Name: _____ Date: _____

Lesson 3: Text b

Directions: Read the following text. Then answer questions 1 through 4.

The Changing Face of America

For the first time, more minorities than whites are being born in the United States. What does that mean for the nation's identity?

by Veronica Majerol

Growing up in Chicago, Illinois, Titus Dockery, 14, has friends of all different races and ethnicities, but their skin color and family backgrounds are not things he really thinks about.

"They're just cool people that I hang with because I've got respect for everybody," the eighth-grader at Darwin School explains.

Titus, who is African American, says he doesn't think of himself as an outsider. At his school, over 95 percent of the students are minorities.

Titus's story represents a major demographic shift under way in the United States. The Census Bureau said last spring that minority births (Hispanic, black, Asian, American Indian, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander, and Alaska Native) now outnumber those of non-Hispanic whites.

"This is an important tipping point," says William H. Frey. He is a population expert at the Brookings Institution in Washington, D.C. He describes the change as a "transformation from a mostly white . . . culture to the more globalized multiethnic country that we are becoming."

Majority-Minority

Minorities already make up the majority of the population in four states plus Washington, D.C. The same is true in some big US cities, including New York and Las Vegas. But unlike in decades past,

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minority populations are no longer concentrated in major urban centers. Minorities now outnumber whites in 348 of the more than 3,000 counties in the United States.

Whites still make up the majority (63 percent) of the US population. But minorities are on pace to outnumber whites by 2042, according to Census Bureau estimates. And the change is happening even faster among younger Americans. By 2020, whites will likely make up less than half of the under-18 population.

Several factors have contributed to the shift. First, in the past three decades, immigration to the United States has been highest from countries like Mexico, China, and India. This is a result of the 1965 Immigration Act. That law allowed more immigrants from countries outside Europe.

Second, non-whites have higher birth rates than whites. And finally, the average age of the white population in the United States is higher than that of minorities, and older people tend to have fewer children.

Social changes are also driving the shift. The number of mixed-race marriages is on the rise. As a result, the number of mixed-race children has also increased. Multi-racial and multi-ethnic Americans are among the fastest growing demographic groups in the United States. Nine million people identified themselves as mixed-race on the 2010 Census. That's a 32 percent increase from 2000.

No country in the world has ever experienced such a quick and dramatic racial and ethnic change. So it's still unclear what it will mean for the United States to become a "majority-minority" nation with a large generational divide. (That is, a younger generation that's more diverse than older generations.)

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An Edge

Who will consider themselves Hispanic, black, or white later this century? With the increasing trend of interethnic and interracial marriages, ethnic and racial definitions may change over the next 20 years.

Frey believes that in this increasingly globalized world, the diversity of the United States gives it an advantage. "We in this country have a history of bringing in people from other parts of the world," he says. "That's still a part of our DNA as a society that puts us ahead of other parts of the world where they have real difficulties in [integrating] people."

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Lesson 3: Practice Test b

Reading Text Closely

Directions: Use "The Changing Face of America" to answer the questions.

1. **Underline all sentences from the excerpt below that support the idea that the United States is becoming a majority-minority country.**

   Minorities already make up the majority of the population in four states plus Washington, D.C. The same is true in some big US cities, including New York and Las Vegas. But unlike in decades past, minority populations are no longer concentrated in major urban centers. Minorities now outnumber whites in 348 of the more than 3,000 counties in the United States.

   Whites still make up the majority (63 percent) of the US population. But minorities are on pace to outnumber whites by 2042, according to Census Bureau estimates. And the change is happening even faster among younger Americans. By 2020, whites will likely make up less than half of the under-18 population.

2. **According to the passage, how are social changes contributing to the population shift? Circle the two correct answers.**

   A) Mixed-race marriages are on the rise.

   B) Minorities will outnumber whites by 2042.

   C) Nine million people identified themselves as mixed-race.

   D) Immigration is the highest from Mexico, China, and India.

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3. This question has two parts. First, answer Part A. Then, answer Part B.

Part A: According to the passage, where is the fastest change occurring in the US population?

A) big US cities

B) urban schools

C) the Hispanic population

D) the young American population

Part B: Choose a sentence from the passage that supports the answer to Part A.

A) "Nine million people identified themselves as mixed-race on the 2010 Census."

B) "Minorities already make up the majority of the population in four states plus Washington, D.C."

C) "By 2020, whites will likely make up less than half of the under-18 population."

D) "And finally, the average age of the white population in the United States is higher than that of minorities, and older people tend to have fewer children."

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4. Underline all the sentences from the excerpt below that support the idea that being a majority-minority country has advantages.

Who will consider themselves Hispanic, black, or white later this century? With the increasing trend of interethnic and interracial marriages, ethnic and racial definitions may change over the next 20 years.

Frey believes that in this increasingly globalized world, the diversity of the United States gives it an advantage. "We in this country have a history of bringing in people from other parts of the world," he says. "That's still a part of our DNA as a society that puts us ahead of other parts of the world where they have real difficulties in [integrating] people."

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