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| http://www.pirireis.edu.tr/wp-content/uploads/pirireisuniversitesibasinodasilogo-150x150.jpg | **PÎRÎ REİS UNIVERSITY** |  **A****TOTAL GRADE:****\_\_\_\_\_ / 80** |
| **PROFICIENCY TEST** |
| **Name & Surname:** |
| **Class: Student Number:** |

**PART II. READING**

**Questions 31 -40 (10x2pt. = 20pts.)**

* **In this section you must read the text below and answer the questions 31 to 40 about it.**

**HOMESCHOOLING – A BETTER WAY TO LEARN?**

**1** The public education system is a relatively new phenomenon. In fact, compulsory public education has only been in place for the past two centuries. Before that, while rich families were able to employ private teachers for their children, most education of children took place within the family and the community. In many countries where parents are looking for alternatives to the public education system, homeschooling (teaching children at home rather than sending them to school) is a growing trend.

**2** Homeschooling is still considered to be a radical choice in most countries. The education laws that apply to it can be complex and vary widely from country to country. In some countries, such as France, England, Taiwan, and the United States, homeschooling is allowed by law. In other countries like Spain, laws are not so clear; therefore homeschooling goes on but is not officially allowed by existing laws. In a third group of countries including Turkey, Germany and Brazil, homeschooling is forbidden.

**3** At one time, home education was not favorable; in other words, people had a negative impression of homeschooling; it was traditionally used for students who could not attend school because of behavioral or learning difficulties. Today, however, more parents are taking on the responsibility of educating their children at home due to dissatisfaction with the educational system. Many parents are unhappy about class size, as well as problems inside the classroom. Not having enough teachers and a lack of financial support means that in many schools one teacher might be responsible for 30 or 40 students. As a result, children cannot get the attention that they really need. Increasing classroom violence has also motivated some parents to remove their children from school.

**4** Supporters of homeschooling believe that children learn better when they are in a safe, loving environment. In other words, **they** believe the home is the safest, most secure environment for a child’s schooling. It is also reported that homeschooled children do just as well as those who have been educated at school and many walk around the campuses of top universities together with the students who are educated in schools. Many psychologists see the home as the most natural learning environment. Parents who homeschool argue that they can monitortheir children's education and give them the attention that is lacking in a traditional school setting. Students can also pick and choose what to study and when to study, and this gives them the chance of learning at their own pace.

**5** In contrast, critics of homeschooling say that children who are not in the classroom miss out on learning important social skills because they have little **interaction** with their classmates. Many critics of homeschooling have raised concerns about the ability of parents to teach their kids effectively. Many parents who homeschool have no teacher training and are not qualified educators of all the subjects that are taught in schools.

**6** An increasing number of parents who are not satisfied with schools are taking their children out of class. As a result, many school officials are looking for ways to restore parents' confidence in the public education system. Some schools in the United States have opened their doors to homeschoolers on a part-time basis and they let these children attend classes once or twice a week, or to take part in extracurricular activities such as playing football or taking ballet lessons. While many parents haven’t completely **regained** confidence in the system, many of them have reached an agreement that allows their children the extra benefits of peer interaction and access to a wider choice of activities.

**7** Whatever the arguments for or against it, homeschooling has become a big business, and it is growing. There are now websites, support groups, and convention**s** that help parents to knowtheir rights and enable them to learn more about educating their children. Although it was once the last choice for troubled children, homeschooling today is becoming an accepted alternative to the public educational system.

1. **Which is TRUE about the history of the education system?**

 **a)** The public education system was only for poor families before the 1800s.

 **b)** Before compulsory public education, all families hired private teachers for their

 children.

 **c)** Before the 1800s, all families had educated their children within the family.

 **d)** There was no public school system up until about 200 years ago.

1. **Which is FALSE about the education laws around the world?**

 **a)** Children in Taiwan can be taught at home.

 **b)** Laws in Spain allow children to be taught at home.

 **c)** In Germany, homeschooling isn’t allowed.

 **d)** In Turkey, children have to be educated at school.

1. **As it is stated in paragraph 3, there was a negative impression related to home education once because \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

**a)** it seemed to people as a traditional way of education

 **b)** homes weren’t equipped with necessary educational materials

 **c)** it was against the law regulating education

 **d)** it was used for students having troubles in learning

1. **In paragraph 4, what does the word *they* mean in the sentence “…they believe the home is the safest …”?**

 **a)** students **b)** parents  **c)** supporters **d)** teachers

1. **Which of the following is NOT mentioned as a benefit of homeschooling?**

**a)** Homeschooling makes children more responsible as they are learning at home

 naturally.

 **b)** It gives parents a chance to protect their children from in-class violence.

 **c)** Students are given more care than they get in a class environment.

**d)** Students can organize a learning schedule for themselves depending on their learning

 pace.

1. **The word ‘*interaction’* in paragraph 5 could be best replaced by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

**a)** discussion **b)** communication **c)** friendship  **d)** scholarship

1. **Opponents of homeschooling claim that children who are not in the classroom \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

a) might be taught by parents with adequate qualifications

b) don’t have enough opportunity to socialize

c) might have some serious psychological problems

d**)** are taught by private teachers without educational qualifications

1. **The word ‘*regain’* in paragraph 6 is closest in meaning to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

 **a)** take back **b)** reinforce **c)** enhance **d)** add to

1. **With which of the following statement would the author of the passage be most likely to agree?**

**a)** Schools need to create safer environments to convince parents to send their children to

 school.

**b)** The number of students who are home-schooled will probably be increasing in the near

 future.

**c)** Parents letting children attend some activities at school understand the value of public

 education.

**d)** Homeschooling should be the last option to choose if parents want to raise a child with

 social skills.

1. **The author wrote the text to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

a) show that homeschooling has become a threat to public education

 b) indicate that homeschooling is better than public school education

c) provide some background information and people’s opinions on homeschooling

 d) advise school officials to take some precautions against homeschooling