

NAME and group number : -----

GEA1 gr. 1 & 5
English test MD 06/09

Proximity to Fast Food : a Factor in Student Obesity

By RONI CARYN RABIN

§1: ____

Ninth graders whose schools are within a block of a fast-food outlet are more likely to be obese than students whose schools are a quarter of a mile or more away, according to a study of millions of schoolchildren by economists at the University of California and Columbia University.

§2: ____

The study, a widely circulated working paper of the independent National Bureau of Economic Research, marks an intensive effort by economists to determine whether close geographic proximity to fast food plays a causal role in obesity.

§3: ____

The sample population was large, spanned almost a decade and included such detailed geographic information that researchers were able to observe obesity rates among ninth graders in the same school in the years before and after a new fast food outlet opened nearby.

§4: ____

After adjusting for a wide range of variables, including income, education and race, the researchers found that obesity rates were 5 percent higher among the ninth graders whose schools were within one-tenth of a mile of a pizza, burger or other popular fast-food outlet, compared with students attending schools farther away from fast-food stores.

§5: ____

“I think we got as close to proving causation as any other study has, and probably as close as is feasible with the existing data,” said Enrico Moretti, a professor of economics at the University of California, Berkeley, and one of the paper’s authors. “We’re quite confident that these are credible and unbiased estimates of the causal effect of fast food on obesity for the group we focused on.”

§6: ____

Professor Moretti said it was not clear from the results why only students in such close proximity to fast food were affected.

“It could be that students don’t like to wander too far,” he said. “Maybe they don’t have a long lunch period. Maybe it’s just the effect of having temptation right in front of your eyes.”

.....

§7: ____

A National Restaurant Association spokeswoman said the paper was a “slapdash” piece of work that was flawed because it did not take individual diet and exercise into account.

§8: ____

Kelly Brownell, director of the Rudd Center for Food Policy and Obesity at Yale University, said the study offered proof that fast-food restaurants contributed to the obesity problem, especially in children, and had implications for public policy.

§9: ____

“Zoning laws that prohibit fast-food restaurants near schools are absolutely indicated, and neighborhoods that choose to zone out fast-food restaurants are probably taking a step to protect the future health of their children,” Mr. Brownell said.

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The New York Times

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Vocabulary help

§1: a ninth grader = a student aged 14 or 15, a block = a group of buildings, an outlet = a shop or a restaurant, likely = probable,

§2: a working paper = an article about a study, close = near,

§3: the sample population = the people chosen for the study, to span = to cover, a rate = a percentage,

§4: a wide range = a big number, income = revenue,

§5: unbiased = fair / just, an estimate = an evaluation, to focus on = to concentrate on,

§6: to wander = to go,

§7: slapdash = done carelessly, flawed = imperfect, a diet = eating habits,

§8: a proof = a sure indication, a policy = a measure,

§9: a neighborhood = a district in a city, to zone out = to forbid / prohibit in a certain place.

I COMPREHENSION (20 points)

Read the article on page 1, then do the exercises below

1) Here is a list of key words / expressions. Match each of them to a paragraph in the article. You must write the corresponding letter in front of the paragraph number in the article. (4.5 points)

a) reaction for, b) reaction against, c) valid results, d) objective, e) explanations for results, f) results and researchers, g) findings, h) advice, i) people focused on.

2) Translate into French and in context (3.5 points)

§1: an outlet = _____; a study = _____ or _____;

§4: wide = _____; §5: unbiased = _____;

§8: a policy = _____; §9: to zone out = _____.

3) Translate §6 and §7 into French, from “Professor Moretti ...” to “... into account.” (5 points)

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4) Write a paragraph to sum up the article in your own English. (7 points)

You must say

- 1) who did the study,
- 2) when and where they did it,
- 3) what was the objective,
- 4) who was studied,
- 5) what were the results,
- 6) what measures are advised now.

II REMEMBER? (10 points)

The 20 mistakes below often appear in news presentations. Read the phrases / sentences, underline the mistakes and rewrite everything in correct English. The number of mistakes for each phrase / sentence is indicated in brackets.

In a first time (1) =

Actually (1) =

We have choose this subject (1) =

Differents points of view (1) =

The government didn't heard them (1) =

The president of United States (1) =

Recently we learnt more about this subject (1) =

We will treat of politics (2) =

There is too much risks (2) =

Ten millions of people (2) =

An interessant subject of actuality (2) =

You must to go at university (2) =

We think at this problem since a long time (3) =

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III WRITING (10 points)

Write 170 words (+ or – 10%) and give your opinion about the article on page 1, fast food in general , the problem of obesity and the possible solutions.

Caution: - don't forget to write your name and group number on every page of this paper,
- do all the exercises on this paper,
- do **NOT** use any type of dictionary or other document,
- give the 4 pages back at the end.

The end

Thank you very much and have a nice holiday