HOMEWORK MAY 13

School in Kenya

Since 2003, Kenya has had free primary schools for all children from the age of 6 to 13. Now a lot more children go to school than before, but not all children. Some poorer families find it difficult to pay for school uniforms and textbooks. Children from the countryside often don't go to school, and more girls than boys stay at home.

However, a bigger problem happens at age 14, when almost 50% of children stop going to school. Now teachers hope to make learning more fun and more interesting by using tablets in the classrooms, to help children learn more quickly and so more children will want to keep coming to school.

BRCK, an African company, has invented a tablet that isn't expensive (only $99), is easy to use and can be charged wirelessly by putting it into a big box. Forty tablets can be charged in the box and then each tablet can be used for eight hours – perfect for a group of schoolchildren.

The tablet, called the Kio, was developed by a team of software developers, engineers and technologists. Kio is designed to work in the hot, dry, dusty conditions found in Kenyan schools. Surprisingly, it can be dropped from 70 centimetres, and it is water-resistant. The software is made especially for Kenyan schools and the content is made by four Kenyan companies and one international company. New content can be added from the micro cloud.

The Kio comes with headphones and students can watch videos and short animations and do quizzes on the tablet. Students are working well with the tablets. One headmaster, Peter Lalo Outa, of Amaf School in the capital Nairobi, said that the tablets helped the children improve their learning. The average marks in science, for example, went from 58 to 73 out of 100 in a single term.

BRCK hopes to have Kio tablets in classrooms for all the 410 million African schoolchildren under the age of 14 by 2020. This number is expected to increase to 800 million schoolchildren by 2050.

Read the article again. Are sentences 1–5 'Right' (A) or 'Wrong' (B) or 'Doesn't say' (C).

1 Parents have had to pay for their children to go to primary school since 2003.

A Right B Wrong C Doesn't say

2 Teachers would like to make school more interesting for children.

A Right B Wrong C Doesn't say

3 The Kio tablet was developed by an American company.

A Right B Wrong C Doesn't say

4 New content is provided by five global companies.

A Right B Wrong C Doesn't say

5 BRCK is making its tablets cheaper so that all schools can have them.

A Right B Wrong C Doesn't say

6 Students' results have got better since they started using tablets.

A Right B Wrong C Doesn't say

7 BRCK want to increase the number of tablets in classrooms.

A Right B Wrong C Doesn't say

Read the article again and answer the questions.

1 Who pays for textbooks and school uniforms for primary school students?
2 How is the Kio tablet charged?
3 Is it easy to learn to use a Kio tablet?
4 Will the Kio still work if it is dropped in water?
5 Where does the content on the Kio come from?

Read the article again and match the words in the box to the definitions (1–4).

1 You don't have to pay for it. (PARAGRAPH 1)
2 This is the opposite of 'cheap.' (PARAGRAPH 3)
3 A short film made from photos of drawings or models. (PARAGRAPH 5)
4 This can get wet without being damaged. (PARAGRAPH 4)