

## Boys and girls

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### Part A. Reading Comprehension. Read the following text:

Boys tend to play outside, in large groups that are hierarchically structured. Their groups have a leader who tells others what to do and how to do it, and resists doing what other boys propose. It is by giving orders that high status is negotiated. Another way boys achieve status is to take centre stage by telling stories and jokes, and by challenging the stories and jokes of others. Boys' games have winners and losers and elaborate systems of rules that are frequently the subjects of arguments. Finally, boys are frequently heard to boast about their skills, likes and possessions, and argue about who is best at what.

Girls, on the other hand, play in small groups or pairs. The centre of a girl's social life is her best friend. Within the group, intimacy is key: differentiation is measured by relative closeness. In their most frequent games, such as jump rope and hopscotch, everyone gets a turn. Many of their activities (such as playing with dolls) do not have winners or losers. Although some girls are certainly more skilled than others, girls are expected not to boast about it, or show that they think they are better than the others. Girls don't give orders: they express their preferences as suggestions, and suggestions are likely to be accepted.

Martin, N. (2000). "Women must wait 15 years for equality on housework", Telegraph Group Limited.

### I. Answer the following questions using your own words: (2 points, 1 point each)

1. What do boys frequently argue about?
2. Why does everybody get a turn in girls' games?

### II. Are the following statements true (T) or false (F)? (1 point, 0,5 each)

1. Boys often boast about their abilities.
2. Girls' activities are highly competitive.

### III. Find a word or phrase in the text which, in context, is similar in meaning to ... (1 point, 0,5 point each)

1. humorous or funny anecdotes
2. abilities

### IV. Choose a, b, c or d in each question below. Only one choice is correct. (2 points, 0,5 each)

1. Boys gain leadership by...
  - a) caring and sharing
  - b) voting democratically
  - c) giving orders

2. Boys often argue about...
  - a) their skills, likes and possessions.
  - b) who wins and loses.
  - c) playing with dolls
  
3. Girls usually play ...
  - a) in big groups
  - b) in twos or not very large groups
  - c) chess because they don't enjoy playing hopscotch or jump rope.
  
4. Girls...
  - a) never boast about their skills
  - b) do not very often boast about their skills
  - c) are more skilled than boys

**Part B. Composition (100-150 words approximately). Choose ONE of the following topics (4 points)**

1. Are boys and girls so different? Give reasons.
2. Describe your ideal type of boy or girl.

**Answers**

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**Part A.**

**Question I:**

1. They argue about complex game rules or about who's got the best skills.
2. The text doesn't give a specific reason for this, but girls' most common games need to be played in order, so it's necessary to take turns

**Question II:**

1. True
2. False

**Question III:**

1. jokes
2. skills

**Question IV:**

1. c
2. b
3. b
4. b

**Part B.**

*This is a sample composition on topic 1.*

Are boys and girls so different? Give reasons.

Girls and boys are different to some extent but not as much as some people believe. For example, the fact that girls usually play with dolls, and boys do it with cars and more active toys is only caused by the adults who buy them such toys. So, this does not prove that they are born with radically different likes and dislikes.

However, it is true that boys and girls sometimes behave in different ways. For example, boys tend to need to show their friends that they are very good at some activity, while girls do not seem to consider it essential. On the other hand, girls tend to give more importance to friendship and confidence among them, while it seems harder for boys to confess something personal to each other.

But despite these obvious differences between girls' and boys' behaviour, most feelings and attitudes are common to both genders.