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https://www.100test.com/kao_ti2020/127/2021_2022_GMAT_E8_80_83_E8_AF_95_c89_127258.htm 39. “ It is difficult for people to achieve professional success without sacrificing important aspects of a fulfilling personal life. ” Discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the opinion stated above. Support your views with reasons and/or examples from your own experience, observations, or reading. Are professional success and a fulfilling personal life mutually exclusive? Probably not, although it is more difficult today to achieve both. Undeniably, today ’ s professionals must work long hours to keep their heads above water (keep one ’ s heads above water: v. 免遭灭顶之灾, 不负债), let alone to get ahead in life financially. This is especially true in Japan, where cost of living, coupled with corporate culture, compel professional males to all but (adv. 几乎, 差一点) abandon their families and literally to work themselves to death. While the situation here in the states (United States) may not be as critical, the two-income family is now the norm, not by choice but by necessity. However, our society ’ s professionals are taking steps to remedy the problem. First, they are inventing ways such as job sharing and telecommuting (远程交换, 远程办公) to ensure that personal life does not take a backseat (n. 后座, 次要位置) to career. Second, they are setting priorities and living those hours outside the workplace to the fullest. In fact, professional success usually requires the same time-management skills that are useful to find time for family, hobbies, and recreation. One need only

look at the recent American presidents Clinton, Bush, Reagan, and Carter to see that it is possible to lead a balanced life which includes time for family, hobbies, and recreation, while immersed in a busy and successful career. Third, more professionals are changing careers to ones which allow for some degree of personal fulfillment and self-actualization (n. 自我实现, 自我潜力充分发挥). Besides, many professionals truly love their work and would do it without compensation, as a hobby. For them, professional fulfillment and personal fulfillment are one and the same (n. 同一个, 完全一回事). In conclusion, given the growing demands of career on today's professionals, a fulfilling personal life remains possible by working smarter, by setting priorities, and by making suitable career choices.

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