

MARRIED OR SINGLE?

The health benefits of being married are so large that single men are at greater risk of dying than smokers, says a study. This study looked at comparative risks over a seven year period but experts warned that the lifetime risks of smoking were much higher. Scientists have frequently found that married men and women tend to be in better health than their single counterparts. This is partly because of the "social support" of having a wife or husband and perhaps because both single men and women have a worse lifestyle and no-one to take care of them.

Moreover, the latest study by researchers at the University of Limerick showed that, even when the effects of smoking, drinking and other poor lifestyles were taken into account, married men had a much lower risk of death. Professor Martin Smith, who led the research, suggested that male smokers should get married as soon as possible to avoid the risk. He said: "It is clear that a ring of gold, rather than money, is what keeps people alive. "However, while over a seven year period, the risks of smoking compared to single life are similar, over a lifetime period the risks of smoking are much higher. Scientists think a long-term smoker has a one in two chance of dying prematurely.

QUESTIONS

I. READING COMPREHENSION. (2 POINTS) (0.5 points for each correct answer)

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

NO marks are given for only true or false.

1. Married people are usually healthier than single people.
2. Money can make you live longer.
3. Recent studies confirm that the effects of smoking and drinking are worse in married men than in single men.
4. Lifetime smokers have the same possibilities of dying as single people.

CHOOSE TWO OF THE FOLLOWING THREE OPTIONS:

II. EXPRESSING THE MAIN IDEAS. (1 POINT) (0.5 points for each correct answer)

Answer the following questions according to the information given in the text. Where possible, use your own words.

1. Why could marriage be good for your health?
2. What is the risk of lifetime smoking?

III. LEXICON. (1 POINT) (0.25 points for each correct answer)

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

- (a) Someone who knows a lot of a particular subject
- (b) In some degree
- (c) considered
- (d) probability

V. PHONETICS. (1 POINT) (0.25 points for each correct answer)

- (a) Write one word from the text that have the same sound as "study" /ʌ/.
- (b) Write one word from the text that have the same sound as "be" /i:/.
- (c) Write one word from the text that has the same sound as "smokers" /ou/.
- (d) Write one word from the text that has the same sound as "researcher" /tʃ/.

VI. USE OF ENGLISH. (3 POINTS) (0.5 for each correct answer)

Rewrite the following sentences starting with the words given.

1. My aunt said: "Single men should drive slowly if they want to live longer".
My aunt.....
2. I've been married for twenty years.
(make a question).....
3. I study English in that school.
That
4. They didn't follow the maps, so they got lost.
If
5. We haven't seen this show since Easter.
The
6. He left early in order to avoid the rush hour.
He left

VII. COMPOSITION. (3 POINTS)

Write a composition of about 100-125 words on **ONE** of the following topics.
Specify your option.

Smoking as a social problem nowadays.

- Married or single? Advantages or disadvantages.