Hands up for Saturday school!

When I visited the New City Academy one Saturday, I didn't expect to meet many students. I got a big surprise! Saturday school started as a punishment, but not on the day that I visited, only seven students were wearing school uniform, a sign that they were in detention. All the other students were at school on Saturday because they wanted to be there.

Everywhere I looked, people were working hard, but not many activities had to do with the school curriculum. A rock'n'roll band was practicing in the canteen. The band started coming to Saturday school two years ago. 'We wanted somewhere to practice. 'Rock'n'roll is noisy, but at school, it doesn't matter', they told me.

In the gym, a group of teenagers were preparing to take part in team games, and in the library another group were talking of life skill lessons. About fifteen students were talking watching X-Men 3 in the computer room, while another thirty or so were working in the school garden.

Tony, 13, doesn't have a computer at home. 'I came to school one Saturday because I wanted to use the computer to do some revision. Then I did a bit of gardening. Now I come every week,' he told me.

Head teacher Alan Mason made sure that Saturday school was fun for the students, but how did he persuade teachers, who earned nothing for their morning's job, to join in?

'All the teachers who came found it very satisfying,' explained Mr. Mason 'They had more time to deal with problems and they made contact with students in a different way.'

- Ed Jones

Read the text again and choose the best answer.

1. Why did most students go on Saturday at school?

A) Because the wanted to go
B) As a punishment
C) To do extra schoolwork
D) Because Saturday school was compulsory for everyone

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2. What were the Saturday school activities like?

A) They were outdoor activities

B) They were different from regular school subjects

C) They were very noisy

D) They were all social activities

3. Why did teachers attend Saturday school?

A) They were paid extra to work on Saturday

B) The head teacher insisted they attend

C) They needed to punish the students

D) They enjoyed working in a different way

4. Why was Saturday school so popular?

A) Teachers enjoy talking to their students

B) Lots of students go to school on Saturday

C) Students can do lots of interesting activities

D) It's fun to do homework at school

5. How many students were attending Saturday school when the writer visited?

A) Seven B) Between forty and fifty C) More than sixty

6. How many different activities did he see?

A) Three B) Five C) more than ten

7. How many different places in the school did he visit?

A) Five B) Two C) Four

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