1) Match the sentences (a-d) with the statements they refer back to (1-4).

1 I grew up in a huge family and I helped my mother look after the

younger children. It never crossed my mind to complain about having

to do this. As kids, we all knew we had to help out.

2 I was an only child and my parents gave me everything. They worried

about me all the time and they were very selective about the children

they would allow me to play with.

3 When I was a child we lived really well. We had a beautiful house, a

maid and expensive foreign holidays. My parents never saved a

penny. Then my father lost his job. After that, we were always terribly

short of money and I couldn't go to college because I had to go out

and get a job.

4 I was very close to my grandparents when I was growing up. They

used to take me out and buy me things and tell me all kinds of stories

which I loved listening to.

a) All that made me a rather nervous and selfish person, if I’m honest.

b) This is why I feel it is very important that my children should spend

time with my own parents.

c) That’s the kind of upbringing which teaches you to get on well with

other people and to be unselfish.

d) That experience showed me how important it is to look after your

money.

2) Read the following paragraphs of a text about a person’s upbringing and

answer the multiple-choice questions.

I grew up in a small industrial town. My parents both worked in a

nearby factory. Few families in the town were well-off but most of us were

content with our lives. More than anything, it was the closeness of our

families that kept us happy. On Sundays, everyone would put on their best

clothes and go out to visit relatives and friends. All of us were brought up to

understand the importance of our families to us and we developed a strong

sense of belonging to the community we grew up in. Those values have

stayed with me throughout my life.

● What do the words those values in the above sentence in italics refer to?

A) respecting your family and the people around you

B) being happy to work in a factory all your life

C) keeping in touch with relatives as well as with friends

D) wearing respectable clothes when you go out on Sundays

Although our town was industrial, it was surrounded by beautiful

unspoilt country. As a child, I spent hours on end playing with my brothers

and sisters, cousins and friends in the woods around the town, catching

fish in a nearby river and, in the summer, swimming in the freezing water.

We would all rush out of the house after breakfast, appear briefly for our

lunch, which we ate as fast as we possibly could, and then we would be off

again out of the house to meet our friends. By the evening, we were so

tired that we couldn't stay awake and had to be carried to bed by our

parents. / often wish my own children could have grown up like that.

● What do the words like that in the above sentence in italics refer to?

A) living in an industrial area

B) being free to go out and play all day

C) having a river nearby

D) being tired and ready to go to bed early

My parents couldn't afford to send me to college so I had to get a job.

Like most of my relatives, I went to work in a local factory. I was assigned

to the accounts office where one of my uncles worked. I knew I would have

to wait years to get a good position there. Many people, including my

parents, told me I was lucky to have got a job in that department because

there were a lot of people unemployed. / knew I could never look at life in

this way. After just six months in the job, I walked out.

● What does the phrase look at life in this way in the above sentence in

italics refer to?

A) wanting to work with your relatives

B) accepting that you cannot go to college

C) wanting to have a high position

D) being satisfied with whatever you have got

I moved to a city in the south of the country where, after a lot of hard

work, I built up a whole business empire. Today, I am one of the richest

people in the country. I have children of my own now, who I send to an

expensive private school. I have seen most parts of the world and I own

several houses, racehorses and a private collection of classic cars. On the

other hand, I often remember how happy I was while I was growing up.

Then I wonder if such things are, in the end, all that important.

● What do the words such things in the above sentence in italics refer to?

A) moving to another part of the country

B) the experiences of your childhood

C) living the typical lifestyle of a wealthy person

D) being able to give children a private education