



Reading 32

TASK 1

Read the following text on adolescence and decide which statement (A, B or C) best expresses the main idea.

DEFINING ADOLESCENCE

The period of development that we call adolescence is an exciting one. It is filled with discovery, turmoil, growth toward independence, and the beginning of lifelong commitments. It is clearly a period of transition - from the dependence of childhood to the independence of adulthood. It is very difficult, however, to specify exactly when adolescence begins or when it ends.

We may choose to define adolescence in biological terms. In that case, adolescence begins with the onset of puberty (with sexual maturity and a readiness to reproduce) and ends with the end of physical growth. Or we may adopt a more psychological perspective. This approach emphasizes the development of the cognitions, feelings, and behaviors that characterize adolescence.

Additionally, it is also possible to think about adolescence from a social perspective by examining the role of adolescents in society. Such views generally define adolescence in terms of being in-between - not yet an adult, but no longer a child. In this context, the period usually lasts from the early teen years through one's highest level of education, when the individual is thought to enter the adult world.

Actually, whether we accept a biological, psychological, or social approach to defining adolescence, we usually are talking about people between the ages of approximately 12 and 20. Some psychologists consider this a period of growth and positive change; others view adolescence as a period of great turmoil, stress, rebellion, and negativism.

Adolescence may very well be filled with conflict, storm, and stress, but it is also a period of adjustment that most of us manage to survive quite well. In fact, the picture of the troubled, rebellious, difficult, and uncooperative adolescent is probably more of a social stereotype than a reality.

- A. There are three different ways in which it is possible to define adolescence.
- B. The stereotype of the adolescent is that of a rebellious, negative, troubled person.
- C. Adolescence is an exciting period of life.

TASK 2

Read the second paragraph of the text and answer the following questions.

1. The second paragraph describes three ways of looking at adolescence. What are they?
2. Which sentence or sentences discuss (put the number(s) only)
 - a. the first way
 - b. the second way
 - c. the third way
3. Which words signal the transition from
 - a. the first to the second way
 - b. the second to the third way
4. Words like *this*, *that*, *such* refer back to previous ideas in the paragraph. To what previous ideas do the following refer?
Example: It is filled with ... — The period of development that we call adolescence...
 - a. In *that* case, ...
 - b. *This* approach ...
 - c. *Such* views ...
5. Read the second paragraph again and write its topic sentence, or if it does not have it, write a suitable ONE on your own.

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Reading 32 — Keys

TASK 1

A

TASK 2

1. Biological, psychological, social

2.

a. sentences 1,2

b. sentences 3,4

c. sentences 5,6,7

3.

a. or

b. additionally

4.

a. when adolescence is viewed in biological terms

b. when adolescence is viewed from a psychological perspective

c. looking at adolescence as a social stage

5.

There is no sentence in the paragraph. Two possible topic sentences might be:

“There are three ways to define adolescence”.

“Adolescence may be viewed from three different perspectives”.