

Option A. Read the following text and answer the questions.

COUPLES WITH BIG AGE DIFFERENCES

Across Western cultures, about 8 per cent of all married heterosexual couples can be classified as having a large age gap with a difference of 10 years or more between the two partners. These generally involve older men partnered with younger women, **in fact**, only about 1 per cent of age-gap couples involve an older woman partnered with a younger man. On the other hand, when we look at same-sex couples, about 25 per cent of male-male unions and 15 per cent of female-female unions demonstrate a large age gap. Finally, if we look at some African cultures, we find that about 30 per cent of unions reflect a large age gap.

These **trends** tell us that the majority of the population is likely to partner with someone of similar age. This largely has to do with having social circles that generally include peers of similar ages and being attracted to others who are similar. Similarity entails many things, including personality, interests and values, life **goals**, stage of life and physical traits (age being a marker of physical appearance).

Many people **believe** age-gap couples fare poorly when it comes to relationship outcomes. But some studies find the relationship satisfaction reported by age-gap couples is **higher**. These couples also seem to report greater trust and commitment and lower jealousy than similar-age couples. Over three-quarters of couples where younger women are partnered with older men also report satisfying romantic relationships. However, the negative side of these couples is their perceptions of social disapproval. That is, if people in age-gap couples believe their family, friends and wider community disapprove of their union, then the risk of break-up increases.

1. Are the following statements **TRUE** or **FALSE**? Copy from the text the lines that support your answer (5 points, 1 point each).

- a. In couples with a large age gap the woman is often older than the man.
- b. The percentage of large age-gap couples varies across cultures.
- c. In same-sex couples large age-gaps are less frequent than in heterosexual couples.
- d. Most people tend to find a partner with a small age difference.
- e. Many people believe that age-gap couples are very successful.

2. Provide an answer to these questions about the text (5 points).

- a. What is the minimum age difference when we talk about a couple with a large age gap? (1 point)
- b. Why do people usually partner with someone of similar age? (2 points)
- c. What advantages have been found in couples with a large age difference? (2 points)

3. Choose the best meaning for the following words which appear in the text (5 points, 1 point each).

- | | | | |
|-------------------|---------------|---------------|-------------|
| 1. in fact | a. however | b. although | c. actually |
| 2. trends | a. tendencies | b. facts | c. pairs |
| 3. goals | a. expectancy | b. objectives | c. style |
| 4. believe | a. doubt | b. think | c. say |
| 5. higher | a. smaller | b. bigger | c. unusual |

4. Translate the following lines into Spanish (5 points).

Over three-quarters of couples where younger women are partnered with older men also report satisfying romantic relationships. However, the negative side of these couples is their perceptions of social disapproval. That is, if people in age-gap couples believe their family, friends and wider community disapprove of their union, then the risk of break-up increases.

Option B. Read the following text and answer the questions.

SNAKE WHISKEY

Snake whiskey has a long history in Asia, used for millennia as an aphrodisiac, among other things. In China, over two thousand years ago, people used it as a traditional medicine, believing the essence of the snake could **relieve** pain, as well as stop hair loss and boost virility. In northern Vietnam, the Hmong people used it as part of a courting ritual, where men offer it to women in order to show their attraction towards them. Distillers on the island of Okinawa (Japan) made their own version, called Awamori. Rather than just drinking it for the supposed health benefits, though, Japanese people considered it a show of respect to offer someone snake whiskey.

Thus, snake whiskey has been a drink of choice in Asia **for** many generations. There are families who have been making this drink for as long as anyone can remember. It's **deeply** entrenched in the local culture. There are even towns – such as Lê Mật, in Vietnam – where snakes are their **main** industry, and it has been that way for many years. However, as more and more travellers returned home with stories of their bravery – drinking face-to-face with a deadly cobra – word spread about snake whiskey, the demand started going up and so did production.

Nowadays there are dozens, if not hundreds, of blog posts about tourists on the hunt for snake whiskey as they travel through Thailand, Laos and Vietnam. As a result, you can find snake whiskey in just about every tourist hotspot. Recently, local producers have started to offer online shopping so that people can have snake whiskey sent anywhere in the world. This means that clients in just about any country can order a bottle of snake whiskey. At the same time, this traditional drink is becoming more and more expensive. Would you like to try it?

1. Are the following statements **TRUE** or **FALSE**? Copy from the text the lines that support your answer (5 points, 1 point each).

- a. Snake whiskey has existed for a very long time.
- b. In Lê Mật (Vietnam), snakes play a key role in developing the economy.
- c. Tourism has reduced the number of people wanting to get snake whiskey.
- d. Travellers never write about snake whiskey on the internet.
- e. Most touristic places offer snake whiskey nowadays.

2. Provide an answer to these questions about the text (5 points).

- a. What did they use snake whiskey for in China? (2 point)
- b. What did the Hmong people in Vietnam use snake whiskey for? (2 points)
- c. What did Japanese people in Okinawa use snake whiskey for? (1 point)

3. Choose the best meaning for the following words which appear in the text (5 points, 1 point each).

- | | | | |
|--------------------|---------------|-------------|---------------|
| 1. relieve | a. eliminate | b. mitigate | c. cheat |
| 1. for | a. during | b. after | c. before |
| 2. deeply | a. lightly | b. hardly | c. profoundly |
| 3. main | a. worst | b. primary | c. only |
| 4. nowadays | a. at present | b. recently | c. actually |

4. Translate the following lines into Spanish (5 points).

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