
What makes a good school?

WORKSHEET A

Hannah (15)

What makes a good school is a balance between discipline and fun. You don't want to learn if the lessons are boring and all you do is memorize facts – you only become interested in a subject if it is taught in an enjoyable way. My favorite teachers are the ones who encourage us to be creative and think for ourselves.

However, it's also really important that students respect the teachers and each other. No one can learn if there are people messing around all the time – teachers should be able to exclude troublemakers from classes.

Paul (13)

A good school would be one where you only have to study stuff you're interested in. What's the point of studying subjects you don't like and you know you are never going to use later in life, like foreign languages? I don't think there should be any compulsory subjects at all, except basic math and learning to read. I don't see the point of exams, either.

It's important to be healthy, though, so I think schools should have good sports facilities and also balanced school meals, not pizza and burgers all the time.

Amy (18)

Schools can only be as good as the educational system allows them to be. I think the problem is that we have too many tests, and worrying about passing a test can destroy your interest in a subject – I'm sure kids would want to learn more if there was less pressure on them.

We also don't give kids enough of a chance to see what specialized career subjects they might be interested in. I don't know what I want to major in in college because I've only studied general subjects. In some other countries, they teach things like architecture, sociology, and psychology after the age of 16.

Ryan (16)

I think a good school is one where the teachers know when to be strict but can also have fun with you sometimes.

I also think schools should crack down on bullying – no one should be afraid to go to school in the morning because of the risk of being bullied by other kids.

It's also important for different types of people to study together, like in most public schools. Some people say same-sex private schools get better exam results, but I think coed public schools are a better preparation for real life.

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WORKSHEET B

Exercise 1

Decide for which of the four young people (Hannah, Paul, Amy, Ryan) the following statements are true.

1. They mention teachers.
2. They mention tests or exams.
3. They mention some form of bad behavior by students.
4. They mention food.

Exercise 2

Decide whether the following statements are true (T) or false (F), or if the text doesn't determine (D).

1. Paul thinks foreign language classes should be compulsory.
2. Amy thinks there should be fewer tests in schools.
3. Hannah thinks teachers should be able to exclude some students from classes.
4. Ryan thinks teachers should be serious all the time.
5. Paul has to take lots of exams at his school.
6. Amy thinks students should be able to study more specialized subjects after the age of 16.
7. Hannah doesn't think students should have to memorize facts all the time.
8. Ryan does not believe same-sex private schools get better exam results.

Exercise 3

Answer the questions below.

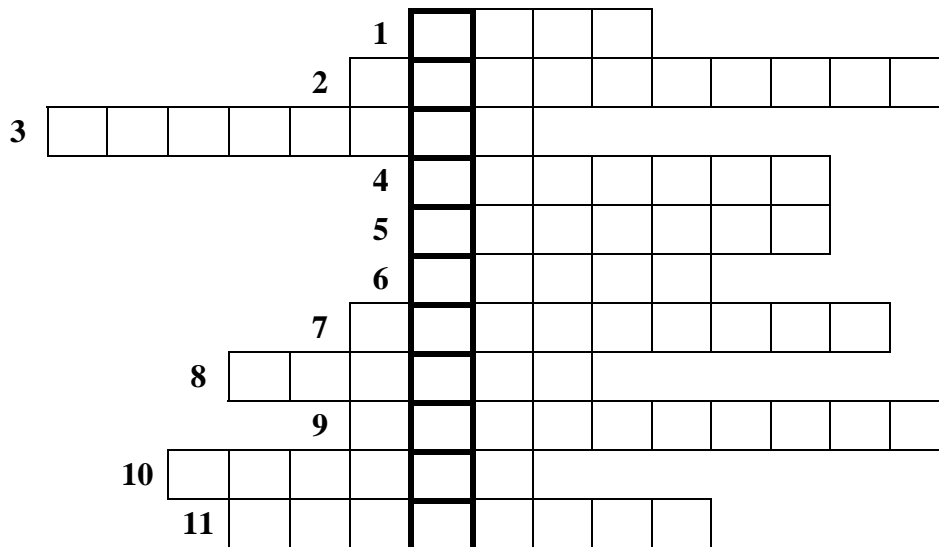
1. What does Ryan think it is very important for schools to try to prevent?
2. What does Amy think can make students less interested in a subject?
3. Paul mentions three subjects, or kinds of subjects, that students *would* study in his idea of a good school – what are they?
4. What does Hannah seem to mean by teaching “in an enjoyable way”?
5. What does Amy say she doesn't know?

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WORKSHEET C

Exercise 4

Complete the crossword below. If all the words are correct, the full name of one of the subjects that is compulsory in schools in the USA (and many other countries) will read from top to bottom.



1. Hannah says students who _____ around all the time stop others from learning.
2. Paul thinks it is important for schools to have good sports _____ .
3. Amy thinks the _____ students study after the age of 16 are too general.
4. Paul thinks that good sports facilities and eating balanced meals will make school students _____.
5. Hannah thinks teachers should _____ troublemakers from classes.
6. Amy says she doesn't know what to _____ in in college.
7. Paul doesn't seem very interested in foreign _____.
8. Amy says there are problems with the educational _____ in the USA.
9. Both Hannah and Ryan think _____ is important, but also that teachers should know how to make classes enjoyable.
10. Ryan believes that sometimes it is necessary for teachers to be _____.
11. Amy thinks there is too much _____ on students to pass tests.