your mind what the author wrote. The first step in training a memory is to learn to concentrate our mind on what we are doing, and give it our whole thought. We must learn to notice things, carefully observe what we see, **consciously**¹² and determinedly attend to what we are about ; and then regular repetition of the knowledge we have gained will quickly strengthen memory, till remembering becomes a habit.

The only disadvantage of a good memory is our inability to forget things we do not want to remember. There are events, desires, and thoughts in our past life which we would like to forget. The only way to forget such unpleasant things is to fill our mind with good thoughts. For you cannot forget by trying to forget.

1. handicap /'hændɪkæp/ (n) sự cản trở, điều bất lợi
2. retentive /rɪ'tentɪv/ (adj) có sức nhớ lâu, có khả năng nhớ các sự kiện, ấn tượng...
3. retain /rɪ'teɪn/ (v) bảo trì, giữ lại
4. erratic /ɪ'ræɪtɪk/ (adj) được chăng hay chớ, thất thường
5. Hades /'heɪdɪ:z/ (n) âm phủ, âm ty
6. excuse /ɪk'skju:z/ (n) có, lý do, lời bào chữa
7. excuse /ɪk'skju:z/ (v) tha thứ, bỏ qua
8. engagement /ɪn'geɪdʒmənt/ (n) sự ước định, hẹn gặp

9. inattention /,ɪnə'tenʃn/ (n) *sự không chú ý*
10. concentration /,kɒnsn'treɪʃn/ (n) *sự tập trung*
11. wander /'wɒndə(r)/ (v) *phiêu lưu, đi lang thang*
12. consciously /'kɒnʃəsli/ (adv) *một cách có ý thức*

216. THE ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES OF BEING AN ONLY CHILD *NHỮNG THUẬN LỢI VÀ BẤT LỢI KHI LÀ ĐỨA CON DUY NHẤT TRONG GIA ĐÌNH*

In our parents' days, being an only child was unusual. In those days, people have bigger families, and it was common for a family to have four or five or even more children. But for our generation, I notice, two or even one child seems to be the **norm**.¹

An only child often gets more attention from his parents. As there is no other sibling to compete for his parents' attention, it is easy for an only child to get his way. My neighbour Cecilia is an only child. Since she was young, she has always been the first one to own the latest toy and gadget. Now that she is a teenager, Cecilia is always dressed in the latest fashion.

The only child often has no one to play with. As a result, he is more resourceful in keeping himself entertained. He is usually good at an activity that he can indulge in without a companion such as creative writing, reading and painting. An only child also tends to be mature faster because he is always surrounded by adults.

I think the greatest disadvantage of being an only child is that he does not have any brother or sister to play with.

As children, my sister and I were always playing together. We would play all kinds of games. When we grew up, we exchange news about clothes and friends, and **confide in**² each other.

Of course, we often quarrel and **bicker**³ with each other. But our sibling **bond**⁴ is special. The only child has the disadvantage of not knowing this relationship. It must also be lonely at times not to have a companion of his age group in the family.

As the only child often gets his way, he does not have the opportunity to learn to share. A child with siblings inevitably have to learn to share food, toys and even their parents' attention. This can be annoying in childhood, but it will help him get along with people as he grows older. On the other hand, an only child who does not receive parental guidance will take it for granted that his needs and wants will always come first. That is why some people who grow up as an only child have trouble sharing things in school. As they grow up, they will also face the same problem in situations which require teamwork.

An only child may also face unreasonable expectations from his parents. They may **focus**⁵ all their dreams on the child, and assume that he would fulfil them.

I am sure that there are times when an only child wishes that he has brothers and sisters. Perhaps it would help him to know that there are times when some of us who have siblings envy the privileges and attention enjoyed by an only child.

1. norm /nɔ:m/ (n) *chuẩn hoặc mẫu điển hình (cho một nhóm, v.v...)*

2. confide (in) /kən'faɪd/ (v) *giải bày tâm sự*

3. bicker /'bɪkə(r)/ (v) *cãi nhau về những việc không quan trọng*

4. bond /bʊnd/ (n) *quan hệ chặt chẽ*

5. focus (sth on sth) /'fəʊkəs/ (v) *tập trung (sự chú ý của mình, v.v...) vào cái gì*

217. THE IMPORTANCE OF THE NEWSPAPERS *TẦM QUAN TRỌNG CỦA BÁO CHÍ*

As the name suggests, newspapers are a source of news and information. In several **respects**¹ they are also a **medium**² of communication among the peoples of the world.

Today there are hundreds of newspapers all over the world. Every-where there is a keen desire to learn more and more about the affairs of the world. This is partly the result of the spread of education which sharpens one's curiosity to learn about distant lands.

As a source of news, the newspaper is almost **indispensable**³ to those whose thirst for knowledge is insatiable. They contain news on events in distant corners of the earth. Information about such events arrives almost immediately. As a result, people everywhere are informed about the most important events in the world very quickly and almost at the same time. For example, if a war break out in one part of the world today, the people in the other parts will certainly come to know about it tomorrow. As a result, all the countries of the world are able to do something quickly to help those who have suffered because of the war or to persuade the countries at war to cease fighting.

Newspapers also play an important part in keeping the peoples of the world informed about the troubles that might arise in the future, if nothing is done to prevent them from happening. For example, if a dispute arises between two countries for any reason, the newspapers can keep the peoples of the world informed about what might happen if nothing is done to persuade the two countries to resolve their differences peacefully. In this way many wars have been avoided because of the **intervention**⁴ of some countries in the disputes of many countries which were given prominence in newspapers.

When all this is considered, we feel that there is some silent communication among countries through the medium of newspapers for the common benefit of the countries of the world.

Further, constant reading of newspapers improves one's **outlook**⁵ on life and makes one a more reasonable person. The importance of the newspaper is therefore obvious.

1. respect /rɪ'spekt/ (n) *khía cạnh hoặc chi tiết cụ thể*
2. medium /'mi:diəm/ (n) (snh media) *phương tiện để diễn đạt cái gì hoặc truyền tin gì*
3. indispensable /ɪndɪ'spensəbl/ (adj) *không thể thiếu được*
4. intervention /ɪntə'veɪʃn/ (n) *sự can thiệp*
5. outlook /'aʊtlʊk/ (n) *quan điểm, cách nhìn*

218. THE IMPORTANCE OF READING NEWSPAPERS

TẦM QUAN TRỌNG CỦA VIỆC ĐỌC BÁO

The newspaper, today, plays a **vital role**¹ in human affairs. Its importance has not been **diminished**² by the appearance of the radio or the television.

Men no longer have travel to get information. The newspaper has become the main source of information about local and foreign affairs. Though the radio and television **convey**³ important news and messages quicker than the newspaper, they seldom give the details of an incident. The newspaper, on the other hand, gives not only more details about a particular incident but it also contains more news items. This is of great importance today when political changes occur with a rapidity unknown before. Besides, the newspaper is easier to carry and it could be read at any time during the day. Further, the permanence of the printed word helps one refresh one's memory of certain facts and incidents reported in the past.

The importance of the newspaper has been increased greatly by the spread of education. Education sharpens one's curiosity about events in distant lands and also makes one conscious of the necessity to maintain one's reading habits. In both respects the newspaper **appeals**⁴ most, especially if one finds little time to read books.

The newspaper should, however, be read with caution, for its **capacity**⁵ to do harm is great. Most people believe every thing that is reported by the newspaper. As a result, the newspaper exerts a profound influence on the minds of its reader. Therefore, when some news is reported wrongly either by mistake or design, it may cause a lot of harm. On the other hand, if the policy of the newspaper is to promote the welfare of the people, it could do a lot of good. For example, it could exercise its influence to persuade the government of a country to do many things for the benefit of the people. In a country like Malaysia, where there are many races of people, the newspaper could also use its influence to promote goodwill and harmony among the people. It is therefore important to know the policy of the newspaper that one reads.

In general, however, the newspaper tries to report as accurately as possible, for there are various magazines and **periodicals**⁶ competing with the newspaper to provide accurate information on world developments, and it is the newspaper that links us with the outside world.

1. vital role /ˌvaɪtl 'rəʊl/ (n) vai trò thiết yếu
2. diminish /dɪ'mɪnɪʃ/ (v) làm giảm, hạ bớt
3. convey /kən'veɪ/ (v) chuyên chở, truyền đi
4. appeal /ə'pi:l/ (v) hấp dẫn, lôi cuốn
5. capacity /kə'pæsəti/ (n) khả năng (tạo ra cái gì)
6. periodical /pɪərɪ'ɒdɪkl/ (n) tạp chí xuất bản định kỳ

219. THE IMPORTANCE OF WATER *TÂM QUAN TRỌNG CỦA NƯỚC*

Since the beginning of time, water has continued to be an important thing to all living things. Without water nothing could live. Animals, birds, human beings, insects and plants that we may change our food according to the climate of a place but we find no substitute for water. Man has always looked for pure fresh water to **slake**¹ his thirst.

Water not only **quenches**² our thirst but it is also a source of food to us. From the sea we catch large quantities of fish and other creatures. We use water to **irrigate**³ our lands to produce crops. Many parts of the world are dry and barren because there is no water there. People in such places lead a very hard life. Even the plants and animals find it a real struggle to survive. They can obtain water only by some means of ingenuity. Water also helps to increase the **fertility**⁴ of the land in several parts of the world. The **alluvium**⁵ that is brought down by rivers is very fertile and it **yields**⁶ large quantities of crops. Even electricity, which has changed our lives completely, is produced by water-power in many countries.

Further, water is an important means of communication. We use waterways to carry our goods of trade. Water transport is cheaper than land transport and in many remote regions, rivers are the only means of communication. In many countries rivers are used to bring down **timber**⁷ from the hilly regions to the lower regions where the timber mills are. In this way much money is saved.

It is true, however, that water has also caused much destruction to life and property throughout human history. Heavy rainfall, swollen rivers and the angry waves of the sea have killed thousands of people and destroyed homes and crops. Yet, water is indispensable to life, and people everywhere are trying their best to bring water to places where it is scarce, to control its flow in times of floods and to make greater use of it.

1. slake /sleɪk/ (v) *thỏa mãn (cơn khát, v.v...)*
2. quench /kwentʃ/ (v) *thỏa mãn (cái gì) bằng việc uống; làm hết (khát)*
3. irrigate /'ɪrɪɡeɪt/ (v) *cung cấp nước (cho đất đai, cây trồng, v.v...); tưới*
4. fertility /fə'tɪlətɪ/ (n) *tình trạng màu mỡ - fertile /'fɜ:təɪl/ (adj) màu mỡ, phì nhiêu*
5. alluvium /ə'lu:vɪəm/ (n) *đất phù sa*
6. yield /jɪ:ld/ (v) *sinh ra, mang lại*
7. timber /'tɪmbə(r)/ (n) *cây gỗ (thích hợp cho việc xây dựng hoặc làm mộc)*

220. THE IMPORTANCE OF RIVERS TẦM QUAN TRỌNG CỦA SÔNG NGÒI

Rivers have been very useful to men in all parts of the earth since very early times. They provide water to slake the thirst of men, to fertilize their lands and to provide a means of communication for the goods that they transport from place to place.

Early civilization began on the banks of the great rivers of the world, such as the Nile and the Indus. These rivers provided the water that the people on their banks needed for all their purposes. As people in those early days did not have the transport **facilities**¹ that we have today, they had to live close to the rivers to transport their goods to places along the rivers and to draw the water that they needed.

Rivers not only provided water for their **domestic**² needs and agricultural purposes but also enabled the people to move from place to place along their banks. Boats or rafts were used to travel from one end of a river to another. In the same way, goods were also transported. With the transport of goods and the contacts of people between different parts of the same river, there were also many cultural exchanges. Thus, rivers helped to spread civilization.

It is true, however, that rivers have also caused much misery and unhappiness of millions of people throughout history. They have caused floods and destroyed lives and properties in all parts of the earth. For example, the Hwang Ho in China has been described as "the sorrow of China" because of the destruction that it had caused in the past.

But it should be realised that floods occur once in several years. Therefore, the damage that rivers cause are not so great as the benefits that they **confer**³ on humanity. Today, rivers continue to be used not only as a source of water for drinking and fertilizing the lands or as a means of transport but also as a source of electricity which has revolutionized society.

The importance of rivers is therefore not difficult to appreciate.

1. facilities /fə'sɪlətɪz/ (n) *những tiện nghi, phương tiện*
2. domestic /də'mestɪk/ (adj) *thuộc về trong nhà hoặc trong nước*
3. confer (on sb) /kən'fɜ:(r)/ (v) *trao tặng*

221. THE PART THAT MONEY PLAYS IN OUR LIVES VAI TRÒ CỦA TIỀN TỆ TRONG ĐỜI SỐNG CHÚNG TA

Money plays an important part in our lives. In several respects it is the most important thing in life. It is therefore much **sought after**.¹

Without money we could not buy our food, clothes and all the other things that we need to live comfortably. We require money to travel, to buy medicine when we are ill and also to pay for the services rendered to us by others. In truth, money is almost indispensable to our survival. Most of our activities are therefore directed towards earning as much money as possible.

We use money not only to meet the basic needs of life but also to pay for our own advancement. We use it for education which helps us to live a better life. Thousands of students are unable to attend school or continue their studies for want of money. Lack of money also causes great hardship and sorrow in hundreds of families. Thousands of people are dying everyday throughout the world because they are not able to pay their doctors fee or because they cannot buy nutritious food.

As money is so important, many crimes are committed everyday in all parts of the world to gain possession of it. Some are **driven**² by hunger and **desperation**³ to steal, rob, and even kill to get at least what they require to keep body and soul together. Others commit the most serious crimes out of sheer greed for money. Such people cause much trouble and unpleasantness in society, and to bring them to justice, large sums of money are spent by every government.

Today, millions of dollars are being spent by the various governments in the world for the betterment of the people. Numerous schools and hospitals are being built, and hundreds of acres of land are being cultivated to produce more food for the growing population of the world. As a result, the world is gradually becoming a better place to live in.

At the same time, however, much money is being wasted in producing deadly weapons of war. Countries which have more money than the others have become more powerful by strengthening their armed forces. This has led to **rivalries**⁴ among the powerful nations, and several parts of the world are in **turmoil**.⁵ All this shows what an important part money plays in human affairs.

1. seek (after sth) /si:k/ (v) (sought /sɔ:t/) *cố tìm hoặc kiếm được cái gì*
2. drive /draɪv/ (v) *buộc (ai) hành động; thúc đẩy*
3. desperation /despə'reɪʃn/ (n) *trạng thái tuyệt vọng*
4. rivalry /raɪvlrɪ/ (n) *sự kình địch, sự ganh đua* - rival /raɪvl/ (n) *địch thủ*
5. turmoil /'tɜ:mɔɪl/ (n) *sự rối loạn*

**222. MONEY IS A STUPID MEASURE OF ACHIEVEMENT BUT
UNFORTUNATELY IT IS THE ONLY UNIVERSAL MEASURE WE HAVE.**

STATE ITS IMPORTANCE

**TIỀN TỆ LÀ MỘT ĐƠN VỊ ĐO LƯỜNG THÀNH QUẢ NGỒ NGẮN. NHƯNG RỦI
THAY ĐÓ LẠI LÀ ĐƠN VỊ ĐO LƯỜNG DUY NHẤT TRÊN TOÀN CẦU MÀ CHÚNG
TA CÓ ĐƯỢC. TRÌNH BÀY TẦM QUAN TRỌNG CỦA TIỀN TỆ**

In life there must be a measure of achievement. In ancient society achievement was measured by the head of cattle one possessed, by the acres of land he owned and by the battle he had won. Among the **cannibals**¹ by the skulls he had won ; very **grotesque**² and cruel indeed. In these examples we find it was never the money that counted in measuring achievement. Instead of money some societies had different measures, for examples, it may be the **cowries**³ or even salt. There are areas where the achievement cannot be measured numerically because of the uniqueness of the achievement, for instance, in the case of conquering Mt. Everest or landing on the moon.

However, today it is money. It can command a measure of achievement. If he has a big bank **balance**⁴ he is looked upon as a man of success. How he got them and at whose cost he got them are not questioned.

But the real worth of money is its exchange value. When money was there, of course then too there were **transactions**.⁵ They exchanged one commodity for another, called the **barter**⁶ system in the olden days. If one had a cow he may exchange it for wheat ; if one had wool he may exchange it for finished products. With the complexities of the market and the multiplicity of commodities, barter is not possible. We can't say it is completely out of fashion for in international trade a kind of barter is still going on. A country exporting wheat may in turn get sugar. A country exporting tin and rubber, may import motor cars. But as a measure of value, money is the best. As such it has brought many good things and bad things too.

To measure the achievement money is also used as a standard. The achievement of **amassing**⁷ great wealth has to be **looked into**.⁸ Has it come by honest work or dishonest means ? This moral side is very often **eclipsed**⁹ by the **ostentatious**¹⁰ show of the wealth. People are **dazzled**¹¹ by the riches, the **limousine**¹² a person drives, the brilliant **gems**¹³ his wife wears and other items of luxury.

Let us see why it is a stupid measure. How can one get money ? Can he get by inheritance, by being the owner of some natural resources e.g. petroleum, good land speculation or having a good market for products ?

Still we want a measure by which other things can be valued. Money is the greatest common factor and the genius who thought of money as such must have been a very brainy fellow indeed. It makes marketing and accounting easy. It is easy to carry. **Intangible**¹⁴ becomes tangible.

But all is not well with money. The value of money is only relative. It depends on how much a particular unit of currency can buy in the market. Some currencies are backed by good economic strength while others are weak. That is the picture we see today. To decide achievement by money alone is a very poor yardstick.

1. cannibal /'kæniɪbl/ (n) người (thuộc bộ lạc) ăn thịt người

2. grotesque /grəʊ'tesk/ (adj) kỳ quái, phi lý
3. cowrie /'kaʊri/ (n) vỏ ốc nhỏ, trước đây nhiều vùng ở châu Phi và châu Á dùng làm tiền trao đổi
4. balance /'bæləns/ (n) số tiền hiện có trong tài khoản
5. transaction /træn'zækʃn/ (n) sự giao dịch
6. barter /'bɑ:tə(r)/ (n) sự trao đổi hàng hóa này lấy hàng hóa khác mà không dùng đến tiền
7. amass /ə'mæs/ (v) tích lũy
8. look into (sth) /'lʊk ɪntə/ (v) điều tra hoặc xem xét (cái gì)
9. eclipse /ɪ'klɪps/ (v) làm lu mờ, làm át đi
10. ostentatious /ɒsten'teɪʃəs/ (adj) phô trương, khoa trương
11. dazzle /'dæzl/ (v) làm choáng váng, làm bàng hoàng
12. limousine /'lɪməzi:n/ (n) loại xe hơi to sang trọng, đặc biệt có tấm kính ngăn cách người lái xe và người ngồi sau; xe li-mu-zin
13. gem /dʒem/ (n) đá quý hoặc ngọc đã được cắt ra và đánh bóng
14. tangible /'tændʒəbl/ (adj) hữu hình - intangible /ɪn-/ (adj) vô hình

223. THE IMPORTANCE OF STUDYING GEOGRAPHY¹ TẦM QUAN TRỌNG CỦA VIỆC HỌC ĐỊA LÝ

Geography is a fascinating subject, it reveals all the wonderful changes and activities that have been going on in the world since the beginning of time.

By reading Geography we learn not only about our own country but also about countries beyond the seas. We also learn about the mountains, oceans, istands, lakes, **volcanoes**,² the winds and a number of other very interesting things about the world and the universe.

Among the important things that we learn in Geography are the **infinite**³ varieties of creatures, plants, birds and land features that exist in the world. We know that there are millions of creatures, small and large, of various kinds in all parts of the earth. We also know that many of the early creatures have now become extinct, while many of them have changed from their original forms. Reading about all these is indeed very interesting.

We also learn about the various types of plants and birds that exist throughout the world. The plants and birds in the cold lands are not the same as those in warmer lands.

In the same way, the land forms in the cold regions are different from those in other regions. In the **equatorial**⁴ regions, for example, plant and animal life is **luxuriant**,⁵ while in the poles the land is covered with snow, and animal and plant life is less **abundant**.⁶ In equatorial regions abundant rain has produced large rivers and lakes, while in areas where little rain falls there are large deserts without many rivers and lakes.

As the climate and **vegetation**⁷ of one place are not the same as those of another, the habit and activities of the people of different regions are also different. Even their religious convictions and languages are different parts of the world.

Thus, Geography is a very important subject, and because of its width and variety it is one of the most interesting subjects to read.

1. geography /dʒɪ'ɒɡrəfi/ (n) địa lý học
2. volcano /vɒl'keɪnəʊ/ (n) núi lửa
3. infinite /'ɪnfɪnət/ (adj) rất lớn, vô hạn
4. equatorial /ekwə'tɔːrɪəl/ (adj) thuộc về hoặc gần xích đạo
5. luxuriant /lʌg'zjʊəriənt/ (adj) xum xuê, phong phú
6. abundant /ə'bʌndənt/ (adj) nhiều, thừa thãi
7. vegetation /vedʒɪ'teɪʃn/ (n) thực vật

224. THE VALUE OF LIBRARY

GIÁ TRỊ CỦA THƯ VIỆN

A good library is an ocean of information, whose **boundaries**¹ continue to **extend**² with the endless contribution of the numerous streams of knowledge. Thus, it has a peculiar fascination for scholars, and all those whose thirst for knowledge is instable.

The usefulness of libraries in the spread of knowledge has been proved through the years. The field of knowledge is so extensive and life is so brief, that even the most avid reader can never expect to absorb it all. Those who have a love for knowledge, therefore, try to **master**³ only a small **fraction**⁴ of it. Even this requires reading of hundreds of books, cheap and expensive, new and old. But few people are able to buy all the books on the subject in which they wish to attain proficiency. It is therefore necessary for them to visit a good library, where they can read a great variety of books on the subject they love. Besides, many old and valuable books on certain subjects are found only in a good library. Even the original **manuscript**⁵ of an author, who died several years ago can be found in it, sometimes.

Today, men everywhere have discovered the benefits of learning. More and more books are being written to extend human knowledge and experience. Governments and individuals throughout the world are, therefore, opening more and more libraries to enable people to read as many books as possible. Libraries have been opened even in the remotest regions of the earth, so that people who are unable to buy books from the towns can still gain access to the various sources of knowledge. Mobile libraries serve the people in various parts of the earth.

The importance of libraries, however, is felt most acutely by students in schools and universities, where most students are engaged in deep studies. The number of books that a student has to study, especially at a university, is so large that unless he comes from a rich family, he can hardly buy them all. Besides, many of the books may not be available in the book-shops within his reach. It is therefore to his advantage to visit a good library.

Some people even have their own private libraries in which they spend their leisure reading the books that they have collected over the years, and derive great intellectual benefit and pleasure.

In short, libraries have contributed so much to the extension of knowledge that they have become almost indispensable to all literate men.

1. boundary /'baʊndrɪ/ (n) ranh giới

2. extend /ɪk'stend/ (v) kéo dài, mở rộng

3. master /'mɑ:stə(r)/ (v) nắm vững, lĩnh hội

4. fraction /'frækʃn/ (n) số lượng, bộ phận hay phần nhỏ (của cái gì)

5. manuscript /'mænjʊskript/ (n) bản thảo (viết tay hoặc đánh máy)

225. THE VALUE OF BOOK

GIÁ TRỊ CỦA SÁCH

Deep in the heart of every good book lies the **distilled**¹ wisdom of centuries. To read it is to become wiser.

Books are written for the benefit and pleasure of all those who like to read them. But they are of various types. There are books for children, as well as for adults. Some books are written for the specialists, some are written for students in the schools and universities, and many are written just for the pleasures of the mind. In deed, the variety of books is infinite.

One of the reasons for the existence of such a wide variety of books is that, the field of knowledge is very extensive. Even to **grasp**² a small part of it, one has to read several books for many years. another reason is that different people have different likes and dislikes. The book that one likes to read, the other may not like. To meet these broad and varying needs of people for information, knowledge, recreation and aesthetic enjoyment, more and more books are being written every year.

Those who aim to **specialize**³ in a certain branch of knowledge concentrate more on the books that provide information on their particular field of study. In the libraries and book-shops they look mainly for such books. But those who have no particular interest in any subject, read and buy all types of books. Sometimes they buy books intended for the specialist, sometimes they buy those written for children, and sometimes, if they are preparing for some examination, they buy books which give some information on their examination subjects.

Almost every book extends the knowledge of the reader and develops his intellect as well. Even if the reader does not learn any new facts from the book, he may at least learn a few new words, expressions or ideas. In fact, certain books are written mainly to acquaint the reader with the beauty of language and ideas. They do not deal with facts or actual human experiences. Books of this type provide great pleasure to the mind, and almost everyone, who loves reading buys a few of such books.

Books have also helped to promote better understanding among the peoples of the world. By reading books, the people of one country have come to know about the achievements of those in other countries.

Thus, books could be regarded as one of the channels of communication among men. Indeed, without books man would not have made so much progress as he has made today. By applying the knowledge that he has gained from books, to practical purposes, he has made the world a pleasant place to live in. Civilization therefore, owes a great debt to these **inanimate**⁴ things called books.

1. distill /'distɪl/ (v) *rút được hoặc thu được (từ cái gì)*

2. grasp /græsp/ (v) *hiểu thấu, nắm vững (cái gì)*

3. specialize (in sth) /'speʃəlaɪz/ (v) *chuyên về (một ngành học, v.v...)* - specialist /'speʃəlɪst/ (n) *chuyên gia*

4. inanimate /ɪn'ænɪmət/ (adj) *vô tri vô giác*

226. THE VALUE OF EDUCATION

GIÁ TRỊ CỦA GIÁO DỤC

Briefly, education means the **acquisition**¹ of knowledge and abilities, and the development of one's character and mental powers by systematic training and instruction. Education is therefore of great value to any person.

It has been realized that a person without education is **deprived**² of many benefits. He lacks not only the knowledge of human affairs but also the ability to appreciate the value of many of the things that concern his own welfare. Thus, he is not able to contribute his full share to the progress of society and the world. Neither is he able to develop his personality to the fullest extent.

One of the greatest benefits of education is that it helps a person to understand the position that he occupies in society. It helps him to speak and **conduct himself**³ with confidence and dignity which earn him the respect and admiration of others. Thus, he occupies an important position in society, and people look up to him as their leader.

Another benefit of education, today, is that it helps one to secure **lucrative**⁴ employment. In the world of today, almost every kind of employment requires some understanding of a few basic principles of science, mathematics, economics, engineering, accountancy or some other subjects, on the part of the worker. Thus, the better education a person has better prospects he has of securing attractive positions in the various professions.

Finally, education makes a person sympathetic and considerate towards others. He is helpful to those who need his advice and guidance, and is not critical of those who commit offences or mistakes out of ignorance or necessity. Further, he does not like to hurt the feelings of others. Even if he is extremely provoked, he tries to express his displeasure or anger in words which give the slightest offence to others and yet express his **outraged**⁵ feelings adequately.

As a result of all these qualities that a person acquires through education, he becomes a very pleasant person to associate with. He thus lives a fuller life in society.

1. acquisition /ækwi'zɪʃn/ (n) *sự thu thập được*
2. deprive (sb/sth of sth) /dɪ'praɪv/ (v) *tước đi, lấy đi cái gì của ai / cái gì*
3. conduct oneself /kən'dʌkt/ (v) *cư xử theo cách nhất định nào đó*
4. lucrative /'lu:kreɪtɪv/ (adj) *sinh lợi, sinh ra nhiều tiền*
5. outraged /aʊtreɪdʒd/ (adj) *bất bình, bị xúc phạm*

227. THE VALUE OF HIGHER EDUCATION

GIÁ TRỊ CỦA NỀN GIÁO DỤC ĐẠI HỌC

Since the dawn of civilization, great thinkers like Plato and Aristotle have been doing their **utmost**¹ to spread education to the remotest corners of the earth. It is realised that education develops the intellect and enables one to **discriminate**² between the good and the bad. More and more universities and other educational institutions are therefore being opened in all parts of the world to provide higher education.

In almost every country, today, there is a lot of unemployment. Only those who have received a high standard of education are able to secure high positions in society and in the various professions. It has therefore become necessary for many people to attend institutions of higher learning to improve their prospects of employment.

Higher education confers many other benefits. It broadens the mind and increases one's powers of thinking, **reasoning**³ and imagination. Further, it makes one more sympathetic towards others. It helps us to understand the problems and weaknesses of man, and we become less suspicious of strangers and others. We also become more thoughtful of the feelings and needs of others. As a result, we are able to mix better with people. Besides, higher education helps us greatly in deciding what is right and what is wrong, what is true and what is false. Therefore, people can hardly deceive or mislead us. Higher education also teaches us how to spend our leisure moments. We learn to make the best use of our spare time. Even during old age we know how to keep ourselves occupied. Again, higher education develops self-confidence. We learn to have faith in our own abilities. As a result, we are able to meet and talk with people anywhere. All these qualities, acquired through higher education, combine to make one a leader among men. One is able to live a better life in society.

The benefits of education are therefore many, and everyone should try his best to acquire the highest of education, either by attendance at an educational institution or by private studies.

1. utmost /ʌt'məʊst/ (n) *mức tối đa*
2. discriminate /dɪ'skrɪmɪneɪt/ (v) *phân biệt*
3. reasoning /'ri:zənɪŋ/ (n) *sự lập luận*

228. THE VALUE OF MUSIC TO THE HAPPINESS OF MAN
GIÁ TRỊ CỦA ÂM NHẠC ĐỐI VỚI HẠNH PHÚC CỦA CON NGƯỜI

Music has always been a source of happiness to all men on the earth. From their primitive days, men's love of music has led them to make instruments of all descriptions to produce beautiful music for their enjoyment and happiness.

Without music the world would indeed be a very dull place to live in. Even nature is full of music. There is music in the movements of the winds, the sea, as well as the trees ; there is music in the calls of the birds, flies and insects and also in the flight of the birds and animals. It is from all these things that men have learnt to appreciate the value of music. The same things have also taught men how to produce music from the simplest of things such as sticks, **bamboos**,¹ and animal **horns**.² Men make many kinds of **flutes**³ with bamboos which produce beautiful music.

That music is very important for men's happiness is hard to deny. Music **removes**⁴ men's depression and fills them with gladness. It is for this reason that music is played even in hospitals to cheer up the sick people.

As music has the capacity to make men happy, it contributes greatly to men's success in life. A happy man is a good and hard worker. He works happily among people and earns the goodwill of all around. People like to **associate**⁵ with him and to employ him in all kinds of work. Thus, he leads a happy and successful life.

The value of music in the happiness of man is therefore great.

1. bamboo /bæm'bu:/ (n) cây tre

2. horn /hɔ:n/ (n) sừng (động vật như hươu, nai, v.v...)

3. flute /flu:t/ (n) ống sáo

4. remove /rɪ'mu:v/ (v) loại bỏ (cái gì)

5. associate (with-sb) /ə'səʊʃieɪt/ (v) giao du, kết giao (với ai)

229. THE USE OF FORESTS

LỢI ÍCH CỦA RỪNG

Forest form an important part of the wealth of a country ; and in India, the **preservation**¹ of the forests is so important that it has long been taken over by the Government, and is **in charge of**² the Government Forest Department.

Forests have a great influence upon climate ; for they attract rain and preserve **moisture**³ - an important matter in a dry country like India. The leaves of a tree are always **giving off**⁴ moisture ; and this constant **evaporation**⁵ cools the surrounding atmosphere. In consequence, when **moisture-laden**⁶ winds blow over a forest, the moisture they carry is condensed and forms clouds and these **dissolve**⁷ in rain. This is not mere theory. It has been proved that the destruction of forests of any extent quickly changes the climate of the whole district. Whereas before it had an abundant rainfall, after **disafforestation**⁸ the rainfall became scanty, the land went out of cultivation and became an **arid**⁹ desert. On the other hand, **afforestation**¹⁰ or the planting of forests, will turn a desert into a well-watered and fertile district.

Further, forests on hill sides do much to prevent destructive floods. When heavy rain falls on bare hills, it rushes down at once to the plains in roaring torrents, carrying parts of the hill with it, and **flooding**¹¹ the country below. But when the hills are covered with forests, the tree and the **spongy**¹² soil they create absorb a large part of the water, and allow the rest to flow down to the plain quietly and without any destructive effects.

Forest products, especially timber, form an important part of a nation's wealth. The Indian forests supply all the timber that is required in the country and much is exported, the sale of it bringing in a very respectable **revenue**¹³ to the State. Forests also provide abundant fuel to the districts near by.

The planting and preservation of forests is therefore a matter of great importance.

1. preservation /ˌprezə'veɪʃn/ (n) sự bảo quản
2. in charge of /ɪn'tʃɑːdʒ/ phụ trách, đảm nhiệm
3. moisture /'mɔɪstʃə(r)/ (n) hơi ẩm
4. give off /gɪv ɒf/ (v) phát ra, bốc ra
5. evaporation /ɪˌvæpə'reɪʃn/ (n) sự bốc hơi
6. moisture-laden /'mɔɪstʃə 'leɪdn/ (adj) có nhiều hơi nước
7. dissolve /dɪ'zɒlv/ (v) tan ra, hòa tan
8. disafforestation /ˌdɪsə'fɔːrɪ'steɪʃn/ (n) nạn phá rừng để lấy cây
9. arid /'æɪrɪd/ (adj) khô ráo, khô khan
10. afforestation /əˌfɔːrɪ'steɪʃn/ (n) việc trồng cây gây rừng
11. flood /flʌd/ (v) làm lụt, làm ngập nước
12. spongy /'spʌndʒɪ/ (adj) xốp, có thể hút nước
13. revenue /'revənjuː/ (n) thu nhập

230. THE UNSELFISH DEVOTION OF A HOUSEWIFE *SỰ CỐNG HIẾN HẾT LÒNG CỦA NGƯỜI NỘI TRỢ*

The housewife has always been among the unappreciated lot. Her **unflagging**¹ devotion to her husband, children and grandchildren has always been taken for granted. She slaves all day as wife, mother, **nanny**,² cook and housekeeper without any thoughts of rewards. Her only satisfaction lies in the harmony that her hardwork creates in the family.

Her main duty lies in creating a comfortable environment so that the **breadwinner**³ can come home from work to relax. She becomes the sympathetic listener of all his problems at the office. She dusts, vacuums and sweeps all day. Her hobbies normally include knitting, sewing and flower making for the purpose of creating a more delightful home. She mends his favourite shirt time and time again without **grudging**⁴. Her only **gratification**⁵ comes from those casual compliments she receives for the delicious dishes she serves which involve so much preparation and work.

Little children are quite lost without their dear mummies. The mother nurses the tiny, helpless **infant**.⁶ She cares for, feeds, washed and cloths the baby. She gets up several times in the middle of the night just so that her baby is soothed and comfortable, **rocking**⁷ and singing to her baby the old, lovely lullabys.

The mother never forgets birthdays and always manages to **whip**⁸ up a cake for that special day. She remembers our first words, **looks out**⁹ for our first front tooth. She is always there to wipe our tears after we toddle, tumble and fall.

She is always there to teach us our numbers and alphabet. She works and wears herself out to prepare us for our first day at school. She runs out of the house at the last minute to hand to us our forgotten homework book we have left behind. She always manages to stand just outside the school gate with an umbrella so that we do not get soaked in the rain.

Her sharp eyes always watches for the first signs of cold. She waits over her children night and day worried and anxious as they go through their share of flu, **measles**,¹⁰ **mumps**¹¹ and **chicken pox**.¹² She **coddles**¹³ her poor sick children. Then when we are well again, she scolds us sharply for not finishing our vegetables.

She administers the timely slaps on the hand everytime we get into those mischievous **pranks**.¹⁴ She angrily sends the whole lot to bed without any supper. Then she gets up in the middle of the night to pull over us our blankets and stroke our hair reassuringly.

She continues to remain her daughter's best friend, her son's best confidant. She **nags**¹⁵ at us with her old fashioned values and **chides**¹⁶ us for being stubborn. But she is always there when things go wrong to lend a shoulder for us to cry on.

Her grandchildren look to her as a marvellous "sugar-mummy" who spoils them with home-made toys, sweets, ice-cream and jellies. She has an infinite store of old, fascinating stories to keep us **bewitched**¹⁷ for hours. She has a marvellous **knack**¹⁸ for providing delightful old fashioned remedies to cold, cuts or broken toys.

There is indeed no **tribute**¹⁹ which is fitting to the housewife's simple, selfless devotion to her family.

1. unflagging /ʌnflæɡɪŋ/ (adj) không mệt mỏi
2. nanny /'næni/ (n) bà (nội, ngoại)
3. breadwinner /'bredwɪnə(r)/ (n) trụ cột gia đình, người kiếm tiền nuôi sống gia đình
4. grudge /ɡrʌdʒ/ (v) đố kỵ, miến cưỡng khi làm hoặc cho điều gì
5. gratification /ɡrætɪfɪ'keɪʃn/ (n) sự mãn nguyện
6. infant /'ɪnfənt/ (n) đứa trẻ (trong độ tuổi từ lúc mới sinh cho đến vài năm sau đó)
7. rock /rɒk/ (v) đu đưa, lắc lư
8. whip (up) /wɪp/ (v) đánh (trứng, kem, v.v...) bằng một dụng cụ nào đó (để làm bánh)
9. look out (for) /'lʊk aʊt/ (v) đề phòng, canh chừng, chú ý để thấy hoặc tìm ra ai / cái gì
10. measles /'mi:zlz/ (n) bệnh sởi
11. mumps /mʌmps/ (n) bệnh quai bị
12. chicken pox /'tʃɪkən pɒks/ (n) bệnh thủy đậu
13. coddle /'kɒdl/ (v) chiều chuộng; chăm chút và âu yếm
14. prank /præŋk/ (n) trò đùa tinh nghịch
15. nag /næg/ (v) rầy la (ai) liên tục
16. chide /tʃaɪd/ (v) rầy la, trách mắng
17. bewitch /bɪ'wɪtʃ/ (v) làm (ai) rất say mê, thích thú
18. knack /næk/ (n) sự khéo tay, sở trường
19. tribute /'trɪbjʊ:t/ (n) hành động, lời nói đưa ra để biểu lộ lòng tôn kính hoặc cảm phục của mình

VĂN PHẢN ÁNH

Phản ánh là tái hiện những đặc trưng, thuộc tính, quan hệ của một đối tượng, hoặc nêu lên thông tin về một *hiện tượng khách quan* cùng với những diễn biến, tác động và ảnh hưởng của nó. Đối tượng để phản ánh có thể là một hiện tượng tự nhiên, như "Flood", "Drought", v.v... hoặc một hiện tượng xã hội như "Hospitality", "The rising cost of living", v.v... Trong bài luận văn phản ánh, người viết phải *thật sự khách quan* khi tái hiện hoặc mô tả lại đối tượng phản ánh, không được thêm thắt, hoặc hư cấu, đồng thời cũng không phân tích, giải thích hoặc đưa ý kiến chủ quan của mình về bài văn. Đôi khi, tùy theo yêu cầu của đề bài, người viết có thể nêu lên *nhận xét* rút ra được từ hiện thực khách quan đó, về tác động và ảnh hưởng của chúng lên đời sống con người, chẳng hạn như thế. Ví dụ: "Today, girl dress like boys and young men look like women. Do you find anything significant in this ?"

Yêu cầu chủ yếu khi viết bài luận văn thuộc thể loại phản ánh là người viết phải có một óc quan sát thật nhạy bén, sắc sảo và tinh tế về các sự vật và sự việc xảy ra trong đời sống, phải có sự quan tâm sâu sắc đến các vấn đề xã hội, cũng như phải có một vốn từ ngữ phong phú nhằm giúp bài luận có sức thu hút với người đọc nhiều hơn.

231. FLOODS

LỮ LỤT

Floods are a natural **phenomenon**.¹ They cause tremendous **havoc**² to human life and property but are sometimes also a blessing in disguise because they bring alluvial soil which is essential for crops. This is a great benefit compared to the havoc it creates.

Floods are natural **calamities**³ and occur regularly in certain low lying area. The unexpected flood causes great misery. The rush of water **demolishes**⁴ houses and destroys homes. It **inundates**⁵ large areas under cultivation, wrecks public services and makes the life of the survivors miserable. Sometimes man is prepared for it and has learnt to take advantage of floods to enrich their soil, trap fish and more logs of wood.

Floods, however have always brought out the best in men. Men organise rescue and **relief**⁶ activities for strangers without expectation of personal gain. Voluntary organisations organise relief camps and provide medical facilities. Floods bring out the best in men to the surface. People throughout the world make collections and airlift relief materials to the victims.

The increasing incidence of floods can be reduced by construction of dams and **catchment areas**⁷. These activities cannot be carried out by a single man, but can be achieved only by the Government as these require **colossal**⁸ resources, organisation and manpower.

Every single man can contribute to prevent flood by planting trees and preventing **denudation**⁹ of vegetable plots. Forestation is one of the best alternatives to arrest floods.

1. phenomenon /fə'nomɪnən/ (n) (sinh phenomina) *hiện tượng*
2. havoc /'hævək/ (n) *sự tàn phá*
3. calamity /kə'læməti/ (n) *tai ương, thiên tai*
4. demolish /di'mɒlɪʃ/ (v) *phá hủy*
5. inundate /'ɪnʌdeɪt/ (v) *ngập nước*
6. relief /rɪ'li:f/ (n) *sự cứu viện, sự trợ giúp*
7. catchment area /,kætʃmənt 'eəriəl/ (n) *lưu vực*
8. colossal /kə'lɒsəl/ (adj) *rất lớn, mênh mông, khổng lồ*
9. denudation /di:nju:'deɪʃn/ (n) *sự bào mòn, sự làm trần trụi*

232. HOSPITALITY LÒNG HIẾU KHÁCH

Hospitality is everywhere regarded as a virtue ; but it is perhaps more common in the country than in the town. It is a common saying that in a big city like London, a man does not know even his **next-door neighbour**,¹ and there is no place where one can feel so utterly lonely as among the millions of that huge city. The inhabitants of a large town would be astonished if a passing traveller, a complete stranger, came to their houses and demanded food and lodging from them. They would probably shut their doors **in his face**.² But it is the commonest thing for villagers to welcome a passing stranger and give him freely food and shelter and **entertainment**³, expecting nothing **in return**⁴. This is not only because villagers are simpler and more **unsophisticated**⁵ than town-dwellers but because their lives are so lonely and **monotonous**⁶ that a visit from a stranger is a **welcome**⁷ event ; and also because in the sparsely populated country-side there are, as a rule, no public inns or rest-houses where travellers can stay. So in the country, hospitality is looked on more as a duty than a virtue, the performance of which is a matter of pride.

The people of the East, especially in Arabia and parts of India, are noted for their hospitality. And among the people of the North-West Indian Frontier, the laws of hospitality are strictly **observed**⁸; and even the most lawless **raider**⁹ will never rob or hurt a man who has eaten his **salt**¹⁰, even though he be an enemy.

A great deal of hospitality is merely a matter of fashion, and is selfish in its spirit. People ask acquaintances to dinner, not because they want to do them a service but because it is "the thing to do" and because they hope to be asked back again in return. This is not the kind of hospitality which is a virtue ; for that is unselfish and inspired by kindly feelings. So the Founder of **Christianity**¹¹ taught his disciples to show hospitality only to the poor, who needed food, and who could not reward them for their kindness. While he sat at meal in the house of a rich Pharisee who had invited him to dine with him one day, he said to his host : "When thou makest a dinner or a supper, call not thy friends, nor thy brethren, nor thy kinsmen, nor rich neighbours, lest **haply**¹² they also bid thee again and a **recompense**¹³ be made thee. But when thou makest a feast, bid the poor, **the maimed**¹⁴, the lame, the blind ; because that have not **wherewith**¹⁵ to recompense thee."

1. next-door neighbour /ˌnekst dɔː(r) ˈneɪbə(r)/ (n) người láng giềng sát vách
2. in one's face (*idm*) vào mặt ai
3. entertainment /ˌentəˈteɪnmənt/ (n) sự tiếp đãi, chiêu đãi
4. in return /ɪn rɪˈtʌːn/ để đáp lại, để đền đáp
5. unsophisticated /ˌʌnsəˈfɪstɪkeɪtɪd/ (adj) đơn giản, chất phác
6. monotonous /məˈnɒtənəs/ (adj) buồn chán, đơn điệu
7. welcome /ˈwelkəm/ (adj) có tính cách hoan nghênh
8. observe /əbˈzɜːv/ (v) tôn trọng, tuân theo
9. raider /ˈreɪdə(r)/ (n) kẻ đột kích
10. to eat one's salt (v) làm khách của ai, ăn gì của ai

11. Christianity /ˌkrɪstɪ'ænəti/ (n) *đạo Cơ đốc*
12. haply /'hæpli/ (văn cổ) *vạn nhất, ngẫu nhiên*
13. recompense /'rekəmpəns/ (n) *phần thưởng, vật bồi thường*
14. the maimed /meɪmd/ (n) *người bị tàn phế*
15. wherewith /weəwɪð/ = with which /wɪθ wɪtʃ/ *với cái đó*

233. CROWDS

ĐÁM ĐÔNG

A crowd is a gathering of many people in a place of limited size, such as in a hall, a supermarket or a town **square**.¹ In a crowd, the movement of a person is restricted. He or she cannot move freely and may often have to take action to avoid **collision**² with another person.

I have been in many types of crowds before and I have to say that the experience is not pleasant. Though a crowd can be bearable, most of the time it is uncomfortable to be in one and I get out as quickly as possible.

Once I had the misfortune of going to a popular supermarket when it was having a sale on. I did not know that until I reached the place. All I wanted to buy was some mosquito coils and some sweets. When I arrived there I was shocked to see the place packed with people. Nevertheless, as I had come quite a distance by bus, I decided to join in the crowd to see what was inside the supermarket that attracted the people so.

That was one of the biggest mistakes of my life. The moment I squeezed into the crowd at the entrance, I was swept into the supermarket by the sheer wave of eager people. There were all sorts of people here. Young and old, men, women and children were all **gripped**³ by the 70% discount fever that was **plastered**⁴ all over the place.

I had intended to go to the **confectionery**⁵ section but I was pushed against my will towards the clothes section. That was where most of the action was taking place. The clothes were on sale. I could hardly believe my eyes when I saw respectable-looking adults involved in what looked like a gold-rush. They were literally tearing at the clothes. No quarter was given or asked. It was madness. I could see how people could behave when they stood to gain from something. Manners, courtesy and shyness were all thrown aside as they grabbed the dirt-cheap clothes.

After some struggle I managed to free myself. However it was no different in other sections. I had to fight my way through the throng to get what I wanted. Then I had to wait in line at the checkout counter, which was the only orderly place in the entire supermarket, for a long time to pay for what I got. After paying it was another struggle to get to the exit. Finally outside the supermarket, I breathed a huge sigh of relief. I swore that I would never join in such a mad crowd again.

Another crowd that is unpleasant is the going-home crowd in the bus station every evening. As night approaches everyone is eager to get home and that is when people can become impatient and **unruly**⁶. Young and old jostle with each other to get on the bus. The conductors yells out **obscenities**⁷ but no one takes any notice. All each person wants is to go home, regardless of others. So everyone rushes. If one does not then one has to wait for the last bus.

There are other crowds like those in stadiums, processions and other social activities that involve many people. Not all are unruly. This is so as long as there is no disturbance. A crowd, however, has the tendency of turning into a mob if there is sufficient excitement, as evident in football matches. **I shy away from**⁸ such dangerous emotions. A crowd is definitely not my cup of tea.

1. square /skweə(r)/ (n) *quảng trường*
2. collision /kə'liʒn/ (n) *sự va chạm, sự đâm vào nhau*
3. grip /grɪp/ (v) *thu hút sự chú ý, v.v... của ai*
4. plaster /'plæstə(r)/ (v) *dán đầy (cái gì) lên (cái gì)*
5. confectionary /kən'fekʃənəri/ (n) *kẹo, bánh, sô cô la, v.v...*
6. unruly /ʌn'ru:lɪ/ (adj) *mất trật tự, gây rối loạn; ngang ngạnh, ương bướng*
7. obscenity /əb'senəti/ (n) *lời nói (hoặc hành động) thô tục*
8. shy away from sth /aɪ/ (phr v) *lẩn tránh, trốn tránh (cái gì) (vì nhút nhát, sợ hãi, v.v...)*

234. DROP IT WHERE IT BELONGS

HÃY BỎ NÓ VÀO ĐÚNG VỊ TRÍ

The Ministry of Environment is **gearing up**¹ its campaign on television with an advertisement accompanied by a song. The song ends with a **melodious**² jingle called "drop it where it belongs" with the letters shrinking and going inside the **dustbin**³. Environment is the surroundings such as the roads, lanes, grounds, private or government housing estates. Singapore is the world's cleanest city and it is important that every citizen tries to maintain the record. We should make sure that all places are kept clean and tidy.

Littering on roads, lanes, playgrounds or anywhere would make the places dirty. The drains should remain clean without being **clogged up**⁴ with waste materials or **stagnant**⁵ water as these are the ideal breeding grounds for mosquitoes and other flies. Though the Ministry of Environment and the Community Centres arrange to maintain the housing blocks clean and tidy, it is the duty of every citizen to see that these places are not polluted by the **rubbish**⁶ thrown indiscriminately. That is why dustbins are provided in **every nook and corner**⁷ for us to throw or drop it where it belongs.

The clean environment should start from our houses itself. The leftover foodstuffs, other wastes and rubbish should be put in a plastic bag, tied and disposed through chutes. We can see the Ministry of Environment garbage trucks collecting these wastes daily. Since we have been provided with so much facilities, we should try our best to keep the city clean.

Our Government periodically launches "clean environment" campaigns to make every citizen aware of the value of a dust-free, pollutionfree, clean, neat and tidy country. Strict measures, such as heavy fines for littering may achieve this purpose. But it is the citizens who are reminded of their responsibility to keep a pollution free environment for a healthy and comfortable lifestyle in Singapore.

1. gear (up) /gɪə(r)/ (v) vận động

2. melodious /mɪ'ləʊdɪəs/ (adj) (thuộc về hoặc tạo ra khúc nhạc) êm tai, du dương

3. dustbin /'dʌstbɪn/ (n) thùng rác

4. clog (up with sth) /klɒg/ (v) bị tắc bởi các chất đặc và dính

5. stagnant /'stægnənt/ (adj) (về nước) tù, đọng

6. rubbish /'rʌbɪʃ/ (n) rác rưởi

7. every nook and cranny (idm) khắp mọi góc ngách, khắp nơi

235. THE CLOTHES WE WEAR *QUẦN ÁO CHÚNG TA MẶC*

It sounds strange to say that of all the animals on Earth, only human beings wear clothes. Well, we cannot deny this. Anyone who walks around without clothes on will probably be quickly apprehended and set to the nearest **asylum**.¹ So we all wear clothes, basically to protect our bare bodies from the elements of nature and from unwanted attention from our fellow humans.

We also wear clothes to project an image of what we think we are or represent. Most of us would not have the guts to war anything outside our assumed social standing. As far as I can remember my grandmother has always worn the traditional Chinese samfu. It is so much a part of her image that she would wear nothing else. It would indeed be a shock to us if she suddenly wears a skirt for instance. That is very unlikely to happen.

However, my mother who is one generation younger would never be found wearing the old-fashioned samfu. She would not dare to be that brave. For her, like her friends, skirts and jeans are the acceptable norms.

My sister, a further generation down, would wear clothes that shock even my mother. Some of my sister's latest clothes **defy**² classification. They are a combination of skirt, jeans and pyjamas all sewn together like **rags**.³ Well, that is according to me anyway. For her, it is the very latest in fashion. I really cannot argue on that. One girl's fashion is another's rags.

In our country where so many races live together, each day we can see various types of clothes worn by different people. A typical Muslim woman is almost totally covered from head to toe. An Indian lady wears the body-hugging sari with her **midriff**⁴ exposed. An old Chinese man walks around in his striped **shorts-cum-underwear**⁵ and **singlet**.⁶ A tall Punjabi stands prominently with his huge **turban**⁷ covering his head.

Early in the morning before nine, young executives in business suits can be seen seated with labourers in T-shirts at various tea-stalls around town. Though the clothes they wear are very different, they would just as happily sit down together for a glass of the tarik.

Students, of course, do not have much choice about the clothes they wear in school. Once outside, however, it is a totally different story. Colourful clothes that are both cool and practical are favoured by teenagers. These younger people seem to have **discarded**⁸ the traditional clothes of their ancestors for modern trendy ones. Well, I suppose it is an inescapable consequence of modernisation.

Judging from what I have seen on films and in magazines, the clothes worn by people of other nations are far different from ours. One thing is clear though, people wear clothes to suit the conditions they live in. As for me, I normally wear T-shirts and jeans for they are the most practical clothes to wear in this hot climate. This is all right for a teenager. I can see that when I begin to work in the future, I will have to wear different clothes to suits the situation. Well, when the time comes, I will know what to wear.

1. asylum /ə'saɪləm/ (n) *nhà thương điên*

2. defy /di'faɪ/ (v) *bất chấp, thách đố, coi thường*

3. rags /rægs/ (n) áo quần rách rưới
4. midriff /'mɪdrɪf/ (n) phần bụng ở cơ thể người
5. shorts-cum-underwear /'ʃɔ:ts kʌm ʌndəweə(r)/ (n) quần vừa là quần soóc vừa là quần lót
6. singlet /'sɪŋɡlɪt/ (n) áo may ô
7. turban /'tɜ:bən/ (n) khăn xếp (của người Hồi giáo)
8. discard /dɪ'skɑ:d/ (v) thải bỏ

236. "TODAY, GIRLS DRESS LIKE BOYS AND YOUNG MEN LOOK LIKE WOMEN." DO YOU FIND ANYTHING SIGNIFICANT IN THIS ?
“NGÀY NAY, NHỮNG CÔ GÁI ĂN MẶC GIỐNG CON TRAI CÒN CÁC CẬU TRAI TRẺ LẠI TRÔNG NHƯ PHỤ NỮ”. BẠN CÓ NHẬN THẤY ĐIỀU Ý NGHĨA NÀO ĐÓ QUA HIỆN TƯỢNG NÀY?

When girls dress like boys and young men look like women there is something deeply wrong. Going deeper into the root of this, it maybe worthwhile to note why men and women dress as they do. From simple nakedness into which man is born, he began to dress himself. At first he had to dress against the rigours of weather especially cold. As long as clothing served this basic purpose, he never cared whether it was soft or rough material from which it was made. As knowledge of weaving, dyeing and much later, the knowledge of **tailoring**¹ developed, man began dressing and woman drapping herself in fashionable clothings. This change was more rapid in Western countries than in the East. In Europe, they held on to a dress of a particular fashion because they were **conservative**.²

But the change in dressing has been at a fast **pace**³ in America. The War (Great World War 2) **accelerated**⁴ this trend. For the sake of convenience and economy, certain types of dresses became a regulation dress and the civilian also took to it because it was found to be comfortable and convenient. The "**slacks**"⁵ may be cited as an example. The cinemas set up new trends in fashion and youngsters began clamouring for such dresses. Thus the tight pants and beach dress in the case of girls became a fashion.

The way youngsters dress was a revolt against the established order and norm. Many of the movements got started in America and today, because of its permissive society, the dress has become too short and is now only a miro mini. They do it in **bravado**⁶ spirit of "What can you do?"

Young hippies dress like women, grow hair and sometimes appear like **mendicants**.⁷ They lead a life of their own. They want to live like "Adam and Eve" indulging in free love. Nowadays it is common to see men wearing chains, bracelets and ear rings like women. The opposite way of dressing is taking place.

In the case of some girls they want to get noticed and seek attention so they wear clothes that are worn by men like tight jeans that are torn at knee caps to make a statement of their dressing.

By dressing this way both sexes are trying to defy each other and **veering away**⁸ from established fashion trends.

1. tailor /'teɪlə(r)/ (v) may (quần áo)
2. conservative /kən'sɜ:vətɪv/ (adj) bảo thủ, không theo sự thay đổi đột ngột
3. pace /peɪs/ (n) nhịp độ tiến bộ và phát triển
4. accelerate /ək'seləreɪt/ (v) thúc đẩy
5. slacks /slæks/ (n) quần dài, nhất là quần thụng
6. bravado /brə'vɑ:dəʊ/ (n) sự táo bạo (thường không cần thiết hoặc làm ra vẻ)
7. mendicant /'mendɪkənt/ (n) người kiếm sống bằng nghề hành khất
8. veer /viə(r)/ (v) đi lệch, lệch khỏi

237. THE PROBLEMS FACED BY OLD PEOPLE IN OUR SOCIETY CÁC VẤN ĐỀ MÀ NGƯỜI GIÀ PHẢI ĐƯƠNG ĐẦU TRONG XÃ HỘI CHÚNG TA

Modern society is built by the young for the young. It is a dynamic creation that does not give much consideration to the old, sick, handicapped or incapable. They are merely tolerated as so much **liability**¹ or nuisance. So these hardly wanted people face much problems in their everyday living.

The old, who were once young, helped to make the present society. Now they pay the price of their former **neglect**² of the old. They themselves are neglected and unappreciated in turn.

An old person does not have the physical ability of a young person. Walking can be an effort. Crossing a road can be impossible without assistance. On many occasions I have come across old men and old women who just could not cross a busy road that had no pedestrian crossing. No driver stopped for them. So these old **folks**³ had to wait patiently until a kind soul happened along to lead them across. I have helped a number of them. Some of them were very grateful but some simply cursed the traffic. Whatever their attitudes, they were better off staying at home.

It is common to hear of old people being knocked down by vehicles on the roads. They just cannot handle the traffic anymore.

This busy world is certainly not kind to old folks. Crossing a road is just one problem they encounter. Getting onto a bus is another. The old person is usually the last to get on, if he manages. I have seen a bus conductor telling an old man to wait for the next bus because his bus was full. If the old man does get on, the likelihood is that he will have to stand, which does no good for his old bones. Rarely does anyone give up his seat for an old man, or old woman.

In the old days, most people did not go very far from their birthplace and thus families usually stayed together. The family unit is strong and practical. Today the family unit is breaking apart as young men and women travel widely in search of better jobs. So the chances are that the old folks will be left alone and neglected. Sometimes they are not wanted by their children at all. The luckier ones may have a child or two staying with them. The less fortunate ones may have to pine their lives away in an old folks' home or in their now empty house that once was filled with the sound of children's laughter. This neglect is a very real problem in our society and it is what the old dread the most - being unwanted and uncared for in the time of need.

There are other problems old folks face, but none can be as bad as the indifference and neglect of the young. The young have no time for the old even though the old have virtually no time left. Soon they will die and the young will take their place.

1. liability /laɪə'bɪlətɪ/ (n) *điều bất lợi, gánh nặng*
2. neglect /nɪ'ɡlekt/ (n) *việc xao lãng hoặc bỏ bê* – (v) *xao lãng, bỏ mặc*
3. folk /fɔːk/ (n) *người* - old folk *người già*

238. THE RISING COST OF LIVING *GIÁ SINH HOẠT LEO THANG*

Older people like my parents are always complaining about the rising cost of living. At first I did not understand what they were talking about until they explained to me what the cost of living was.

My father says that he used to be able to get a bowl of noodles for 20 sen. That is hardly believable considering that a bowl today costs more than a ringgit. Then my grandmother says that a bowl of noodles cost half a sen before World War II. That is even more unbelievable ! Now I understand what the cost of living means. It simply means how much it costs to buy things we need.

The cost of living seems to be always rising. The first car my father bought cost less than six thousand ringgit brand new. Nowadays a second hand car costs more than that. Apples used to cost 20 sen each, as my mother says. Now they cost almost a ringgit each.

My grandfather used to earn 5 ringgit a month and that was enough to feed his family of five comfortably. I marvel at that because 5 ringgit today is hardly enough for a meal at a fast food centre. Things have certainly become more and more expensive and there is no indication that they will cost less in the future. Compared to my grandfather, my father earns a princely sum of a thousand ringgit a month. That is two hundred times what my grandfather earned. However I know it is hardly sufficient for my father to meet the family expenses. Fortunately my mother earns a bit as a part-time **seamstress**¹ to help ease the burden. Otherwise he can hardly cope.

Things a few decades ago were much cheaper than today. Besides that there were less things to want. Today, the prices of goods shoot up partly because of increased demand and partly because of advertising expenses. There was hardly any advertisement in the days when my grandfather was young. Today advertisements **govern**² every **facet**³ of modern living. We are bombarded by them from every angle, via newspapers, magazines, radio and television. No wonder we have to pay more for what we buy.

Also in those days of old, radios were rare and television were unheard of. The people have less to want. So they do not have to spend much. They spend only on everyday necessities. Today there are so many things to want. Some are unnecessary but we still buy them, thus adding to our expenses.

Anyhow **bygone**⁴ days cannot be recovered. The cost of living will keep rising. I hear that in Japan, most people cannot even afford to buy a house, even though they earn much more than people here. That goes to show how the cost of living can rise to crazy levels. My father says that his Japanese friend told him that my father's monthly salary cannot even pay for a night's stay in one of Tokyo's hotel. That is an example of how high the cost of living has become.

I suppose the cost of living will continue to rise. When I have children of my own in the future I may have to tell them how cheap things were in my youth. Things will probably cost much more than today and I will have to earn much more than my father in order to cope. Anyhow, when the time comes I will know what to do. I will have to pay whatever the cost of living requires.

1. seamstress /'semstrɪs/ (n) (cũng sempstress) cô thợ may
2. govern /'gʌvən/ (v) chi phối
3. facet /'feɪsɪt/ (n) khía cạnh (của một tình hình hoặc vấn đề)
4. bygone /'baɪɡən/ (adj) đã qua, quá khứ