CECL BOOK 3 UNIT FIVE: GENERATIONS AND THE FAMILY

PASSAGE ONE

I live in London with my husband and two small children. It is called a nuclear family. Here I feel very close to friends, relations and colleagues. Besides, I am the mother, the house wife, the person who organizes the children and the meals and remembers the telephone bill. I am the voter, the jury woman, the person with a bank account, the adult. But there is so much to do for the children all the time: taking the older one to nursery school and back, playing with him, reading to him, organizing trips to the park. Then there is the 3-month-old baby: the feeding, changing, walking, playing, holding and watching. Englishwomen are quite `liberated' theoretically, living in a society which accepts them working, accepts their right to education and promotion in jobs. But when they have children, they are much more tired, be­cause there is no one else to help. (151 words)

PASSAGE TWO Divorce and Its Problems

Divorce represents not only a personal upheaval for the participants, but creates several problems for which the nuclear family system is not prepared. Divorce rates are high in many primitive societies with extended family sys­tems. There, the "divorced" children can always find an ongoing, complete family in which to live, but the nuclear family by contrast breaks up completely, and there is rarely enough money to support adequately the two households which result.

Although no arrangements exist by which either divorcee is moved toward a new marriage, eventually almost all divorcees do remarry. The effect of divorce on children has not been measured adequately. It is clear that their lives are more marked by difficulties than those of children from happy homes, but not certain if their lot is worse than that of children from unhappy non-divorced homes. (144 words)

PASSAGE THREE FAMILY ALLOWANCE

Family allowance is social welfare, a payment to help parents meet the cost of raising children. It is a subsidy based on the premises that large families are socially desirable, that a family should not suffer because of natural increase, and that some group outside the family may, under specific circum­stances, assume the responsibility of reducing a disproportion between a family's increase in size and its relatively constant earning power. Payments may be graduated according to the number of dependents involved and may be contingent on matching contributions by the head of the family, or on the family's needs, or on absolute loss of income. They are more frequently provid­ed in government service than in private enterprise. (120 words)

PASSAGE FOUR

The family in Canada is difficult to define because it can vary from the traditional extended family to single parent families. As well, the average number of children in a family has dropped. Couples may choose to remain child­less. The changes in family ties reflect the evolution in social attitudes and the economic environment.

Although extended families were common in the past, today few grandparents or aunts, uncles and cousins live in a multi-generational family. In Canada, many elderly people live in nursing homes or homes for the elderly and support­ed of social security.

Another change in family life in the last few years has been an increased awareness of the role of the father. Fathers are spending more time with their children. Most hospitals allow a father into the delivery room so that he can be there to see his children come into the world. (149 words)

CECL BOOK 3 UNIT SIX: HISTORY AND GOVERNMENT

PASSAGE ONE

The term "revolution" is usually used to mean basic change in the society and government of a country. It implies internal discontent and violence of one class against another. There are many famous revolutions in the world history. They were all organ­ized and led in protest against ruling leaders or governments who imposed heavier and heavier taxes on the people and oppressed and exploited them cruel­ly. There usually had been great discontent for many years before the revolu­tions broke out. There was also high unemployment, shortage of food and high prices. People could no longer exist in such a system, so they took up arms against the rulers.

The four major revolutions, the American Revolution, the French Revolution, the Russian Revolution and the Chinese Revolution all succeeded in ridding their countries of their rulers although the former two ended up with much the same social system as before where the latter two developed socialist societies. (155 words)

PASSAGE TWO GOVERNMENT

The United States is a federal union of 50 states. The District of Columbia is the seat of the national government. The Federal Constitution outlines the structure of the national government, its powers and activities. Other activi­ties are the responsibility of the states, which have their own constitutions and laws. Within each state are counties, townships, cities and villages. Each of them has its own government.

The Constitution divides the powers of the government into three branches-- the Executive, headed by the President; the Legislative, which includes both houses of Congress the Senate and the House of Representatives; and the Judi­cial, which is headed by the Supreme Court. The Constitution limits the power of each branch, and prevents any one branch from gaining too much power. (128words)

PASSAGE THREE THE PRESIDENT

The President of the United States is chosen in a national election for a four-year term of office, and may be re-elected for a second term. He must be a native-born citizen at least 35 years old. His salary is $200,000 a year, and he also gets an extra $50,000 for expenses; but he must pay a federal income tax on the whole amount. He gets an added $440,000, tax-free, for travel and enter­taining, and is provided a home -- the White House.

As head of the Executive Branch, his duty is to carry out government pro­grams and enforce the laws. The President appoints federal judges, ambassadors, and hundreds of government officials. He also appoints department heads, known as the Cabinet, with the Senate's approval. He is helped by an elected Vice President. (136 words)

PASSAGE FOUR

In countries with democratically elected governments, every adult has a vote and has the right to give it to the candidate of his choice. Most candidates are supported by parties which organize their own policies and programs. Occasional­ly the outcome of an election can be predicted, but often it comes as a sur­prise.

In countries such as America, Australia and Britain, where there are only two major parties, the party gaining a majority of the seats forms the govern­ment and the minority party acts as the opposition. Elected members of the opposition party perform valuable functions. In common with members of the ruling party, they are entitled to express their views freely. They criticize the governments 'policy and suggest alternatives. They draw attention to matters which the government might otherwise ignore. (132 words)