**EOC Practice Items 9 & 10: Arranged Marriage**

**9th Grade Literature & Composition: Writing**

Standard: ELAGSE9-10W1. *Write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or*

*texts, using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient details.*

In 21st century America we live in a time where the words romance and relationships have progressed drastically over the last couple of years. They even mean something completely different for your parents and grandparents than what you think of now.

Relationships are very public now with social media, but mostly consist of the thoughts, feelings, and opinions of only the two people involved. It is very common for people to date a number of people before they choose to get married to one.

However, there are other parts of the world that still work to hold to the more traditional views of romance and relationships. They also feel that the parents know best. For that reason they believe heavily in arranged marriages set in place by the parents for the children.

Weigh the claims on both sides, and then write an **argumentative essay**, in your own words, supporting one side of the debate in which you argue EITHER that arranged marriages by parents are not a good idea OR that arranged marriages are very beneficial and effective for the children.

Before you begin planning and writing, you will read two texts, answer a few multiple choice questions and answer one short question about what you have read. These are the titles of the texts you will read:

1. Why an arranged marriage ‘is more likely to develop into lasting love’.
2. Negative Effects of an Arranged Marriage

**Why an arranged marriage ‘is more likely to develop into lasting love’.**

They are seen by many as business deals that have little to do with love.

But arranged marriages are far more likely to lead to lasting affection than marriages of passion, experts claim.

According to research, those in arranged marriages – or who have had their partner chosen for them by a parent or matchmaker – tend to feel more in love as time grows, whereas those in regular marriages feel less in love over time.

Relationship experts claim this is because arranged matches are carefully considered, with thought going into whether potential partners’ families, interests and life goals are compatible.

This means they are more likely to commit for life – and to stick together through rocky patches.

Those who marry for love, on the other hand, tend to be blinded by passion and so overlook these crucial details.

When the going gets tough, they are more likely to view the situation simply as a natural end to their romantic dream – a way of fate telling them something is wrong with the relationship.

With soaring divorce rates and record numbers of single-parent households in the West, researchers suggest it is time to rethink the Western approach to love. Harvard academic Dr. Robert Epstein has studied the subject of arranged marriages for eight years, looking at the approaches taken in cultural groups including Indian, Pakistani and Orthodox Jewish.

He has interviewed more than 100 couples in arranged marriages to assess their strength of feeling and studied his findings against more than 30 years of research into love in Western and arranged marriages.

His work suggests that feelings of love in love matches begin to fade by as much as a half in 18 months, whereas the love in the arranged marriages tends to grow gradually, surpassing the love in the unarranged marriages at about the five-year mark.

Ten years on, the affection felt by those in arranged marriages is typically twice as strong.

Dr Epstein believes this is because Westerners leave their love lives to chance, or fate, often confusing love with lust, whereas those in other cultures look for more than just passion.

He said: ‘The idea is we must not leave our love lives to chance. We plan our education, our careers and our finances but we’re still uncomfortable with the idea that we should plan our love lives. I do not advocate arranged marriages but I think a lot can be learned from them.

‘In arranged marriages, thought goes into the matching. In the West, physical attraction is important. But people must be able to distinguish lust from love. Strong physical attraction is very dangerous, it can be blinding.

‘In the West marriages are easy to get out of. But in arranged marriages, the commitment is very strong. They get married knowing they won’t leave, so when times are harder – if they face injury or trauma – they don’t run away. It brings them closer.’

Francine Kaye, relationship expert and author of The Divorce Doctor, added: ‘There is an awful lot to be said for arranged marriages. They are determined to make it work.

‘I have seen in arranged marriages in the Orthodox Jewish community that the parents very carefully look at compatibility – it is not left to chance. They do their homework on their characteristics, their values, morals and life goals.

‘It should be pointed out that arranged marriages work because culturally marriage is seen differently. We have a very romantic view of marriage. Theirs is more pragmatic.

‘There is a downside to arranged marriages though – no matter how pragmatic you are in choosing a partner, there always needs to be chemistry.’

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1363176/Why-arranged-marriage-likely-develop-lasting-love.html>

**Negative Effects of an Arranged Marriage**

Arranged marriage -- where spouses do not choose each other -- is an unfamiliar and unpalatable idea to most people in the Western world. But those who practice the tradition believe that arranged marriages improve family ties and ensure a good match for their children. In fact, according to senior research psychologist and author Dr. Robert Epstem, arranged marriages have a lot of benefits -- but there can be many downsides as well.

**Removes Courtship Period**

The rules of courtship vary depending on the culture. In some cultures, the couple are not allowed to be alone together, and while the individuals may have some say in who they marry -- the parents, for example, might give their son a choice of three different girls -- the partners have little time to really get to know each other. That means there is not much chance for any romance to develop, nor for them to be able to tell what it will really be like to be married to the other person. The fun of dating a wide range of people -- which also teaches you a lot about how a good relationship works -- is removed from the equation.

**Narrows the Choices**

Because the family is heavily involved in the arranged marriage, it can be very difficult for the prospective bride or groom to get a word in edgewise. Although arranged marriages are different from forced marriages -- in the latter, the bride has no choice -- it can still be difficult to say no to an arranged marriage when there is so much pressure from the family to say yes.

**Eliminates Other Options**

In some cultures, an arranged marriage means that, instead of a woman going to college, she is expected to start having children and tending to her husband's needs. In this case, an arranged marriage can remove other life options for the woman in the marriage. It doesn't mean she can't go to college eventually, but it might be much more difficult for her to do so.

**Focuses on the Superficial**

In some cultures, the most important things to consider are the appearance -- skin color, height -- of the potential spouse, and his or her socioeconomic standing, especially when it comes to the man's occupation. Many who believe in love matches might find these things to be rather superficial.

**Traps the Spouse**

Divorce is rare in arranged marriages, because they start out as a practical arrangement and if the couple doesn't get along, it just means that they should work harder on the marriage -- love and emotion don't really come into play. But this can make it very difficult to leave the marriage if there is abuse -- the family might not want to admit they made a mistake in choosing the spouse -- or if one spouse simply doesn't want to be married any longer.

<http://oureverydaylife.com/negative-effects-arranged-marriage-8372730.html>

Multiple Choice:

1. By the author of “Why an arranged marriage ‘is more likely to develop into lasting love’” calling on the Harvard expert, Dr. Epstein, what persuasive appeal are they mostly likely using?
   1. Ethos
   2. Pathos
   3. Logos
2. Based on the way it is used in the article “Negative Effects of an Arranged Marriage” what is denotation of the word “*unpalatable*”.
   1. Disgusting c. Difficult to accept
   2. Great d. Uninteresting
3. The statement, “*In this case, an arranged marriage can remove other life options for the woman in the marriage*” in the article “Negative Effects of an Arranged Marriage” is a
   1. Fact
   2. Opinion
4. The line, “*This means they are more likely to commit for life – and to stick together through rocky patches*” from the article “Why an arranged marriage ‘is more likely to develop into lasting love’ uses what type of figurative language when talking of rocky patches?
   1. Hyperbole c. Simile
   2. Onomatopoeia d. Metaphor
5. In the article “Why an arranged marriage ‘is more likely to develop into lasting love’ what is one reason, according to the author, arranged marriages tend to work?
   1. Western marriages are more pragmatic.
   2. Arranged marriages are based on romantic love.
   3. Arranged marriages are more pragmatic.
   4. The other party would be killed if left the arranged relationship.

**Item 9: Which author's style and content MOST effectively support his purpose? Use details from BOTH articles to support your answer.**

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**Item 10: Now that you have read “Why an arranged marriage ‘is more likely to develop into lasting love’.” and “Negative Effects of an Arranged Marriage create a plan for and write your argumentative essay.**

Weigh the claims on both sides. Think about ideas, facts, definitions, details, and other information and examples you want to use. Think about how you will introduce your topic and what the main topic will be for each paragraph. Develop your ideas clearly and use your own words, except when quoting directly from the source texts. Be sure to identify the sources by title or number when using details or facts directly from the sources.

Weigh the claims on both sides, and then write an **argumentative essay**, in your own words, supporting one side of the debate in which you argue EITHER that arranged marriages by parents are not a good idea OR that arranged marriages are very beneficial and effective for the children.

Now write your argumentative essay. Be sure to:

• Introduce your claim.

• Support your claim with logical reasoning and relevant evidence from the texts.

• Acknowledge and address alternate or opposing claims.

• Organize the reasons and evidence logically.

• Use words, phrases, and clauses to connect your ideas and to clarify the relationships among

claims, counterclaims, reasons, and evidence.

• Establish and maintain a formal style.

• Provide a concluding statement or section that follows from and supports the argument

presented.

• Check your work for correct grammar, usage, capitalization, spelling, and punctuation

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