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The British psychoanalyst John Bowlby maintains that separation from the parents during the sensitive “ attachment ” period from birth to three may scar a child ’ s personality and lay the premisses to emotional problems in later life . Some people have drawn the conclusion from Bowlby ’ s work that children should not be subjected to day care before the age of three because of the parental separation it entails , and many people do believe this. But there are also arguments against such a strong conclusion . Firstly , anthropologists point out that the insulated love affair between children and parents ; found in modern societies does not usually exist in traditional societies . For example , in some tribal societies , such as the Ngoni , the father and mother of a child did not rear their infant alone far from it . Secondly , common sense tells us that day care would not be so widespread today if parents care-takers found children had problems with it . Statistical studies of this kind have not yet been carried out , and even if they were , the results would be certain to be complicated and controversial . Thirdly , in the last decade there have been a number of careful American studies of children in day care , and they have uniformly reported that day care had a neutral or slightly positive effect on children ’ s development . But tests that have had to be used to measure this development are not widely enough accepted to settle the issue. But

Bowlby's analysis raises the possibility that early day care has delayed effects. The possibility that such care might lead to, say, more mental illness or crime 15 or 20 years later can only be explored by the use of statistics. Whatever the longterm effects, parents sometimes find the immediate effects difficult to deal with. Children under three are likely to protest at leaving their parents and show unhappiness. At the age of three or three and a half almost all children find the transition to nursery easy, and this is undoubtedly why more and more parents make use of child care at this time. The matter, then, is far from clear-cut, though experience and available evidence indicate that early care is reasonable for infants.

词汇： psychoanalyst n. 精神分析学家—心理分析学家  
insulate vt. 隔绝  
rear vt. 抚养  
predispose 引起易感性  
care taker n. 照顾者，看管人  
entail / in. tell / vt. 蕴涵  
infant n. 婴儿  
anthropologist n. 人类学家

练习：1. Which of the following statements would Bowlby support?  
A) Statistical studies should be carried out to assess the positive effect of day care for children at the age of three or older.  
B) Early day care can delay the occurrence of mental illness in children.  
C) The first three years of one's life is extremely important to the later development of personality.  
D) Children under three get used to the life at nursery schools more readily than children over three.

2. Which of the following is derivable from Bowlby's work?  
A) Mothers should not send their children to day care centers before the age of three.  
B) Day care nurseries have positive effects on a child's development.  
C) A child sent to a day care center before

the age of three may have emotional problems in later life .

D) Daycare would not be so popular if it has noticeable negative effects on a child , Spersonality . 3 . It is suggested that modern societies differ from traditional societies in that A) the parent-child relationship is more exclusive in modern societies . B) a child more often grows up with his (her) brothers or sisters in traditional societies . C) mother brings up children with the help of her husband in traditional societies . D) children in modern societies are more likely to develop mental illness in later years 4 .

Which of the following statements is NOT an argument against Bowlby's theory? A) Many studies show that day care has a positive effect on children ' s development . B) The fact that there are so many nursery schools today shows that day care is safe . C) The separation of young children from their parents is common in some traditional societies .

D) Parents find the immediate effects of early day care difficult to deal with . 5 Which of the following best expresses the writer ' s attitude towards early day care? A) Children under three should stay with their parents . B) Early day care has positive effects on children ' s development . C) The issue is controversial and its settlement calls for the use of statistics . D) The effects of early day care on children are exaggerated and parents should ignore the issue .

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