

II. Written Essay

According to a recent report by the child advocacy group Common Sense Media, kids are starting to develop concerns about body image at increasingly younger ages: kids as young as 5 are already expressing a desire for a thinner body, and by age 7, one in four kids has engaged in some kind of dieting behaviour. Common Sense Media has asked for ideas about how to help children develop a positive body image. Write a letter to the president of Common Sense Media with your ideas. Please write between 175 and 200 words and pay particular attention to the following criteria:

- appropriate tone and style
- clearly organised and expressed ideas
- correct use of vocabulary
- correct use of grammar
- correct spelling and punctuation

Plan and organise your essay (use the rough paper provided). Write your definitive version in the space below, then read it carefully and make corrections if necessary.

What measures could be taken so that children develop a positive body image?



Facultat
de Traducció
i Interpretació

ENGLISH ENTRANCE EXAM: JUNE 16, 2018

Time allowed for this exam: 3 Hours

Before starting, please read the following carefully:

- ☞ *All mobile phones must be turned off*
- ☞ *No internet devices are permitted.*
- ☞ *There are three parts to this exam:*
 - I. Resum en català / Resumen en Castellano (50%)*
 - II. Language Work (25%)*
 - III. Written Essay (25%)*
- ☞ *Write all your answers in this exam booklet. Use the spaces provided.*
- ☞ *All rough paper will be collected after the exam.*

POLITE WARNING!
ANY TALKING, COPYING OR USE OF NON-AUTHORISED DEVICES DURING THE EXAM
WILL MEAN AUTOMATIC AND IMMEDIATE DISQUALIFICATION

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| I. Resum en català / Resumen en castellano (50%) | _____ |
| II. Language Work (25%) | _____ |
| III. Written Essay (25%) | _____ |

Dirty secret: why is there still a housework gender gap?

1 Why, exactly, is housework so annoying? Certain specific chores are obviously pretty unpleasant: few people relish cleaning the toilet or extracting mouldy vegetables from the bottom drawer of the fridge. But why housework in general? Surely part of the answer is because it's unending, so you never achieve that satisfying sense of getting it out of the way, nor even making some progress. The only reason you're stacking the dishwasher is so the dishes can be dirtied again tomorrow. Back in 1949 Simone de Beauvoir, in *The Second Sex*, wrote: "Few tasks are more like the torture of Sisyphus than housework, with its endless repetition. The clean becomes soiled, the soiled is made clean, over and over, day after day." Needless to say, De Beauvoir wasn't objecting solely to the work, but to the division of labour: housework is also annoying because, if you're a woman living with a man, it's highly likely you end up doing most of it, no matter who earns more, or who spends longer at the office. To be fair to us, men do a lot more housework than in 1949. But women still do a lot more than that, so now both sexes have grounds to resent how much of their lives they spend scooping bits of spaghetti from the kitchen sink.



15 What's puzzling is that housework doesn't seem to be following the same trends as other fronts in the struggle for equality. Over the last half-century, more and more women have gone to work and the gender pay gap has been steadily narrowing. But the "housework gap" stopped narrowing in the 1980s. Men, it seems, conceded that they should be doing more than before – but then, having half-heartedly vacuumed the living room and passed a dampened cloth over the dining table, concluded that it was time for a nice sit-down. In Britain in 2016, women did almost 60% more of the unpaid work, on average, than men. Dig deeper into the numbers, and things look worse: according to some studies, in heterosexual households where the woman is the main breadwinner, the more she earns, the less her partner will contribute to the housework. Meanwhile, everywhere, men get special credit for the chores they do: if a man does a bit more than the average man in his community, he's viewed as exceptionally helpful.

It would be easy, and perhaps not totally unfair, to explain this as another straightforward case of men acting like jerks. But the daily disputes over housework suggests that something more complicated is going on. If you do the lion's share of the chores in your home, the chances are you have mixed feelings about your spouse taking on a bigger burden. Even if he is willing to do them, you suspect he'd do them wrong or not well enough.

30 In her memoir-cum-self-help book, *Drop The Ball*, the American writer Tiffany Dufu calls this "home control disease", and diagnoses herself as a recovering sufferer. This isn't the simple sexism of the man who'd rather drink beer and watch TV, but the insidious, internalised sexism of the woman who's been raised to see an impeccable home as a sign of her worth. "We obsess about things that honestly aren't important because we've been socialised to attach value to them. A well-managed home is still a gendered expectation, which is why it's so very difficult for men to get home control disease – they just don't attach value to it." A man who places a high priority on domestic cleanliness is just a clean man; a woman who doesn't is a bad woman. Researchers argue that this probably explains the tendency for men to do less housework, and women a greater proportion, as the woman takes on more of the breadwinning: both sexes, subconsciously disturbed by their violation of traditional gender norms, start acting hyper-conventionally to compensate.

40 All the anecdotal evidence suggests that men genuinely don't care as much as women about a clean and tidy home. There exists no standard definition of what has to be done in a household. The question of what constitutes a clean bathtub has as many answers as there are people. But the situation leaves even well-intentioned men in a fix. If you're a man who doesn't mind mess, your commitment to equality doesn't require you to meet standards of domestic perfection you don't care about, and which are only the result of stupid sexist expectations anyway. Wouldn't it make more sense and be more feminist for your partner to chill out and let things slide?

45 The hope of the future may be for us all to do less. Housework is perhaps the only political problem in which doing less and not caring are the solution, where apathy is the most progressive and sensible attitude: leave the stairs untidy, don't fix the garden gate, never make the bed. It would be a very good thing if men were to start shouldering their share of the housework burden. But it would be an equally good thing if men and women alike could put down some of that burden and forget about it. Women wish they didn't have to do so much housework; men don't feel the need to do it. If the patriarchy is so invested in the cleanliness of our carpets, let it come round at the weekend and vacuum them itself!

Adapted from: *The Guardian* February 17th, 2018 – Lifestyle section. Oliver Burkeman

I. Language Work

Explain briefly in English the meaning of the following words / phrases according to the context in which they appear in this article – use the space provided (4 points)

1. relish (l. 2):
2. half-heartedly (l. 19)
3. the lion's share (l. 28):
4. in a fix (l. 43):

Find a synonym (word or phrase) in the text for the following, which has the same grammatical function (noun, adjective, adverb, verb etc.) (4 points):

1. more time:
2. admitted:
3. disposed:
4. assuming:

What do the following words / phrases refer to? (2 points)

1. this (l. 26)
2. This (l. 31)

Etiqueta: _____

Resumiu en **català** el contingut de l'article (aprox. 250 paraules).

La versió definitiva en net del resum en català l'heu d'escriure en aquest full.

Etiqueta: _____

Resumid en **castellano** el contenido del artículo (aprox. 250 palabras).

Escribid la versión definitiva en limpio del resumen en castellano en esta hoja.