Friendship Among Latin Americans

1 Adriana and Ricardo are teenagers who immigrated to Florida from the Dominican Republic and Mexico. Adriana comes from Santo Domingo, the capital of the Dominican Republic, and Ricardo from Saltillo, Mexico. They have become friends in part because they share a sense of humor and a great love of soccer, a sport they both played in their home countries.

2 For most young Latin Americans, two very strong influences in their lives are family and a close-knit group of friends. Adriana and Ricardo have friends from a number of Spanish-speaking countries, including Guatemala, Colombia, and El Salvador. In the group are several sets of brothers and sisters, and, as is common in Latin America, they all do things together. For example, Adriana (age 14) and her sister Elena (age 12) are very close and share their social lives as well as their family life.

3 Close friendships are sometimes marked by apodos, or nicknames, that imply a special relationship. In Mexico, for example, primo and prima (“cousin”) or hermano and hermana (“brother,” “sister”) are commonly used. At school, Ricardo often greets Adriana in the halls with “¡Oye, prima!”

4 These friends spend free time at each other's homes and they all know each other's families. Close friends are often included in family events and celebrations. Parties that Adriana, Ricardo, and their friends attend may include several generations, from babies to grandparents.

5 Young people, however, must show respect to adults and are taught to treat their parents' friends courteously. They must address them with usted. In certain regions of some countries, such as Mexico, Nicaragua, and Colombia, small children may even address their parents with usted. In these cases, a young child is also addressed with usted as he or she is learning to speak. The difference between usted and tú is learned later, as the children interact with playmates.

6 In Latin America, many children attend private schools from kindergarten through high school. Because of this, and because a family most likely will not move but will remain in the same home for many years, children who begin kindergarten together often remain classmates throughout their school years. As a result, lifelong friendships can begin at an early age.
1. Where are Adriana and Ricardo currently living?
   A. the United States
   B. the Dominican Republic
   C. Mexico
   D. Adriana in Santo Domingo and Ricardo in Saltillo

2. In the reading, which of these words is a synonym for ¡Oye! in paragraph 3?
   F. Buenos días
   G. Buenas noches
   H. Hola
   J. Mucho gusto

3. Based on the reading, which one of the following statements is true?
   A. When they come to the United States, Spanish speakers are friendly mostly with people who came from the same country they did.
   B. To a Latin American, a friend is almost like a member of the family.
   C. Latin Americans do not address each other as tú until they are adults.
   D. There are no public schools in Latin America.

4. According to the reading, which of the following is a reason why lifelong friendships can be very common in Latin America?
   F. Most of your friends would be family members.
   G. Most Latin Americans have a sense of humor and share an interest in soccer.
   H. You would probably go to school together from kindergarten through high school.
   J. You would always treat each other courteously.

5. From an early age, Latin Americans tend to socialize with people older and younger than they are, as well as with people their own age. Describe what you think might be some advantages of this. If you think there are disadvantages, describe those as well. Use details and information from the reading to support your answer.
Nombre: __________________________________________ Fecha: _______________________

1  A  B  C  D  2  F  G  H  J  3  A  B  C  D

4  F  G  H  J

5

READ
THINK
EXPLAIN

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¡Hola! Me llamo Pedro

30 de septiembre

Srta. María Luisa Pardo Barros
Calle San Antonio 16
Valparaíso
Chile

Querida María Luisa:

Me llamo Peter (Pedro en español) y soy de los Estados Unidos. Soy estudiante en Orlando, en el estado de la Florida. Hay muchas atracciones en Orlando: Por ejemplo, el famoso parque de diversiones Disney World —y Sea World también.

Soy muy deportista y me encanta nadar y patinar. Mi mamá dice que soy desordenado y que no soy nada serio. Pero sí me gusta ir a la escuela y me gusta mucho leer buenos libros. ¿Mi actividad favorita? Estar con mis amigos o hablar con ellos por teléfono.

¿Cómo eres, María Luisa?

Tu amigo,

Peter (o Pedro, si el nombre español te gusta más)
In what city does María Luisa live?

A  San Antonio  
B  Valparaíso  
C  Orlando  
D  The reading does not say.

What is the English equivalent of *Querida*?

F  Miss  
G  Hello  
H  Dear  
J  It is María Luisa’s first name and has no real English equivalent.

According to the reading, which one of the following statements might Peter make about himself?

A  *Me gusta cocinar.*  
B  *Me gusta mucho practicar deportes.*  
C  *No me gusta nada estudiar.*  
D  *No soy ni serio ni trabajador.*

According to the reading, which one of the following words would Peter use to describe himself?

F  reservado  
G  perezoso  
H  sociable  
J  atrevido

Write a brief letter in Spanish to a pen pal describing yourself and what you like and don’t like to do. Use the reading as a model for your letter.
Test 2

Nombre: _______________________________  Fecha: _______________________

1  A  B  C  D  2  F  G  H  J  3  A  B  C  D

4  F  G  H  J

5

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READ
THINK
CREATE

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