

# 1 Comprehension

**(40 points)**

## 1.1 True or false?

**(16 points)**

The following statements are either true or false with respect to the article you have just read. Mark those that are true with a **T**, and those that are false with an **F**. Also, indicate the line(s) where the information can be found in the text.

- 1) The Saxenas looked after their parents before moving them to a senior living facility.  **F** ..... 6

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- 2) The question of how to deal with the aging population is hotly debated by all members of the Indian society.  **F** ..... 17-24

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- 3) Over the next 13 years the number of India's senior population will equal the population of France.  **F** ..... 26-29

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- 4) According to Mathew Cherian, traditional family values have been eroded.  **T** ..... 49-54

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- 5) The law which New Delhi passed in 2007 was received enthusiastically.  **F** ..... 57-59

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- 6) According to the author, the most common problem among the elderly is their solitude.  **T** ..... 77

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- 7) Elderly Indians are gradually getting used to the idea of specialised senior housing.  **T** ..... 81-82

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- 8) According to the author, living in an assisted living facility will mean giving up their familiar environment.  **T** ..... 97

**1.2 Open comprehension questions****(24 points)**

Answer the following questions in your own words. **Do not copy whole passages from the article. Write your answers in full sentences on a separate sheet.**

1) Give six reasons why life has become more difficult for the Saxenas.

*6 points*

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- Their children and grand-children all live abroad (1), which is why they rely primarily on domestic help now (1)
  - New Delhi has become chaotic and crowded (1)
  - They have become alienated from their neighbours (1), which has led to social isolation (1)
  - It is difficult for them to travel (1)
- 

2) What three factors have contributed to the dramatic increase of the demographic group of the elderly?

*3 points*

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- Affluence (1) has led to healthier eating habits (1) which in combination with better healthcare (1) has extended the average lifespan.
- 

3) What similarities and differences between the three nations does the graph suggest?

*6 points*

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- In all three countries the percentage of the elderly is on the rise (1)
  - The rates at which this demographic group is growing seem to differ a lot (1)
  - Whereas China's elderly population is projected to be twice the size compared to the 2001 census (1), France's counterpart is estimated to grow by roughly a third (1) and in India the forecast sees a growth of about two thirds.(1) The most dramatic difference, however, is that by 2026 India's population will still be relatively young compared to China and France.(1)
  - **Note on grading: be open for any answer in the right direction. Don't expect the students to come up with an accurate, mathematical description of the increase ... anything like „more“, „steeper“ or „flatter“ etc. should be fine.**
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4) Describe the kind of service Epoch Elder Care provides.

*3 points*

- 
- Seeing as the elderly are more often than not emotionally and intellectually starving, the company provides companionship (1), which means their clients are visited by care specialists with whom they can talk about their grievances (1) and who help them overcome their loneliness (1)
- 

5) Name three problems related to rising property prices and three measures how these problems could be tackled.

*6 points*

- 
- A growing demand will entice property developers into investing (1), thus raising the already exorbitant urban property prices (1), which will make assisted living affordable only for the well-off (1). In addition, elderly people may be forced to live (in isolation) away from the city centres.  
The suggested measures aimed at mitigating these problems are to set aside cheap urban land (1) for such institutions, to implement a universal pension scheme (1) and to make health insurance available (1).
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## 2 Vocabulary

(30 points)

### 2.1 Word formation

(12 points)

In the following text, use **one** word that fits the gap and belongs to the same **word family** as the word in CAPITALS.

WHAT happens when looking after your parents becomes a l.e.g.a.l. obligation?

LAW

On July 1 2013, a new piece of legislation concerning aged care took effect in China, provoking widespread debate. The new law takes the traditional notion of 'filial piety' – the virtue of respecting one's elders – to a new level, by allowing parents to sue their children for n.e.g.l.e.c.t.i.n.g. to visit them.

NEGLECT

There are some who support this piece of legislation, saying that it shines a light on the welfare of elderly people in Chinese society.

However, o.p.p.o.n.e.n.t.s. have argued that enforcing filial piety blurs the boundary between moral values and r.e.s.p.o.n.s.i.b.i.l.i.t.i.e.s.

OPPOSE  
RESPONSIBLE

Some have also pointed out that the ambiguous wording of the legislation could cause m.i.s.u.n.d.e.r.s.t.a.n.d.i.n.g.s. about the scope of the legislation.

UNDERSTAND

Ding Zhaolin said while the law came with good i.n.t.e.n.t.i.o.n.s., it was not rigorous enough to be practical or e.f.f.e.c.t.i.v.e. According to Ding, the legislation is likely to end up losing its s.i.g.n.i.f.i.c.a.n.c.e. when it became clear that everyone had violated the law at some point.

INTEND  
EFFECT  
SIGN

For a culture with deeply ingrained notions of filial respect, the e.x.i.s.t.e.n.c.e. of this new legislation hints at deep seated problems in the social fabric of contemporary Chinese society.

EXIST

Despite the country's impressive e.c.o.n.o.m.i.c. growth, the truth is that young people in China today still find themselves struggling with the pressures of a highly c.o.m.p.e.t.i.t.i.v.e. society, while the elderly are denied the care and attention they have been t.r.a.d.i.t.i.o.n.a.l.l.y. afforded.

ECONOMY  
COMPETE  
TRADITION

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**2.2 Antonyms****(8 points)**

Find the word/phrase that is **opposite in meaning** to the word **in bold** print and that can be used in the original sentence.

- |   |                                 |
|---|---------------------------------|
| 1) Today, Mr and Mrs Saxena live in very <b>different</b> circumstances. (line 8) | <u>similar</u>                  |
| 2) Social isolation has <b>increased</b> . (l. 15)                                | <u>decreased</u>                |
| 3) ... <b>affluent</b> groups (l. 32)   | <u>poor/destitute</u>           |
| 4) But many <b>urban</b> Indians ... (l. 44)                                      | <u>rural</u>                    |
| 5) Many seniors do complain of <b>neglect</b> ... (l. 65)                         | <u>care/attention</u>           |
| 6) But new care models are also <b>emerging</b> ... (l. 68)                       | <u>disappearing/vanishing</u>   |
| 7) - and provision of <b>appropriate</b> services - (l. 94)                       | <u>inappropriate/unsuitable</u> |
| 8) ... <b>far from</b> cities, ... (l. 96)  | <u>near/close to</u>            |

**2.3 Synonyms****(10 points)**

Find a word / phrase that means **the same** as the word **in bold** print and that can be used in the original sentence.

- |   |                                  |
|---|----------------------------------|
| 1) ... by <b>rapid</b> social economic transformation. (l. 20)            | <u>fast</u>                      |
| 2) ... to <b>provide</b> support services to the elderly. (l. 23)         | <u>deliver / offer / give</u>    |
| 3) Most of these <b>retirees</b> ... (l. 30)                              | <u>(old age) pensioners</u>      |
| 4) ... find it increasingly <b>tough</b> (l. 44)                          | <u>difficult / hard</u>          |
| 5) They are <b>lonely</b> . (l. 72)                                       | <u>lonesome / solitary</u>       |
| 6) "Elderly homes are a <b>must</b> ," ... (l. 83)                        | <u>necessity</u>                 |
| 7) ... and another 30 <b>in the pipeline</b> . (l. 89)                    | <u>in preparation / expected</u> |
| 8) India's <b>exorbitant</b> urban property prices ... (l. 95)            | <u>excessive / soaring</u>       |
| 9) ... a new policy on ageing due to be <b>unveiled</b> soon. (l. 103)    | <u>shown(-ed) / revealed</u>     |
| 10) ...otherwise it's going to be quite <b>disastrous</b> ," ... (l. 105) | <u>catastrophic / tragic</u>     |

**3 Essay****(60 points)**

Choose one of the following topics for an essay (300-400 words).

1)	Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of different generations of one family living together in the same house/household.
2)	Old age in literature: discuss and comment on how the topic of old age is dealt with in a work of literature (in any language!) you are familiar with.
3)	Write a story beginning with: "Finally, here it was: a drug that would make him immortal, a drug that would kill death..."

# 4 Grammar

## (50 points)

### 4.1 Re-phrasing sentences

(20 points)

Complete the second sentence so that it has a **similar meaning** to the first sentence, using the word given. Do **not** change the word given. You must use **between three and ten words**, including the word given. There is an example (0) at the beginning.

- 
- 0) When does the next exam begin? **tell**  
 Could ..... you tell me when ..... the next exam begins?
- 
- 1) My grandfather has such a bad handwriting that I can't read his letters. **badly**  
 If my grandfather didn't write so badly / I could read his letters.
- 
- 2) The nurse was speaking too quietly for the old man to understand. **so**  
 If the nurse hadn't spoken so quietly / the old man would have understood.
- 
- 3) It's the first time she's travelled by plane. **used**  
 She is not used to / travelling by plane.
- 
- 4) She said she was sorry to be such a burden. **apologised**  
 She apologised for / being such a burden.
- 
- 5) It's possible that my grandmother hasn't decided yet. **mind**  
 She might not have made / up her mind yet.
- 
- 6) His collapse was due to overwork. **been**  
 He collapsed because he had / been working (too) hard.
- 
- 7) How long is it since your grandparents moved to a home for senior citizens? **already**  
 How long have they already / been living in/at a home for senior citizens?
- 
- 8) She advised her grandmother not to take the car. **better**  
 "You'd better not / take the car, granny."
- 
- 9) When are you going to come? **know**  
 She wanted to know when they/he/she were/was going to come.
- 
- 10) Why didn't anybody tell her about the accident? **should**  
 She should have / been told about the accident.
-

**4.2 Gap-filling****(30 points)**

Complete the following text by putting the verbs in brackets into the correct form. Include any preposition that may be required. Where there is no verb given, think of **one** word which best fits the gap.

**Medicare and the Welfare State**

In the USA, Medicare is a national social insurance program, which (1) h a s e x i s t e d (exist) since 1965. If it (2) h a d n ' t b e e n c r e a t e d (not create) by the Democratic government 48 years ago, millions of elderly Americans (3) w o u l d n ' t h a v e (not have) health insurance now. Until it (4) w a s i n t r o d u c e d (introduce), health care (5) h a d b e e n (be) unavailable or unaffordable to half of older adults, because they had to pay nearly three times (6a) a s much for health insurance (6b) a s younger people. Since the creation of Medicare, life expectancy (7) h a s i n c r e a s e d (increase), (8) w h i c h necessitates more services for later stages in life.

Some conservatives opposed the enactment of Medicare, warning that sooner or later a government-run program (9) w o u l d l e a d (lead) to socialism in America. In 1995 presidential candidate Bob Dole said that he (10) h a d f o u g h t (fight) against Medicare in 1965 and still (11) b e l i e v e d (believe) it didn't work. At that time it (12) w a s s e e n (see) as a step towards a welfare state, in which the government provides everybody with (13) w h a t / e v e r y t h i n g they require to lead a decent life.

The welfare state was just what Sir William Beveridge suggested in his famous report in Britain in 1942. He believed the government had a moral duty to protect every citizen from suffering disease and poverty. The government approved of the report, but decided that its recommendations (14) w o u l d n ' t b e c a r r i e d o u t (not carry out) until after the war. There is no doubt that if Britain (15) h a d n ' t b e e n (not be) involved in the Second World War, the reforms (16) w o u l d n ' t h a v e b e e n a p p r o v e d (not approve) by nearly all sections of society.

Still, when the National Health Service (17) w a s i n t r o d u c e d (introduce) in 1948, Britain (18) h a d h a d (have) an Old Age Pension for 40 years already. It was, however, very small and only for those over 70! Nevertheless, it can (19) b e c o n s i d e r e d (consider) as the first step towards a system of social security in Britain.

The first country to introduce such a system, however, was Germany around 1890. The aim is said (20) t o h a v e b e e n (be) to win the support of the working class for the German Empire and to prevent masses of people (21) f r o m e m i g r a t i n g (emigrate) to the United States, where wages were higher. German industry didn't mind (22) s u p p o r t i n g (support) this reform because they hoped it (23) w o u l d ( n ' t ) make socialism (24) l e s s ( t o o ) attractive to workers.

At the moment, old age pension systems are faced with a new challenge. For a number of years, there **(25) h a s b e e n**..... (be) a drop in the birth rate coupled with an increase **(26) i n**..... life expectancy. This means that there are fewer workers for each retired person. If current trends continue, governments **(27) w i l l h a v e**..... (have) difficulty **(28) m a k i n g**..... (make) the payments promised. That's why more and more people believe that unless the retirement age **(29) i s r a i s e d**..... (raise), there **(30) w i l l b e**..... (be) serious financial problems in the foreseeable future.

## 5 Translation

**(20 points)**

Translate the following sentences into English.

- 1) In der Schweiz wurde die AHV (EN: OAP) 1948 eingeführt; das heisst, sie existiert jetzt bereits seit 66 Jahren.

- In Switzerland the OAP was introduced in 1948; this means it has now existed for 66 years already.

- 2) Die Pension ist seit damals mehrmals erhöht worden und ist jetzt viel höher als am Anfang.

- The pension has been raised several times since then and is now much higher than in/at the beginning

- 3) Wenn es die AHV nicht gäbe, wäre das Leben für viele Leute mit kleinen Einkommen sehr schwierig.

- If the OAP didn't exist, life would be very hard (difficult) for many people with small incomes.

- 4) Wegen der steigenden Zahl älterer Leute gibt es Zweifel, ob die AHV alle Zahlungen wird leisten können.

- Because of the rising number of elderly (older) people there are doubts whether (if) the OAP will be able to make all the payments.

- 5) Werden die Steuern erhöht werden müssen, um die Pensionen zu finanzieren? Wann wird das geschehen?

- Will taxes have to be raised to finance the pensions? When will this (is this going to) happen?

- 6) Wie sieht es in anderen Ländern aus? Gibt es die gleichen Probleme wie in unserem Land?

- How are things in other countries? Are there the same problems as in our country?

- 7) In Ländern wie Frankreich, wo das Pensionierungsalter tief ist, ist die Situation viel schlimmer als in der Schweiz.

- In countries like/such as France, where the retirement age is low, the situation is much worse than in Switzerland.

8) Die französische Regierung hätte gerne, dass die Leute länger arbeiten, aber die meisten Leute weigern sich, dies zu tun.

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- The French government would like people to work longer, but most people refuse to do so (this).