

Name _____

Working mothers - common issues

Women's access to jobs may once have been a political issue, but in today's tough economic climate most families can no longer afford to live on one wage. However, if a mother works then childcare has to be arranged. In some cases, childcare costs can eat up much of the mother's wage.

British women recently surveyed in a health magazine reported that juggling the dual roles of mother and worker is extremely hard. Findings include that close to half of all working mothers would prefer to be full-time mothers, while around one fifth would like to work from home.

Married women with children are worse off than ever before, which is why they are initiating divorce in higher numbers and having fewer children. Working mothers still perform most of the household tasks and work more hours (paid and unpaid) than working fathers.

Many working mothers have to take annual leave or unpaid leave in order to stay home and care for their sick children. By and large, even when both parents are working, the responsibility of care for sick children falls on the mother. Some of the reasons for this include that the father earns a higher wage, his job responsibilities are considered more important, and employers are more likely to accept a mother staying home to care for sick children than a father.

I. READING COMPREHENSION. (2 points)

Add TRUE or FALSE and copy the evidence from the text to support your answer.

- a) Working is now a necessity for most mothers.
- b) According to a survey carried out in Britain most working mothers would rather leave their jobs to devote their time to the rearing of their children.
- c) Unpaid leave is hardly ever applied for by women.
- d) Both fathers and mothers usually look after their children when they are ill.

II. LEXICON. (1 point)

Find words or phrases in the text that mean the same as these given.

- a) point, matter
- b) salary
- c) very
- d) near

III. PHONETICS. (1 point)

- (a) Write one word from the text that has the same sound as "may" /ei/.
- (b) Write one word from the text that has the same sound as "been" /i:/.
- (c) Write one word from the text that has the same sound as "choice" /tʃ/.
- (d) Is the -th- pronounced /θ/ or /ð/ in "both"?

IV. USE OF ENGLISH. (3 points)

Rewrite the following sentences starting with the words given.

- a) Circumstances have forced her to take annual leave to stay home and care for her sick parents.

She

.....
.....

- b) 'Be careful what you say at work!'

He

.....
.....

- c) If he doesn't work harder, he will lose his job.

Unless

.....
.....

- d) She phoned me because she wanted money.

(make a question)

.....
...

- e) Eating too much fat is forbidden.

You

.....
.....

f) I'm sorry I have not got a washing machine.

I wish

.....
.....

V. Write a composition with the following title: (100-125 words) (3 points)

Advantages and disadvantages of being a working mother.