

7

Ready to be a grown-up? **DSE**

Level:  Level 7



Let's think!

1. What makes somebody an adult?
2. What is the best thing about being a grown-up?

PLAYLIST



READ ALONG



THEME



6 coming-of-age rituals from around the world

1. A National Holiday

The coming-of-age day is a national holiday in Japan. The day celebrates young people who have reached the age of 20 in the past year. They wear traditional clothing to attend the official ceremony at the local city office, then visit a shrine and spend the night partying.

5

2. The Capping and Hair-pinning Ceremony

The ceremony is typically held around the age of 15 in Korea. Putting on traditional hats or other sorts of attire signifies that the person will gradually do important things as an adult.

3. The First Dress

Once an Indian girl hits her puberty, she is draped in her first ethnic dress while relatives and friends give her presents and blessings. Wearing the dress symbolises the girl's passage into womanhood.

10

4. Sweet Sixteen

With the passing of a driving test, a 'sweet 16' is legally permitted to take the wheel without adult supervision in the United States. Lavish birthday parties are held to celebrate this newfound independence from parents.

15

5. Land Diving

On an island in Vanuatu, boys have vines tied to their ankles and jump from a wooden tower. The older the boy, the higher the tower he may climb on. It can be around 100 feet tall. These bungee jumpers prove their manhood through this death-defying act.

20

6. The Bullet Ant Test

The boys who live in the Amazon rainforest wear gloves with bullet ants inside. They have to bear the most painful stings for ten minutes. To prove their unflinching courage, they need to pass this test of manhood for 20 times in total.

25

~260 words

Read Text 1 and answer questions 1–8. For multiple-choice questions, choose the best answer and blacken ONE circle only. (14 marks)

1. How many rituals mentioned in the text involve people dressing up in traditional costumes?

2. Find a word from lines 7–13 which has a similar meaning to ‘formal clothing and accessories’.

3. When does an Indian girl wear her first special dress?



4. What does ‘It’ (line 20) refer to? _____

5. From lines 22–25, we can infer that the people of the Amazon think that _____.

A. only boys who pass the bullet ant tests can protect girls

B. men should not show fear in the face of danger

C. people who cannot bear pain are not responsible

D. boys who let bullet ants get out of the gloves will become good men

5 What is the purpose of their coming-of-age ritual?

A B C D

6. Match the rituals with the pictures below. Write the correct paragraph number in each circle.

(i)



(ii)



(iii)



7. Match the statements with the corresponding list items on the left. Write the correct letter (A–D) on the line next to each list item number.

List item	Statement
(i) List item 3 _____	A. The task gets harder as participants grow.
(ii) List item 4 _____	B. The task is about endurance.
(iii) List item 5 _____	C. The ritual is carried out after the participants are allowed to operate a car on their own.
(iv) List item 6 _____	D. The ritual is for females only.

8. Find words from lines 14–25 to match the following definitions.

(i) _____ (adj.) very dangerous

(ii) _____ (adj.) large, expensive or impressive



Text 2

A Study on the Coming-of-age Rituals

Introduction

1 People nowadays still uphold unique coming-of-age rituals in their nations. Some are empowering and others are ceremonial. What is the rationale behind them? 5

Section 1

2 Coming-of-age rituals help adolescents figure out who they are and what they believe in. That is when they start to explore their roles in the family and the community. 10

Section 2

3 Coming-of-age rituals play a pivotal role in the family, as they mark the younger member's transition from adolescence to adulthood. The rituals motivate the younger generations to learn and practise family values and responsibilities. 15

Section 3

4 After the coming-of-age ceremonies, the young folk are officially recognised as a grown person—an independent adult who no longer needs to be under the

5 wings of their parents. This young adult should be ready to take a more crucial role in the community. 25

Section 4

5 However, in modern days, ceremonies and rituals have become less and less important. When everything seems to be explicable by science, the magic of rituals is often frowned upon. Sceptics claim that these rituals are nothing more than superstition. In fact, anthropologists have found that they help us live out our values and get us ready for challenges in life. 30 35

6 Every society needs fully fledged members. The coming-of-age rituals provide adolescents a clearer picture of their duties and obligations. If these rituals fade away, how can they be taught qualities that make them more mature adults? 40

Conclusion

7 There is always a place for traditions. The coming-of-age rituals are no exception. The rituals enable the pillars of society to better know their roles. 45

~250 words

Looking into Grammar

We use **comparative adjectives** to make a comparison between two people or things.

✓ This young adult should be ready to take a **more crucial** role in the community.

✓ ... ceremonies and rituals have become **less and less important**.

? Underline TWO comparative adjectives in paragraph 6 of Text 2.

Read Text 2 and answer questions 9–17. For multiple-choice questions, choose the best answer and blacken ONE circle only. (19 marks)

9. What does 'them' (line 6) refer to? _____

10. Complete the summary by filling in each blank with ONE word taken from paragraphs 2–3.

Coming-of-age rituals mark the transition from youth to (i) _____.
They begin to figure out their (ii) _____ in society and learn to take on
(iii) _____.

11. Look for a phrase in paragraphs 2–4 that describes the care parents give to their children.

12. According to paragraph 5, why do some people doubt the value of coming-of-age rituals?
Because they think the rituals are based on _____.

13. What does 'they' (line 42) refer to? _____

14. Match the subheadings with the correct sections of the report.
Write the section numbers in the boxes.

14 Spot the key words in the text which are similar in meaning to the wording used in the subheadings here.

(i) Passing down values

(ii) Misunderstandings

(iii) Self-discovery

(iv) Being grown-ups

15. Determine whether the following statements are True (T), False (F) or Not Given (NG).

	T	F	NG
(i) Coming-of-age rituals help young people feel more confident to take control of their lives.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
(ii) Many parents are being too protective nowadays.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
(iii) The writer believes coming-of-age rituals are pointless traditions.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

16. Look for words or phrases in the text to match the following definitions.

(i) _____ (para. 3) (*adj.*) important

(ii) _____ (para. 5) (*phr. v.*) disapproved of something

(iii) _____ (para. 6) (*phr. v.*) to disappear slowly

(iv) _____ (para. 7) (*n.*) very important members in a group

17. What is the writer's view on the coming-of-age rituals?

A. doubtful

C. supportive

A

B

C

D

B. neutral

D. determined

Vocabulary

GLOSSARY



A. Complete the blog entry below with the given words. Make sure your answers are grammatically correct.

Adjective: death-defying explicable lavish pivotal unflinching

Noun: attire obligation puberty superstition

Verb: uphold

Prom:

a popular tradition among American teenagers

The prom has long been a popular way for American teenagers to celebrate their high school graduation. During their high school years, these teenagers have experienced (1) _____ and transitioned into adulthood. Graduation is a significant milestone in their lives. Therefore, it is (2) _____ why they want to throw a / an (3) _____ party to celebrate their achievements together.

Young people are expected to dress in their finest (4) _____ for prom. To (5) _____ this tradition, they are willing to spend more than US\$600 on clothing. Some girls may wear a garter on their legs. At the prom, they will give the garter to their dance partner. According to (6) _____, the garter will bring them good luck. For boys, the biggest challenge is to ask a girl to prom. This often requires (7) _____ courage, because the girls may reject them.

While the prom can be a lot of fun, some teens may enjoy it too much and take part in (8) _____ behaviour. A few overexcited partygoers would take a parent's car for a joyride, and then they would end up in an accident. Therefore, there is a / an (9) _____ for partygoers to ensure the safety of themselves and others around them.

In recent years, the high school prom tradition has spread to the UK and become a / an (10) _____ moment in the lives of British teenagers too. It makes me ponder: are American traditions gradually replacing the simpler British ways of celebrating important milestones?



B. Look at the pictures. Write the correct phrases in the spaces provided.

Becoming an adult

build a family

expand your social network

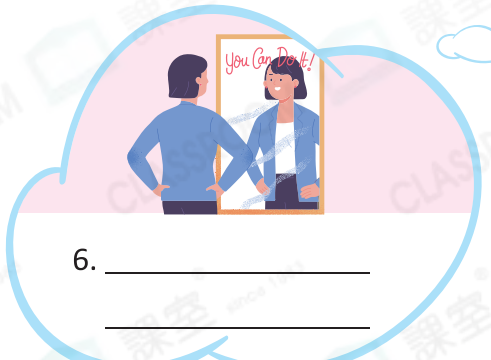
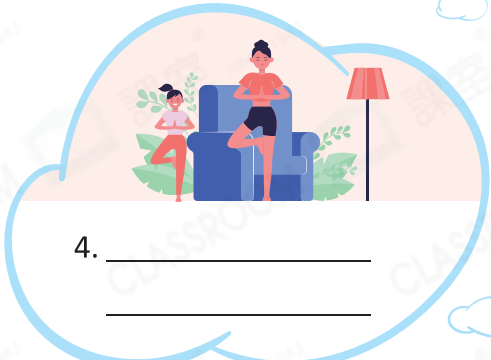
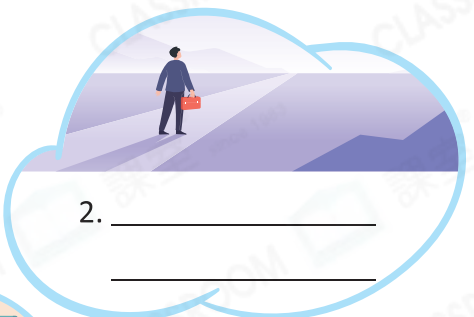
figure out a career path

manage a home

manage your emotions

set good examples for children

stay focused on goals



Writing

My ideal 18th birthday celebration

Write a presentation on how you would like to celebrate your 18th birthday in about 150 words.