

### 1. What makes a good school?

This week's lesson features students' opinions about what constitutes a good school.

#### Level

Intermediate and above (equivalent to CEF level B1 and above)

#### How to use the lesson

1. Brainstorm the idea of a good school – ask your students to list (and perhaps prioritise) the things an ideal school should have, and also the things it shouldn't have. You could broaden the activity to take in the education system as a whole.
2. Give your students five to ten minutes to read through Worksheet A, encouraging them to look up new vocabulary. You could ask them to check if any of their ideas are mentioned. Tell them they are going to answer a series of questions on the text, but that they shouldn't write anything down at this stage.
3. Divide the students into pairs and hand out Worksheet B. Ask them to work together to complete the different types of comprehension questions in Exercises 1, 2 and 3.
4. Check answers in open class.
5. Ask the students if they particularly agreed or disagreed with any of the opinions expressed on Worksheet A, and if so, why.
6. Hand out Worksheet C and ask the students to work together to complete the crossword.
7. Check answers in open class.

#### Answers:

##### Exercise 1

1. Hannah, Ryan 2. Paul, Amy, Ryan 3. Hannah, Ryan 4. Paul

##### Exercise 2

1. F 2. T 3. T 4. F 5. D 6. T 7. T 8. D

##### Exercise 3

1. Bullying.
2. Worrying about passing tests.
3. Reading (or learning to read), basic maths, and subjects that the pupils themselves are interested in.
4. Encouraging pupils to be creative and to think for themselves.
5. What she wants to do as a career.

##### Exercise 4

1. mess 2. facilities 3. subjects 4. healthy 5. exclude 6. mixed  
7. languages 8. system 9. discipline 10. strict 11. pressure

If the sentences have been completed correctly, *mathematics* will read from top to bottom.

## 2. Related Websites

Send your students to these websites, or just take a look yourself.

[http://news.bbc.co.uk/cbbcnews/hi/newsid\\_4070000/newsid\\_4076000/4076001.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/cbbcnews/hi/newsid_4070000/newsid_4076000/4076001.stm)

A BBC *Newsround* forum (2004) featuring the opinions of British teenagers and children in response to the question ‘What makes a good school?’ Accessible to intermediate level.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/education/4633601.stm>

A BBC article (2005) on Rudolf Steiner schools, a group of independent schools that have their own distinct educational philosophy. Challenging for intermediate level.

[http://news.bbc.co.uk/cbbcnews/hi/newsid\\_4500000/newsid\\_4506800/4506890.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/cbbcnews/hi/newsid_4500000/newsid_4506800/4506890.stm)

A BBC article (2006) on improvements to girls’ education in Afghanistan after the ousting of the Taliban regime in 2001. Challenging for intermediate level.

[http://news.bbc.co.uk/cbbcnews/hi/newsid\\_4580000/newsid\\_4587800/4587880.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/cbbcnews/hi/newsid_4580000/newsid_4587800/4587880.stm)

Another BBC *Newsround* forum (2006), this time asking young people ‘Do teachers tell you off too much?’