

**LANGUE VIVANTE I****ANGLAIS****Do You Feel You Are Too Busy?**

“I was involved in my work seven days a week because I wanted my kids to have the things I never had,” says a father. Despite their good motives, parents need to examine their priorities. Some studies suggest that both adults and children who attach a lot of importance to money and material possessions tend to be less happy, less satisfied with life, and less healthy physically than those who are not materialistic. In an effort to position their children for future success, some parents overschedule both their children and **themselves** with various activities.

Advertisers try to convince us that we are depriving ourselves if we don't buy their latest products. The explosion of available goods has only made time feel more crunched, as consumers “struggle to choose what to buy or watch or eat” in the limited time they have available. In the year 1930, a leading economist predicted that technological advancements would give workers more leisure time. How wrong he was! “Instead of quitting [work] early,” observed Elisabeth Kolbert, staff writer for the New Yorker magazine, people “find new things to need”; and these things cost money and time.

Some employees work grueling hours to avoid displeasing their employers. Co-workers can also exert pressure by making others feel guilty if their do not stay late. And then there is economic uncertainty, which can make people more willing to work longer hours or to be constantly on call. Similarly, parents can feel pressured to conform to the hectic pace of other families. If they do not conform, they may feel guilty about “depriving” their children.

Tim says: “I loved my work, and I worked at full throttle all the time. I felt that I had to prove myself.” Like Tim, many feel a strong connection between their self-image and their pace of life. “Busyness has acquired social status,” says Elisabeth Kolbert, quoted earlier. She adds: “The busier you are, the more important you seem.”

Diligence and hard work are encouraged. But so is balance. “Better is a handful of rest than two handfuls of hard work and chasing after the wind.” Leading a balanced life is good for our mental and physical health. Is it really possible, though, to cut back or slow down?

One must control “the desire of the eyes.” Advertising can fuel such desires, pushing a person to work long hours or to indulge in excessive or costly recreation. True, you may not be able to avoid all advertisements. But you can limit your exposure to them. You can also carefully consider what you actually need. Keep in mind, too, the power that your associates can have on you. If **they** avidly pursue material things or if they measure success in material terms, you may be wise to seek out friends who have better priorities.

Husbands and wives need to spend time together, and children need time with their parents. So avoid trying to match the pace of other families who are constantly on the go. “Declare some downtime,” Gary suggests, “and drop things that have a lower priority.” When your family is together, do not let television, cell phones or other devices isolate you from one another. Share at least one meal together each day, and use mealtimes to talk as a family. When parents heed that simple advice, their children enjoy greater wellbeing and do better at school.

I/ READING COMPREHENSION: 08 marks

A. In which paragraphs of the text are the following ideas developed?

(02 marks)

Ideas	Parag. Nbr
<i>Example: Love for new goods makes our workdays longer.</i>	n° 2
1. Taking people's judgment into consideration makes us busier.	n°
2. Preserve harmony and intimacy at home, at all costs.	n°
3. Don't let anybody have too much influence on you.	n°
4. Professional success doesn't guarantee happiness.	n°

B. Write letters (a-e) to indicate which interpretation corresponds to what text passage.

(02 marks)

Text Quotations

- 5. How wrong he was! (L. 11)
- 6. Parents can feel ... other families. (L. 17-18)
- 7. I had to prove myself. (L. 19-20)
- 8. One must control the desire of the eyes. (L. 26)

Possible Interpretations

- a) Building respectability.
- b) Self-disciplining.
- c) Just imitating.
- d) Publicity proven wrong.
- e) Poor at making predictions.

Your answers: 5. ____; 6. ____; 7. ____; 8. ____;

C. Complete this table to match the people with the opinion they expressed in the text.

(02 marks)

People	Opinions Expressed
9.	Technological advancement brings more entertainment.
10. Elisabeth Kolbert	
11.	Self-image and pace of life are strongly related.
12. Gary	

D. Find in the text English equivalents of the following French statements.

(02 mark)

French Expressions	English Equivalents
"Plus vous êtes occupés, plus vous paraissez tel un homme de valeur."	13.
"Pareil, cependant, pour l'équilibre. "	14.

II- LINGUISTIC and COMMUNICATIVE COMPETENCE: 06 marks

E. Underline the INAPPROPRIATE WORD in each of the sentences listed below.

(02 marks)

- 15. Some people are such busy that they never share a single meal with their families.
- 16. Despite of the importance of work, no job should be given priority to the detriment of family.
- 17. I'm never agree with those who think that professional success means happiness.
- 18. If the dad in the text hadn't had kids, he wouldn't be involved in his work 7 days a week. (L.1)

LANGUE VIVANTE I

F. Aliou has lived abroad for a long time now. Today, he is talking to his grandfather on the phone. Complete this extract of their conversation meaningfully. (02.5 marks)

Aliou: Is that you, Grandpa? Great! How is the family?

Granddad: Everybody is fine! I miss you so much... It's high time you came home now. You've been away (18) _____ (for/since/during) your early twenties, right?

Aliou: That's right, Grandpa. It's just because I want you to have a better life. Please don't worry, I'll be back as soon as (19) _____.

Granddad: I can't understand you, young people of today. What's the use of (20) _____ (to work) if you do that to the detriment of your wife, children and other loved ones?

Aliou: Please, don't say that, Granddad. Try to understand me, (21) _____?

Granddad: Hey, you! Work cannot be more important (22) _____ your wife and kids!

G. Now Aliou is telling his friend Joseph about the conversation he had with his grandfather. Consult Activity F and then complete his REPORTED speech, meaningfully and correctly. (01.5 marks)

"You know what, Joe? I called my granddaddy last week and he complained a lot! He told me that I 23. _____ for a long time. So I asked him 24. _____ worry. I tried to explain that the reason why I haven't returned to Senegal is I just want them to have a better life. But he wasn't convinced because he said that the work I'm doing here 25. _____ important.

III. WRITING: 06 marks

Choose ONE topic and write between 150 and 200 words.

Topic 1: It has become very difficult for some people to spend time with any member of their families. What do you think are the main causes? What are the possible consequences? Propose solutions that can help.

Topic 2: Aliou, who has been abroad for a long time now, has written a letter to his friend Zale, telling him about his difficult living conditions. He likes his job over there but he really misses his family. Imagine and write Zale's reply letter in which you will give Aliou advice and strategies to solve his problem.