

Unit 7. FURTHER EDUCATION

C. READING

I. Choose the word or phrase among A, B, C or D that best fits the blank in the following passage.

British further education qualifications are respected by employers and (1) _____ worldwide. There are two main types: academic courses, and vocational and professional courses. Academic courses help you (2) _____ for higher education at a university or college. They aim to develop your analytical skills, critical thinking and knowledge. (3) _____ and professional courses give you the skills and qualification you need to enter and succeed in your chosen career. They offer technical (4) _____ and skills for the workplace.

British (5) _____ education providers invest heavily in facilities - from libraries, computer centres and science laboratories to sports centres, theatres and arts studios. Class sizes are (6) _____ to ensure that you have access to equipment and enough time to talk to your tutors and lectures.

British qualifications are a great boost to your CV and to your earnings. Employers are increasingly looking for (7) _____ with multicultural experience. Moreover, British colleges and universities have strong links with industry - many courses are designed in partnership with, and taught by, industry professional. Many include the option of a year in industry or a work placement, giving you real professional (8) _____.

English is widely regarded as the language of business. Studying in the UK helps you learn language quickly, through your studies, friends and everyday life. If you need any additional support, (9) _____ are lots of English language classes across the UK.

The UK is a truly multicultural society, with a wonderful mix of people from many different backgrounds. As a student, you'll get to know people from all over the world and be inspired by many cultures. Many colleges have international offices and advisers to ensure you feel welcome and are supported (10) _____ your time in British further education.

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|------------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------|
| 1. A. academics | B. academy | C. academical | D. academically |
| 2. A. get | B. prepare | C. make | D. support |
| 3. A. Occasional | B. Vocational | C. Optional | D. Various |
| 4. A. growing | B. changing | C. adding | D. training |
| 5. A. further | B. each | C. both | D. every |
| 6. A. bored | B. restricted | C. expensive | D. attracted |
| 7. A. joins | B. enters | C. arrives | D. graduates |
| 8. A. experiment | B. factor | C. experience | D. problem |
| 9. A. there | B. that | C. which | D. they |
| 10. A. in | B. over | C. throughout | D. cross |

II. Read the passage and choose the best answer.

It's called 42 - the name taken from the answer to the meaning of life, from the science fiction series The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy. 42 was founded by French technology billionaire Xavier Niel, whose backing means there are no tuition fees and accommodation is free. Mr Niel and his co-founders come from the world of technology and start-ups, and they are trying to do to education what Facebook did to communication and Airbus to accommodation. Students at 42 are given a choice of projects that they might be set in a job as a software engineer - perhaps **to design a website or a computer game**. They complete a project using resources freely available on the Internet and by seeking help from their fellow students, who work alongside **them** in a large open-plan room full of computers. Another student will then be randomly assigned to mark their work.

The founders claim this method of learning makes up for shortcomings in the traditional education system, which they say encourages students to be passive recipients of knowledge. "Peer-to-peer learning develops students with the confidence to search for solutions by themselves, often in quite creative and ingenious ways."

Like in computer games, the students are asked to design and they go up a level by completing a project. They graduate when they reach level 21, which usually takes three to five years. And at the end, there is a certificate but no formal degree. Recent graduates are now working at companies including IBM, Amazon, and Tesla, as well as starting their own firms.

"The feedback we have had from employers is that our graduates are more apt to go off and find out information for themselves, rather than asking their supervisors what to do next," says Brittany Bir, chief operating officer of 42 in California and a graduate of its sister school in Paris. Ms Bir says 42's graduates will be better able to work with others and discuss and defend their ideas - an important skill in the "real world" of work. "This is particularly important in computer programming, where individuals are **notorious** for lacking certain human skills," she says. But could 42's model of teacherless learning work in mainstream universities? Brittany Bir admits 42's methods do not suit all students. "It suits individuals who are very disciplined and self-motivated, and who are not scared by having the freedom to work at their own pace," she says.

Question 1: According to the passage, 42 is ____.

- A. a kind of school
- B. a type of accommodation
- C. an innovation in technology
- D. a tool of virtual communication

Question 2: The word "**them**" in paragraph 2 refers to ____.

- A. students at 42
- B. projects
- C. resources
- D. software engineers

Question 3: The author mentions "**to design a website or a computer game**" in paragraph 2 to illustrate ____.

- A. a job that a French software engineer always does
- B. a choice of assignment that students at 42 have to complete
- C. a free resource available on the Internet
- D. a help that students at 42 get for their work

Question 4: What do 42's graduates receive on completion of their course?

- A. a certificate
- B. a degree
- C. a project
- D. a design

Question 5: Which of the following is TRUE according to the passage?

- A. The founders of 42 share the idea of providing free service on Facebook.
- B. It normally takes 42's students at least five years to complete their course.
- C. The students of 42 are required to play computer games during their course.
- D. 42's peer-to-peer approach promotes active learning and working.

Question 6: According to Ms Bir, 42's graduates will be able to improve ____.

- A. the skills of giving feedback
- B. the skills of searching for information
- C. the skills of teamwork and debating
- D. the skills of software programming

Question 7: The word "**notorious**" in paragraph 5 can be best replaced by ____.

- A. respectable
- B. incompetent
- C. infamous
- D. memorable

Question 8: It can be inferred from the passage that ____.

- A. 42 is a good choice for people of all ages and nationalities
- B. all 42's graduates are employed by world leading technology companies
- C. 42's students have to handle the task assigned without any assistance
- D. 42 adopts project-based and problem-solving learning methods

EXTRA PRACTICE

B. Reading

I. Read the following text about the Australian education system and fill each gap with a word from the box.

secondary
further

private
practical

flexible
social

Australia's school education is 13 years, including primary school, (1) _____ school, and senior secondary school.

Primary school: 7-8 years from Kindergarten to Year 6 or 7

Secondary school: 3-4 years, Years 7 to 10 or 8 to 10

Senior secondary school: 2 years, Years 11 and 12

After completing senior secondary school, students can choose to pursue (2) _____ education which is generally divided into higher education and vocational education and training.

Higher education courses are mainly offered by 43 universities in Australia - 40 public universities, two international universities, and one (3) _____ university. Most of them rank highly for quality of education and student satisfaction. Among these are 15 universities ranked in the top 100 in the latest Times Higher Education ranking results (2014).

There are three main types of higher education, which provides students with bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees in a wide range of courses in both natural and (4) _____ sciences. Higher education qualifications include:

Most of the programmes are (5) _____, allowing students to enrol in a double degree programme, and obtain two bachelor's degrees. Vocational courses which lead to Australian Vocational Education and Training (VET) qualifications offer opportunities for (6) _____ work to students who prefer to focus on finding a job. These courses are taught by experienced teaching staff and experts to ensure all students are prepared for the workforce.

II. Based on the information in the text, complete the following sentences with no more than five words.

1. In Australia, school education is divided into three levels: _____.
2. In further education, students can pursue _____.
3. Australian universities can be categorised as _____.
4. Students can _____ when they successfully complete double degree courses.
5. Students in vocational education are often taught and trained _____ in the field.

III. Based on the information in the text, decide whether the following statements are true (T), false (F), or not given (NG).

1. Primary school is 7 years starting from Grade 1 for six-year- old children.
2. Secondary school leavers can only pursue higher education after completing a vocational programme.
3. There are 43 Australian universities on the top 100 list of international private universities.
4. Students must have a Graduate Certificate to qualify for a bachelor's degree programme.
5. Students with master's degrees have to study three years or more to get a doctoral degree.
6. Young people with VET qualifications find jobs immediately after graduation.