

1. Read the article and find suitable headings for each passage.

2. Underline the key words in each passage.

Aging

The next generation faces an enormous financial burden

China: Because many couples only have one child, the population is threatened by aging. Many married couples have to look after four elderly parents. The financial responsibility is becoming harder to cope with. Very few elderly people go into nursing homes. They expect their children to take care of them.



My parents rely on my help, complains Wang Ho, an engineer. His low income is only just enough for him and his wife. However, it is basically an unwritten rule in China that families take care of their elderly members.

There are hardly any pensions. Only one quarter of the working population is entitled to a pension and in rural areas it is only ten percent. Healthcare in the villages is also very poor.

The situation will get worse. The birth rate is falling and in 2050 there will only be two working adults for each elderly adult (a ratio of 2:1). At the moment the ratio is 6:1. This will have a massive impact on the economy. At present, China benefits from its low wages. However, with a reduced workforce, such low wages will not be possible.

3. Use the article to help you to answer the questions.

1. a) How many people in China have a pension? _____
 b) What is the percentage in rural areas? _____
2. Why do only few old people go into nursing homes? _____

3. What is the ratio of working adults to old people in China today? _____
 a) What will be in 2050? _____ b) Why? _____
4. What does this mean for China's economy? _____

