

Year 11 to Year 12 Transition Work – French Department

Independent Learning Task 1

a) Read the background info to family life in France

Despite considerable change over the past 50 years, France remains a fairly conservative country. It was, for example, only recently that gay marriage was allowed. This action saw large protest marches throughout France and they still crop up from time to time.

More than 7 out of 10 children are living with both their parents. The traditional nuclear family remains the norm. In 2010 21% of households with children consisted of one parent, the vast majority of whom were mothers. One in 10 children live in a reconstituted family. 45% of families have one child, 38% have 2 children, and 17% have 3 or more children.

The figures for people living alone continue to explode. Fifteen percent of adults live alone. That's more than double the 6% in 1966. Some of this is explained by the aging population. On average a man will spend 10 years of his life alone while for women this is 15 years.

One in five people aged 75 or more will never become a grandparent. Those who do have on average 5.2 grandchildren. There are 15.1 million grandparents in France today; 9.9m are women who become a grandmother at an average age of 54 years, while 6.2m are men becoming grandfathers at an average age of 56. The highest concentrations of grandparents can be found in Nord-Pas-de-Calais and Lorraine regions. Grandparents are least evident in Ile de France.

b) Translate these paragraphs where a young person talks about difficulties with their parents.

Ma vie devient de plus en plus difficile, à cause de mes parents. Ils ne pensent qu'à deux choses : ma réussite scolaire et mes copains. Ils disent que je ne peux pas sortir avec mes copains en semaine, parce que j'ai trop de devoirs et trop de préparatifs à faire pour mes examens. Ils sont nettement trop stricts. En plus, ils trouvent que mes copains sont moins sérieux que moi et ma mère n'apprécie pas du tout les vêtements que je porte quand je sors avec eux en boîte ou au cinéma.

Franchement c'est inadmissible ! Je travaille dur au lycée et j'aime bien mes études, mais je commence à craquer ! Je n'ai le droit à rien ! Il faut respecter la liberté et l'indépendance de ses enfants – surtout de ceux qui ont déjà 17 ans.