



Chapter 3, Schools and education

Answer the following questions in details.

1. Can you describe the school you attend or last attended?
2. What school types are there in your country?
3. What makes someone a great teacher?
4. Is there a teacher you especially like/liked?
5. What are/were your favourite subjects? Why?
6. Have you ever participated in after school programmes?
7. Is education affordable in your country?
8. Have you ever learned outside of school?
9. What language courses are available in your area?
10. What is the importance of learning foreign languages?
11. Is there equal opportunity for higher education for everyone in your community?
12. Are student exchange programmes available for students?
13. Are classroom buddies the best friends forever?
14. Have you ever had special needs classmates?
15. Is it right if disabled students study in the same classroom as regular students?
16. Is it necessary to have a university degree?
17. Should minorities be allowed to learn in their native tongue?
18. What types of schools are there in English speaking countries?

GB: favourite
US: favorite

Give detailed reasons why you agree or disagree with the following statements.

1. I like strict teachers.
2. Classes are boring; going to school is a waste of time.
3. Our school system is a lot better than the school system in the US.
4. Mobile phones should be allowed in the classroom.
5. The best thing in school is the school breaks.
6. A good teacher can motivate students to learn.
7. Bilingual schools are better than regular schools.
8. Learning music and arts is totally useless and unnecessary.
9. Participating in a PE lesson should be elective.
10. Teachers are too old to understand high school students.
11. Learning practical things is more important than learning maths.
12. Teachers should instil character and not only teach their subjects.
13. It is very easy to be admitted to famous universities.
14. Private schools are much better than public schools.
15. Home schooling is very popular these days.
16. In the near future secondary and tertiary education will be done almost entirely online.
17. It's always smart to learn from the mistakes of others.
18. When my grandmother was young, she had to go to school for only a few years.

GB: PE lesson
US: gym class



Writing

1. Your pen-friend wrote you a letter about his school and asked you to introduce the school you go to. How many students are there? What are the teachers like? What do you like about your school? Are there any problems? (If you don't go to school now write about your last school.)
2. You would like to learn English in a college in Britain. Write a letter to the school. Tell about yourself and ask for information (fees, time of classes, accommodation, programmes, etc.).
3. Write an essay for a popular magazine about the advantages and/or disadvantages of online education. Are people going to do most of their studies over the internet in the future? What are your preferences?
4. Your French friend is graduating from high school this year. His parents want him to go to university but he would rather learn to be a sommelier. He wants to know your opinion about it. Should he go to a university?
5. Your American friend has been the best student in her class and was a valedictorian at the graduation ceremony today. Write her a congratulatory e-mail and ask her about her future plans.
6. For many generations every man in your Australian friend's family has been a successful lawyer. They have a law firm. He does not want to study law but wants to be a teacher or engineer. His parents are very unhappy about that decision and want to force him to become a lawyer and work in their office. They say, they won't finance other studies but law. He wants to know your opinion before making the final decision.
7. There is a teacher in your school who is very biased against some students in your class. Unfortunately you aren't among her favorites. No matter how well you know the material, you never get a perfect grade. She often tells you off. Write to a newspaper column in which experts give advice to students and explain the situation. Ask for advice.
8. There is a lack of discipline in your class. Your parents told you that their teachers used to beat them when they did something wrong. They think that it was all right and there should be corporal punishment in schools. What do you think? What would be the best way to maintain discipline in the classroom? Write an article for the next issue of the school paper.
9. You read an article which explained that lifelong learning is a key issue in the European Union. The article quoted a survey about adult education. Write about the article to your Chinese friend and tell her your opinion. Why do you agree that lifelong education is essential? Mention some examples. Ask her if adult education is popular in China.
10. Write a blog entry about bilingual education. What are the benefits? Should everyone go to bilingual (English) schools in the EU?

GB: favourite
US: favorite

