

NAME (FIRST AND LAST): _____ GRADE: ____ CLASS: ____

SECTION 1: READING FOR IDEAS**Read this passage and answer all the questions that follow in the order set.****SHOPPING**

Markets, bazaars, corner shops, high street stores or out-of-town retail centres – wherever you live, shopping plays some part in your life, and the hours available for this common activity will vary. But do extended shopping hours have a positive or a negative effect on society?

Extending the opening hours of shops has many advantages. People do not have to rush to the supermarket after a hard day at the office, checking their watches to see how much time they have to buy the evening meal for the family. If a shop is open for a restricted number of hours per week, say forty, then one set of employees is sufficient to run it, but extended opening hours mean that more people are needed to work in the store, thus providing an income for them. This can be particularly beneficial for students, who are able to work for a limited period to earn some money without compromising their studies. Families can also benefit: parents, usually mothers, can work a few hours part-time in the local supermarket when their spouses are not at work. Not only does this provide additional income for the family; it can also avoid the costly and sometimes complicated childcare arrangements which will be necessary if both parents work the same hours. Extended opening hours mean more income for the shop owner, who will not miss out on a potential sale because the shop is shut.

Keeping shops open longer spreads the load for the shopping centre, as not all the potential shoppers are arriving at the same time, or fighting for a limited number of parking spaces. People have more time to browse when it suits them, and so shopping can become a form of relaxation, giving rise to the term 'retail therapy'. In modern times there has been a rise in the number of covered shopping malls, which are usually open for longer than the conventional high street stores. These malls offer under one roof a wide range of merchandise – from clothes, to food, to electronic equipment – and so there is increased availability of goods in these virtually round-the-clock outlets. Because these malls are normally modern and bright, they offer an attractive day out for families, and make shopping a valuable family activity.

But extended shopping hours are sometimes under fire from critics who argue that, far from promoting family life, the 'shop till you drop' mentality actually decreases the opportunities for family activities. Indeed, the very expression 'shop till you drop' suggests silly, robot-like behaviour. Children miss out on valuable recreational excursions with their parents, who take them on endless shopping trips instead of, for example, to an art gallery. If mum is working in the supermarket in the evening, chances for family bonding, such as simply eating dinner together, or watching television, have been removed. Children are not taken to run around parks and playgrounds because they are shopping instead. There is nothing more depressing than seeing the long faces of parents pushing baby buggies and trailing youngsters round yet another computer shop. The resulting lack of exercise perhaps contributes to increasing

childhood obesity in some parts of the world.

Extending shopping hours also has a detrimental effect on employees, whose own family life is interrupted or compromised because one or other of the family members, possibly including teenage students, is working at any given time. Employers suffer too; they cannot always be in the shop, and will need to appoint an employee as deputy in their absence, which might cause problems. If they decide that this is impossible they may choose to close the shop, but they will lose business to the shops which have stayed open. Moreover, as people have a fixed amount of money to spend shopping, the idea that they spend more because shops are open longer is a myth in any case, and so employers do not ultimately benefit.

Finally, if people know that the shops are open constantly, they will waste the time that they might have spent doing more useful things.

1 NOTES

Identify and write down the points in the passage above which tell us the advantages and disadvantages of extended shopping hours

MAIN POINTS	
Advantages of extended shopping hours	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>People don't have to rush to the shops</i> 	
Disadvantages of extended shopping hours	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Decreases opportunity for family activities</i> 	

2. From your reading of the second paragraph, decide which one of the following sentences is true and check the box you have chosen.

It takes a long time to buy a family meal in a supermarket.	
Students can juggle part-time work with their studies.	v
Fathers never take part-time jobs.	

SECTION 2: READING FOR MEANING

THE HOSPITAL

Paragraph 1

The night before my baby's operation I lay awake anxiously; in the morning I packed her pitifully small requirements and we went to the hospital. She cried when they took her away. The world had contracted to the small size of her face and her clenching, waving hands; the poignancy was intolerable. I went away, and walked around outside the hospital for hours. When I went back at the appointed time, the senior nurse told me that the operation had been successful and that Octavia was well. I could not believe that a mere recital of facts could thus change my fate; I stood there dumbly, wondering whether she had got the wrong name, the wrong data, the wrong message. When I got round to speaking, I asked if I could see her, and they said to come back in the morning, as she was still unconscious. Such was my nervousness that I did not ask again to see her. I went home and wept copiously.

Paragraph 2

It was only then that I began to be preoccupied with certain details about which I had not previously dared to think. Would there be a nurse with Octavia at all times? Would they feed her properly? Earlier these things had seemed trivial, but now their importance swelled in my mind. Because the threat of fatality had been removed, life seemed to have gone back to normal. It was the strangeness more than the pain, I thought, that would afflict her, for she liked nobody but me, and strangers she disliked with noisy vehemence.

Paragraph 3

When I went round in the morning, the senior nurse told me that Octavia was comfortable. Summoning some courage, I asked to see her, but was told that was impossible. 'She will settle in more happily if she doesn't see you,' she said. I didn't like the sound of that word 'settle'; it suggested complete inactivity. 'I'm afraid that for such small infants we don't allow any visiting at all,' she continued. Octavia had never been settled in her short life, and I pictured her lying there in a state of lethargy. Furthermore, it was now imperative to see her. Already, we had endured the longest separation of our lives, and I began to see it stretching away, indefinitely prolonged. Why would they not let me see the child? Had the operation not been a success?

Paragraph 4

The senior nurse showed me the surgeon's report. Although it was nothing but a mass of technicalities to me, I felt better; for all the senior nurse knew, I might have had enough medical knowledge to understand the report and she would not have taken that silly risk. By this time I could tell that she considered my behaviour to be tedious, and I left.

Paragraph 5

But I had been outside the hospital for only a few moments when I thought of my baby's possible distress, and I went back inside. Two junior nurses greeted me nervously, repeating the earlier message, but I told them I had no intention of not seeing my baby. Their voices hardened. They had that whole building behind them and I had nothing behind me except my intention. Just then, the senior nurse returned. 'Well, well, you're back again,' she said. She took my arm and began to push me towards the door. At first I was unable to resist her physical propulsion, but then she took hold of my elbow and started to exert greater pressure, so I started to scream. I screamed very loudly, shutting my eyes to do it, and listened in amazement to the deafening noise. Once I had started, I could not stop. I stood there, motionless, screaming, whilst they shook me and yelled that I was upsetting everyone.

Paragraph 6

Through the noise I could hear things happening and I felt I had to keep doing this until they let me see her. Inside my head it was red and black and very hot. After a while I heard someone shouting above the din: 'For goodness sake, tell her she can see her baby.' I instantly stopped and opened my eyes. I looked at the breathless circle surrounding me: the surgeon himself looking white with anger; the senior nurse crying; the junior nurses looking stunned. It was as though I had opened my eyes on a whole new narrative in which I myself had taken no part. But I had no interest in their story; I wished to know only my own. 'Of course you can see the baby,' said the surgeon, kindly. 'I will take you to see her myself.'

From paragraph 1

1(a) (i) What was going to happen to the baby in the morning?

- a. She was recovering from a successful operation.
- b. She was going into hospital to have an operation.
- c. She was recovering from an unsuccessful operation.
- d. She was leaving the hospital with a parent.

(ii) Why are the baby's requirements described as "pitifully small"?

- a. Her clothes were small, and she wouldn't need much in hospital. Furthermore, the mother felt sorrow because the baby was vulnerable.
- b. She was only a baby. Furthermore, she was going to the hospital.
- c. She was young. Furthermore, the baby needed urgent medical attention.
- d. The baby wouldn't need much in hospital. Furthermore, the baby was hungry.

(c) After the writer was told that Octavia was well, what aspects of her behaviour showed her nervousness? Check the statements that apply.

She was speechless.	
She did not ask again to see her baby.	
She got round to speaking.	
She wondered if the senior nurse had the wrong information.	

From paragraph 2

2 (a) What worried the writer about the way in which Octavia might have been treated in hospital? Check the statements that apply.

She worried that Octavia would not have a nurse with her at all times.	
She worried that Octavia would not be fed properly.	
She wondered if there would be a doctor with Octavia at all times.	
She worried that the threat of fatality had not been removed.	

(b) Why does the writer remark that ‘earlier these things had seemed trivial’?

- There had been a threat of fatality.
- She had other important things to worry about.
- The nurses were available.
- There was plenty of food in the hospital.

(c) Why does the writer remark that “life seemed to have gone back to normal”? Check the statements that apply.

There was no danger to Octavia’s life.	
The possibility that Octavia would die had been taken away.	
The chance that Octavia would become worse had been taken away.	
Octavia would be safe inside a hospital.	

From paragraph 3

3 (a) The writer was worried about Octavia’s ‘inactivity’ in hospital. Pick out and write down the **single** word used in the paragraph which continues the idea of ‘inactivity’:

(b) For what reasons was it now ‘imperative’ for the writer to see her baby?

The mother had never been separated from Octavia.	
Octavia needed urgent care from her mother.	
The writer had to follow the doctor’s instructions.	
The writer wanted to challenge the senior nurse’s authority.	

From paragraph 4

4 Explain fully the ‘silly risk’ the senior nurse had taken.

- She refused to let the writer visit her daughter.
- She was making false promises.
- She showed the writer the surgeon’s report.
- She didn’t bother to explain the technicalities to a layperson.

From paragraph 5

5 (a) Why do you think the nurses greeted the writer 'nervously'? Check the statements that apply.

They were afraid that she might make a fuss.	
They were inexperienced junior nurses.	
They thought that she was going to ask to see her baby again.	
They were afraid of the senior nurse.	

(b) The nurses had 'that whole building behind them' whereas the writer had nothing except her 'intention'. **Without copying from the passage**, explain in your own words what this means.

(c) How did the senior nurse show that she was annoyed with the writer?

- a. She screamed.
- b. She started gossiping with the other nurses.
- c. She pushed her.
- d. She yelled at her.

From paragraph 6

6 The surgeon was 'white with anger'. Why do you think he was angry?

From the whole passage

7 For each of following words, give **one** word or short phrase (of not more than seven words) which has the same meaning that the word has in the passage.

1. poignancy	
2. appointed	
3. copiously	
4. preoccupied	
5. vehemence	
6. summoning	
7. tedious	
8. hardened	

VOCABULARY FLASHCARDS

Using the boxes below, create six vocabulary flashcards for any six words from this homework you wish to commit to memory.

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THE END