

Read the following texts carefully, and then in your ANSWER BOOKLET answer all the questions that follow. Your answer should be based on the text.

The time we spend at school

A few years ago, as many as 1,000 schools across the USA started making school years longer by adding up to ten extra days-to the school year or by making each school day longer by half an hour.

This was because It was found that secondary school students In the USA and the UK were spending the least time at school, with an average school year of 187 days. The typical Jordanian school year is longer than this. However, none. of these are nearly as long as the school year in countries like Japan and South Korea. South Koreans attend school for 220 days per year, and in Japan, the school year numbers 243 days. .

According to a study by the organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), students in Japan, Indonesia and South Korea spend the most time studying in the world. **They** want to learn as much as they can to ensure excellent exam grades. They go to school for about nine hours, although this includes optional after-school tuition and activities. They also spend about three hours on homework every day ,which is three time as much as many other countries. Their high academic achievements do suggest that the longer you study, the better you do in final exams.

In Finland, however, students are usually given less than half an hour of homework per night, and **they** attend school for fewer and shorter days than 85% of other developed nations. Despite this, they achieve top marks In subjects like Maths and Science. In addition, most students also speak at least two, and often three, languages fluently. The contradictory views of the study suggest that the number and length of school days is not the only factor in determining whether students will succeed at school or not.

Question Number One

1. The article specifics some countries in which students spend the most time studying. Write down two of these countries.
2. There are two procedures implemented by some American schools to make school years longer. Write them down.
3. Quote the sentence which shows the subjects in which Finland's students achieve the highest marks.
4. Find a word in the text which means "speaking language very well , like a native speaker."
5. What does the underlined word "**they**" refer to?

6. The article states two interesting facts about Finland's fewer and shorter school days. Write them down.
7. Two countries in which secondary school students were spending the least time studying. Write down these two countries.
8. Quote the sentence which explains that it is not compulsory to do after-school activities in Japan and South Korea.
9. Find a word in the text which means "**teaching, especially in small groups.**"(3points)
10. What does the underlined word "**they**" refer to?
11. Optional after-school tuition and activities have their own positive impacts on students. Suggest three positive impacts on students to show how far do you agree with this statement.
12. Some researchers argue that the number and length of school days is not the only factor in determining whether students will succeed or not. Think of this statements and , in two sentences ,write down your point of view.

Space schools

Studio schools are pioneering schools which receive funding as well as support from private businesses, and **which** seek to encourage young people to undertake a less conventional form of secondary education. These schools often specialize in one specific area, whilst understanding that the same broad range of skills and qualifications should be made available to all young people. One such school has recently opened to educate fourteen- to eighteen-year olds who have a special interest in working in the space industry.

Students follow a tailor-made curriculum at the school, including subjects such as Astronomy and Astrophysics. Lessons are a mixture of small-class tutorials, with projects supervised by leading companies in both the space and technology industries. Prominent scientists and engineers are brought in as guest lecturers, with students aiming to achieve top grades in **their** Maths and Science exams.

When **they** leave school, they will be well-placed to take any number of different career paths. 'They don't have to become astronauts!' says a spokesperson for the school. 'Excellent grades in science and technology subjects can open many doors and lead to a variety of career opportunities.'

1. The article specifies two special subjects offered by space schools. Write them down.
2. The article states two groups of people involved in space schools. Write down these two groups of people.
3. Quote the sentence which indicates the age of students who can join the new school which specializes in space industry.
4. Find a word in the text which means "**a period of intensive teaching and discussion given by a tutor to an individual student or a small group of students**".
5. What does the underlined word "**their**" refer to?

6. The writer specifies two things that should be made available to all young people at Studio schools .Write down these two things..
7. Private business provides help to Studio schools in two ways. Write them down.
8. Quote the sentence which explains the purpose/aim of bringing prominent scientists and engineers to space schools .
9. Find a word in the text which means "**the study of the chemical structure of the stars and the forces that influence them.**".
10. What does the underlined word " **which** " refer to?
11. The article specifies two positive consequences of excellent grades in science and technology. Write them down.
12. The article states that prominent scientists and engineers are brought by studio schools to help students achieve top marks in two subjects. Write these two subjects down.
13. Quote the sentence which explains that studio schools offer special subjects made to fit exactly the students' needs. (**3 points**)
14. Find a word in the text which means "**a period of intensive teaching and discussion given by a tutor to an individual student or a small group of students**". (3points)
15. What does the underlined word " **they** " refer to?
16. It is claimed that students of space schools will have many benefits after leaving school. Suggest three possible advantages.
17. Excellent grades in science and technology subjects can open many doors and lead to a variety of career opportunities. Think of this statement and, in two sentences ,write down your point of view.
18. Private business should play a key role in supporting young people who study in academic and vocational schools in Jordan. Suggest three benefits of involving leading companies in the educational process.

After School

In England, almost 50% of school leavers go on to higher education. The figure has not always been as high as this. Twenty years ago, it was closer to 30%, and thirty years before that, it was only about 5%. Another huge change has been financial. Before 1998 CE, higher education in the UK was completely free for UK citizens. Since then, tuition fees have been introduced. Most students borrow this money from the government. They don't have to repay **it** immediately. Instead, they pay it back slowly out of future earnings.

Despite the high cost, most students choose to study away from home. A recent survey of 17,000 students revealed that only 7% wanted to stay at home while they studied for their degree. Of course for most young people, living away from home means borrowing even more money from the government. So why don't students choose to avoid debt by staying at home, where **they** don't have to pay rent? Most of them say that they want to move to the university of their choice, rather than the nearest one. Another strong motive is the desire to live in

a new culture. Where do these students live? Many have rooms in halls of residence, especially in their first year; others rent flats or houses. A lucky minority live in property that their parents have bought for them. Most of them need to learn to cook, do their own washing and manage their time and money.

Question Number One (22 points)

1. The writer states that British students who study away from home live in many different places. Write down two of these places.
2. Most British students choose to study away from home for two reasons/motives .Write down these two reasons
3. Quote the sentence which shows the percentage of British students who preferred to stay home rather than living away from it.
4. Find a word in the text which means " **relating to money**".
5. What does the underlined word "**they**" refer to?
6. Most students who live in their own houses or flats need to learn many things. Write down two of these things.
7. In England, two changes have taken place in higher education .Write them down.
8. Quote the sentence which explains how students are able to afford to leave home.
9. Find a word in the text which means " **accommodation provided by a university or college** ".
- 10.What does the underlined word "**it**" refer to?
- 11.Living away from home comes up with different kinds of struggles and obstacles. Write down three possible obstacles a person may face while living a way from home.
12. Many students choose to go on an exchange to study in another country for many reasons. Write down two of these possible reasons.

German-Jordanian University

Two summers ago, I spent five months studying Arabic at the German-Jordanian University near Madaba. As my father is originally from Jordan, I spent my childhood speaking Arabic as well as German. However, I had never studied Arabic formally, and when the opportunity came up for me to spend a year in Jordan studying Arabic, I did not hesitate for one moment.

I have relatives in Jordan and **they** arranged for me to stay with a wonderful family who live just outside Madaba. I was amazed by the number of international students there, who were not only from Germany, but from all over the world. Most of them had studied Arabic to a high level. I am very familiar with colloquial Arabic, which is what my family speaks and understands. The Arabic class, in Modern Standard Arabic, was challenging, especially the grammar. Every week, we had to learn a vocabulary list of around 50 words. We covered many topics. Living with a family helped to improve my Arabic-speaking skills because, while all the students heard Arabic in the classroom and streets, I could also practise it at home. I really put my back into it, and I earned an A on the course.

What impressed me most about students in Jordan was their behaviour and their attitude to studying. All the students who I met appreciated the importance of their university education and the opportunities it would give them to contribute to their country's prosperity. They also showed extremely positive values. Everybody was honest and people discussed problems rather than getting angry if they disagreed with each other.

As someone who enjoys delicious food, beautiful places and friendly, hospitable people, studying in Jordan was one of the best decisions I have made in my life. I made many new friends. I also improved my Arabic speaking, writing and reading skills. My dream is to be fluent in Arabic one day - and as I intend to return to Jordan as often as I can, I know I am going to make this dream a reality.

Question Number One (22 points)

1. The writer states that she was happy that she came and studied in Jordan. Write down two things she liked about Jordan.
2. The writer was so willing to go to Jordan and study Arabic because of many reasons. Write down two of these reasons.
3. Quote the sentence which shows the variety of Arabic that the writer and her family are familiar with.
4. Find an idiom in the text which means "**to put a lot of effort into something**".
5. What does the underlined word "**they**" refer to?
6. The writer states two varieties of Arabic language . Write them down.
7. There are many things that impressed Anita about her fellow students at the university. Write down two of these things.
8. Quote the sentence which shows the languages that the writer has spoken since she was a child.
9. Find a word in the text which means "**of language or words used mainly in informal conversations rather than in writing or formal speech**".
10. What does the underlined word "**they**" refer to?
11. The writer spent her childhood speaking two languages . Write them down.
12. There are two pieces of evidence which show that studying in Jordan was one of the best decisions the writer has made in her life .Write down these two pieces of evidence.
13. Quote the sentence which shows that the writer put a lot of effort into Arabic to learn it.
14. Find a phrase in the text which means "**grew up**".
15. What does the underlined word "**who**" refer to?
16. *Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever.* Think of this statement and, in two sentences ,write down your point of view.
17. Many international students choose to study in Jordan because of many reasons. Write down three of these possible reasons.

