

Directions:

Read the following four texts. Answer the questions below each text by choosing A, B, C or D. Mark your answers on **ANSWER SHEET 1**. (40 points)

Text 2

I was addressing a small gathering in a suburban Virginia living room – a women's group that had invited men to join them. Throughout the evening, one man had been particularly talkative, frequently offering ideas and anecdotes, while his wife sat silently beside him on the couch. Toward the end of the evening, I commented that women frequently complain that their husbands don't talk to them. This man quickly nodded in agreement. He gestured toward his wife and said, "She's the talker in our family." The room burst into laughter; the man looked puzzled and hurt. "It's true," he explained. "When I come home from work I have nothing to say. If she didn't keep the conversation going, we'd spend the whole evening in silence."

This episode crystallizes the irony that although American men tend to talk more than women in public situations, they often talk less at home. And this pattern is wreaking havoc with marriage.

The pattern was observed by political scientist Andrew Hacker in the late 1970s. Sociologist Catherine Kohler Riessman reports in her new book *Divorce Talk* that most of the women she interviewed – but only a few of the men – gave lack of communication as the reason for their divorces. Given the current divorce rate of nearly 50 percent, that amounts to millions of cases in the United States every year – a virtual epidemic of failed conversation.

In my own research, complaints from women about their husbands most often focused not on tangible inequities such as having given up the chance for a career to accompany a husband to his, or doing far more than their share of daily life-support work like cleaning, cooking and social arrangements. Instead, they focused on communication: "He doesn't listen to me." "He doesn't talk to me." I found, as Hacker observed years before, that most wives want their husbands to be, first and foremost, conversational partners, but few husbands share this expectation of their wives.

In short, the image that best represents the current crisis is the stereotypical cartoon scene of a man sitting at the breakfast table with a newspaper held up in front of his face, while a woman glares at the back of it, wanting to talk.

26. What is most wives' main expectation of their husbands?

- [A] Talking to them.
- [B] Trusting them.
- [C] Supporting their careers.
- [D] Sharing housework.

27. Judging from the context, the phrase "wreaking havoc" (Line 3, Para. 2) most probably means

_____.

- [A] generating motivation
- [B] exerting influence
- [C] causing damage
- [D] creating pressure

28. All of the following are true EXCEPT _____.

- [A] men tend to talk more in public than women
- [B] nearly 50 percent of recent divorces are caused by failed conversation
- [C] women attach much importance to communication between couples
- [D] a female tends to be more talkative at home than her spouse

29. Which of the following can best summarize the main idea of this text?

- [A] The moral decay deserves more research by sociologists.
- [B] Marriage break-up stems from sex inequalities.
- [C] Husband and wife have different expectations from their marriage.
- [D] Conversational patterns between man and wife are different.

30. In the following part immediately after this text, the author will most probably focus on _____.

- [A] a vivid account of the new book Divorce Talk
- [B] a detailed description of the stereotypical cartoon
- [C] other possible reasons for a high divorce rate in the U.S.
- [D] a brief introduction to the political scientist Andrew Hacker