

مباراة الدّخول الى كليّة التربية لطلاب السنة الأولى لشهادة الإجازة التعليمية
للعام الجامعي ٢٠١٣ - ٢٠١٤

مسابقة في الثقافة العامّة باللغة الإنكليزية

مدّة المسابقة : ساعتان

Adolescence and Adulthood

Adolescence is a developmental phenomenon unique to humans. At birth, the human infant is much less mature than the young of other primates. In the human being, development of the central nervous system and hormone changes take place over a period of years and are not completed until puberty. In animals, on the other hand, this development occurs in a matter of weeks or months, with the animal able to reproduce relatively early. Similarly, the human being has only a few primitive adaptive reflex patterns at birth, whereas other animals are endowed with many more inherited reflex patterns of adaptive behavior. Consequently, human offspring have a longer period of dependency upon the parents. Most importantly, in humans significant patterns of behavior and adaptation are determined by experience and learning, much more than with other animals.

Certain qualities and distinguishing features help define and characterize adolescence in the American middle class. Adolescence is a specific stage of development, and adolescents form a special, self-conscious status group. This is by no means true in all cultures. Perhaps at no other time in history and in no other culture could one find so much attention being focused upon the adolescents. Products, advertizing, entertainment, books, and newspaper columns are often designed for and aimed at this particular age group, and offer a special market and have great purchasing power. At one time a fifteen-year-old would have been referred to as a child or a youngster, but now he is known as a teenager – a term that denotes a large, influential, and important status group.

In most cultures there are two sets of criteria for defining adulthood; there are *function definitions*, which relate to the responsibilities the person assumes, and *status definitions*, which usually relate to a person's age. A functional adult is one who can earn his own living, and one who can vote at age eighteen. Formal adulthood in all societies depends primarily on the achievement of certain traditionally defined goals.

In American culture, there are several different function and status definitions of adulthood. In the category of status criteria, there is a whole range of different ages at which one becomes officially an adult in one manner but not necessarily mothers. The first is the age of twelve, after which one is considered an 'adult' by theaters, airlines, and so on. The first change of status has no privileges at all,

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only the penalty of having to pay more. The next general age post, or stage, is sixteen. At this age, in most states, a person can obtain a driver's license, and he or she is released from many of the restrictions of child labor laws. Both of these changes of status do permit increased adult privileges. The young person does not have to work but may do so under certain conditions. His legal right to drive is generally as unrestricted as 'that of his elders, but equivalent legal adult responsibility for his driving is seldom expected or enforced by the court.

In the category of function criteria, the definitions of adulthood in the United States are infinitely complex and confused. Functional adulthood in the assumption of one or more of the responsibilities for self-mate, offspring, and society. The automatic status of adult at age twenty-one in no way guarantees that all individuals will function as adults, emotionally or otherwise. Functioning as an adult is quite unrelated to age. Many eighteen-year-olds are self-sufficient, yet many twenty-three year-olds are still in school and partly or totally independent. These same twenty-three-year-old graduate students may have wives or children and may admirably fulfill many family responsibilities even while unable to support themselves. In the more highly specialized professions, a man or woman may not be fully self-sufficient, that is, as an economically functioning adult until his or her middle or late thirties, in spite of having otherwise functioned as an adult quite well for as long as fifteen years.

Vocabulary (10 pts):

Find in the text the words that mean the following:

Gifted; child; buying; presented; represents; rights; freed; limits; authorize; corresponding

Comprehension questions (30 pts):

1. Give three pieces of evidence from the text to show that adolescence is a developmental phenomenon unique to humans.
2. Paraphrase the following statement from the text:
'In most cultures there are two sets of criteria for defining adulthood; there are function definitions, which relate to the responsibilities the person assumes, and status definitions, which usually relate to a person's age'.
3. What are the three main ages mentioned in the text, and what rights do young people obtain at these ages?

Writing (60 pts)

What makes transition from adolescence to adulthood difficult in your culture? Write a well-organized essay of four paragraphs (including the introduction and the conclusion) to answer the question.

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