

# BEING AN OLDER STUDENT

Read the article and do the multiple choice

At 32, I have just finished my first year at university. As well as attending lectures regularly, I have had to learn to read books quickly and write long essays.

I decided to go to university after fourteen years away from the classroom. As a secretary, although I was earning a reasonable amount of money, I was bored doing something where I hardly had to think. I became more and more depressed by the idea that I was stuck in the job. I was jealous of the students at the local university, who looked happy, carefree and full of hope and part of something that I wanted to explore further.

However, now that I've actually become a student, I find it hard to mix with younger colleagues. They are always mistaking me for a lecturer and asking me questions I can't answer. I also feel separated from the lecturers because, although we are the same age, I know so much less than them. But I am glad of this opportunity to study because I know you need a qualification to get a reward job, which is really important to me. Unlike most eighteen-year-olds, I much prefer a weekend with my books to one out partying. Then there are the normal student benefits of long holidays and theater and cinema discounts. I often have doubts about what I'll do after university, but I hope that continuing my education at this late date has been a wise choice.

**1 What is the writer trying to do in the text?**

- A help lecturers understand older students
- B explain her reasons for returning to study
- C suggest some good methods for studying
- D complain about the attitude of young students

**2 What can a reader find out about the writer from this text?**

- A when she left school
- B how long her university course is
- C where she will work in future
- D what subject she is studying

**3 How did the writer feel about her job as a secretary?**

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- A Her salary wasn't good enough.
- B It gave her the opportunity to study.
- C It didn't make use of her brain.
- D Her colleagues made her depressed.

**4 In her spare time, the writer likes to**

- A go out to parties
- B earn some money
- C travel a lot
- D do extra study

**5 Which of these sentences describes the writer?**

- A She realizes the value of a university degree.
- B She gets on well with the other students.
- C She is confident about the future.
- D She finds university life easier than she expected.

