

Directions: There are 2 passages in this section. Each passage is followed by some questions or unfinished statements. For each of them there are four choices marked A), B), C) and D). You should decide on the best choice and mark the corresponding letter on **Answer Sheet 2** with a single line through the centre.

Passage Two

Questions 51 to 55 are based on the following passage.

It's an annual argument. Do we or do we not go on holiday? My partner says no because the boiler could go, or the roof fall off, and we have no savings to save us. I say you only live once and we work hard and what's the point if you can't go on holiday. The joy of a recession means no argument next year—we just won't go.

Since money is known to be one of the things most likely to bring a relationship to its knees, we should be grateful. For many families the recession means more than not booking a holiday. A YouGov poll of 2,000 people found 22% said they were arguing more with their partners because of concerns about money. What's less clear is whether divorce and separation rates rise in a recession—financial pressures mean couples argue more but make splitting up less affordable. Recent research shows arguments about money were especially damaging to couples. Disputes were characterised by intense verbal(言语上的) aggression, tended to be repeated and not resolved, and made men, more than women, extremely angry.

Kim Stephenson, an occupational psychologist, believes money is such a big deal because of what it symbolises, which may be different things to men and women. "People can say the same things about money but have different ideas of what it's for," he explains. "They'll say it's to save, to spend, for security, for freedom, to show someone you love them." He says men are more likely to see money as a way of buying status and of showing their parents that they've achieved something.

"The biggest problem is that couples assume each other knows what's going on with their finances, but they don't. There seems to be more of a taboo(禁忌) about talking about money than about death. But you both need to know what you're doing, who's paying what into the joint account and how much you keep separately. In a healthy relationship, you don't have to agree about money, but you have to talk about it."

51. What does the author say about vacationing?

- A) People enjoy it all the more during a recession.
- B) Few people can afford it without working hard.
- C) It makes all the hard work worthwhile.
- D) It is the chief cause of family disputes.

52. What does the author mean by saying "money is known...to bring a relationship to its knees"(Line 1, Para. 2)?

- A) Money is considered to be the root of all evils.
- B) Some people sacrifice their dignity for money.
- C) Few people can resist the temptation of money.
- D) Disputes over money may ruin a relationship.

53. The YouGov poll of 2,000 people indicates that in a recession _____.
A) conflicts between couples tend to rise
B) it is more expensive for couples to split up
C) couples show more concern for each other
D) divorce and separation rates increase
54. What does Kim Stephenson believe?
A) Money is often a symbol of a person's status.
B) Money means a great deal to both men and women.
C) Men and women spend money on different things.
D) Men and women view money in different ways.
55. The author suggests at the end of the passage that couples should _____.
A) put their money together instead of keeping it separately
B) make efforts to reach agreement on their family budgets
C) discuss money matters to maintain a healthy relationship
D) avoid arguing about money matters to remain romantic