Willa Jenkins has never smoked a cigarette in her life. When she married George, a heavy smoker, 46 years ago, no one spoke about the dangers of cigarettes. By the time medical experts began to link various diseases* with cigarettes and it became clear that smoking cigarettes was an extremely dangerous practice, it was too late for George to give up smoking. He refused to even think about stopping. He just kept on smoking and Willa let him continue, never dreaming that her own life would be threatened by it. But two years ago, just after Willa had finished recovering from the flu,* she developed a cough that just wouldn’t go away. Willa went back to the doctor. Several weeks and many tests later, the final diagnosis was made: Willa had lung* cancer. While her doctors couldn’t prove it conclusively, it seemed that Willa’s condition, in fact, was caused by her husband’s dangerous addiction and the smoke that she had inhaled for 46 years.

Recent research tells us that passive smoking, that is, breathing in smoke from the cigarettes smoked by others, is more dangerous than anyone feared. In the United States, health authorities have officially classified ETS (Environmental Tobacco Smoke) as a carcinogen – a substance that can cause cancer. Thousands of non-smokers die of lung cancer every year and many thousands more suffer from numerous respiratory diseases as a result of cigarette smoke in the air. Each day in the USA alone, the air is polluted with smoke from 1.5 billion cigarettes. It is frightening to imagine how many cigarettes are smoked daily worldwide.

Several thousand chemical compounds are found in cigarette smoke. More than 40 of these are known carcinogens. Others are lethal substances that you may have heard of. For example, cigarette smoke contains carbon monoxide, a gas emitted by car engines. Smoke also contains hydrogen cyanide, the gas that is used in some countries to execute murderers. And then there’s nicotine, which is a powerful insecticide.

When in the presence of a smoker, you will inhale two kinds of smoke. The first is called “main stream* smoke”. Main stream smoke is the smoke that is exhaled by the smoker. It is smoke that has already been filtered through the body of the smoker. The second is called “side stream smoke”, and it is the smoke from the tip of the burning cigarette. It is the more harmful of the two. Many of the poisons in side stream smoke remain in the air for hours. Studies show that children of smoking parents suffer from more respiratory diseases and allergies than children of non-smokers.

In recent years, growing awareness of governments and health authorities of the connection between smoking and lung cancer has led to legislation banning* smoking in public places. These laws have been passed in order to protect the non-smoker, who is at serious risk when in the vicinity of smokers.

diseases: malalties / enfermedades
flu: grip / gripe
lung: pulmó / pulmón
stream: corrent / corriente
ban: prohibir / prohibir
PART ONE: READING COMPREHENSION

Choose the best answer according to the text.
[0.5 points each correct answer] [wrong answers will be penalized (0.16)]

1. When they got married, Willa’s husband …
   a) refused to discuss his smoking habit.
   b) smoked, although he knew it could harm him.
   c) didn’t care how his smoking affected his wife.
   d) had no idea that smoking was harmful.

2. Willa went to the doctor …
   a) to discuss her husband’s smoking habit.
   b) because she was afraid she had cancer.
   c) with a problem that didn’t seem serious.
   d) because she was still suffering from flu.

3. Doctors say …
   a) further tests will show if Willa definitely has got cancer.
   b) Willa’s condition was certainly caused by George.
   c) Willa’s condition was probably caused by George.
   d) further tests will show if George caused Willa’s condition.

4. In the United States, …
   a) many non-smokers die from cigarette smoke.
   b) there are more than a billion smokers.
   c) lung cancer is more common than other lung diseases.
   d) smokers get more respiratory diseases than non-smokers.

5. Most of the chemicals in cigarette smoke …
   a) cause cancer.
   b) are not harmful.
   c) cause diseases other than cancer.
   d) are potentially lethal.

6. Side stream smoke …
   a) is more harmful than main stream smoke.
   b) only affects the smokers themselves.
   c) passes through the smoker’s body.
   d) is less harmful than main stream smoke.

7. Children of smokers …
   a) shouldn’t go into a room until their parents finish smoking.
   b) have got more lung problems than children of non-smokers.
   c) are more likely to become smokers than other children.
   d) are not allowed into some public places.

8. Which of these sentences is true?
   a) There are laws to protect smokers.
   b) The flu is one of the causes of cancer.
   c) Smoking in many public places is illegal.
   d) Living with a smoker could kill you.
PART TWO: WRITING

Choose one topic. Write about either 1 or 2. Minimum length: 100 words.
[0-4 points]

1. Write about a young man or woman who never smoked, but got ill from lung cancer.

2. Write a dialogue in which one speaker tries to persuade the other to stop smoking.
**YES, I DO MIND IF YOU SMOKE**

1. d
2. c
3. c
4. a
5. d
6. a
7. b
8. c