

HOMEWORK

Exercise 1

You should spend about 20 minutes on Questions 14 - 26 which are based on Reading Passage below.

PRIVATE SCHOOLS

Most countries' education systems have had what you might call educational disasters, but, sadly, in many areas of certain countries these disasters are still evident today. The English education system is unique due to the fact that there are still dozens of schools which are known as private schools and they perpetuate privilege and social division. Most countries have some private schools for the children of the wealthy; England is able to more than triple the average number globally. England has around 3,000 private schools and just under half a million children are educated at them whilst some nine million children are educated at state schools. The over-whelming majority of students at private schools also come from middle-class families.

The result of this system is evident and it has much English history embedded within it. The facts seem to speak for themselves. In the private system, almost half the students go on to University, whilst in the state system; only about eight per cent make it to further education. However, statistics such as these can be deceptive due to the fact that middle-class children do better at examinations than working class ones and most of them stay on at school after 16. Private schools, therefore, have the advantage over state schools as they are entirely 'middle class', and this creates an environment of success where students work harder and apply themselves more diligently to their school work.

Private schools are extortionately expensive, being as much as £18,000 a year at somewhere such as Harrow or Eton, where Princes William and Harry attended, and at least £8,000 a year almost everywhere else. There are many parents who are not wealthy or even comfortably off but are willing to sacrifice a great deal in the cause of their children's

schooling. It baffles many people as to why they need to spend such vast amounts when there are perfectly acceptable state schools that don't cost a penny. One father gave his reasoning for sending his son to a private school, 'If my son gets a five-percent-better chance of going to University then that may be the difference between success and failure.' It would seem to the average person that a £50,000 minimum total cost of second level education is a lot to pay for a five-percent-better chance. Most children, given the choice, would take the money and spend it on more enjoyable things rather than shelling it out on a school that is too posh for its own good

However, some say that the real reason that parents fork out the cash is prejudice: they don't want their little kids mixing with the "workers", or picking up an undesirable accent. In addition to this, it wouldn't do if at the next dinner party all the guests were boasting about sending their kids to the same place where the son of the third cousin of Prince Charles is going, and you say your kid is going to the state school down the road, even if you could pocket the money for yourself instead, and, as a result, be able to serve the best Champagne with the smoked salmon and duck.

It is a fact, however, that at many of the best private schools, your money buys you something. One school, with 500 pupils, has 11 science laboratories; another school with 800 pupils, has 30 music practice rooms; another has 16 squash courts, and yet another has its own beach. Private schools spend £300 per pupil a year on investment in buildings and facilities; the state system spends less than £50. On books, the ratio is 3 to 1.

One of the things that your money buys which is difficult to quantify is the appearance of the school, the way it looks. Most private schools that you will find are set in beautiful, well-kept country houses, with extensive grounds and gardens. In comparison with the state schools, they tend to look like castles, with the worst of the state schools looking like public lavatories, perhaps even tiled or covered in graffiti. Many may even have an architectural design that is just about on the level of an industrial shed.

Question 14 – 20

Choose the correct letter A, B, C or D. Write the correct answer (A, B, C or D) in boxes 14-20 on your answer sheet.

- 14** The English educational system differs from the other ones because
- A** it tries to make state and private equal.
 - B** more students are educated at private schools than state schools
 - C** it contributes to creating a class system within society.
 - D** it is more expensive to run
- 15** There are more private school children who go to university because
- A** the lessons and teachers at the private schools are much better.
 - B** their parents often send their children to private schools
 - C** they have more teaching hours
 - D** the school create a successful environment.
- 16** A lot of parents often send their children to private schools
- A** because they are not well-informed.
 - B** to show how much money they have to their friends
 - C** to increase their chances of succeeding in the university exams.
 - D** because of the better sports facilities.
- 17** It is suggested that some parents of children at private schools are
- A** prejudiced and superficial.
 - B** more intelligent than those with children at state schools.
 - C** well-brought-up and cultivated.
 - D** overly protective.
- 18** Private schools
- A** always have their own beaches.
 - B** teach sports that state schools do not.
 - C** spend more money per student than state schools.
 - D** spend more money on hiring good teachers.
- 19** The writer thinks that private-school buildings
- A** are very attractive and luxurious.
 - B** generally do not look very nice.

C are too big for the number of students who attend the school.

D are not built to suit student's needs.

20 In general, what do you think the writer's opinion of private schools is?

A It isn't fair that those without money can't attend them.

B They divide social classes but they offer better facilities and a more creative environment.

C There is little difference between private and state schools.

D They have the best teachers.

Questions 21 – 26

Complete the sentences below. Write the correct answer in boxes 21-26 on your answer sheet. Choose **ONE WORD ONLY** from the passage for each answer.

The fact that there are so many private schools in England, in comparison to other countries, makes the English educational system 21 _____. Most students in these schools are from 22 _____ families. These students seem to do better at exams although statistics can be 23 _____. One of the advantages of private schools is that they seem to provide students with a better, more positive environment that encourages them to 24 _____ themselves to their school work with more enthusiasm. A lot of not very well-off parents make huge sacrifices for their children's 25 _____ to help them go to respectable universities. Unfortunately, many state school buildings sometimes have the appearance of an industrial 26 _____.

► Exercise 2

You should spend about 20 minutes on Questions 1–13, which are based on Reading Passage below.

EXTRACTION AND PURIFICATION OF DRINKING WATER

Some consumers choose to purchase bottled drinking water, rather than relying on city tap water supplies. Bottled water has typically been extracted from underground sources. If water exists under-ground, but has no natural exit points, bottling companies may construct a water table well by drilling down to extract water from an unconfined aquifer. This is done when the Earth's natural water level – known as a water table – is much lower than the Earth's surface. In some cases, as with a valley or gully on a mountain, the level of the water table may be higher than the Earth's surface, and a natural spring can emerge. Bottling companies are permitted to extract this water from a hole drilled into the underground spring, but the composition of the water must be identical to that of the naturally surfacing variety nearby.

Artesian water is drawn from a confined aquifer, a deep underground cavity of porous rock that holds water and bears pressure from a confining layer above it. This water can be accessed if companies drill a vertical channel down into the confined aquifer. Due to the pressurized nature of this aquifer, water will often rise up from within it and form a flowing artesian well, which appears as an explosive fountain at the earth's surface. However, this only occurs when the surface is lower than the natural water table. If the surface is not lower than the natural water table, it is still possible to draw artesian water by using an extraction pump.

Some bottled water is advertised as 'purified', which means it has been subjected to a variety of different cleansing processes. A common filtering procedure, known as reverse osmosis, involves the water being pressed through microscopic membranes that prevent larger contaminants from passing through. The microscopic size of these holes is such that they can even obstruct germs, but they are most effective against undesirable materials such as salt, nitrates and lime scale. One disadvantage of reverse osmosis is that a lot of unusable water is generated as a by-product of the procedure; this must be thrown away.

For treating pathogens, an impressive newer option is ultraviolet (UV) light. Powerful UV light has natural antibacterial qualities, so this process simply requires water to be subjected to a sufficient strength of UV light as it passes through a treatment chamber. The light neutralises many harmful germs by removing their DNA, thereby impeding their ability to replicate. A particularly impressive quality of UV light is its ability to neutralise highly resistant viral agents such as hepatitis.

The overall effects of UV light treatment are variable, however, which leaves many municipal water treatment processes relying on chlorination. Its powerful and comprehensive antimicrobial effect notwithstanding, chlorination is also extremely inexpensive and remains the only antimicrobial treatment capable of ensuring water remains contaminant-free all the way through the pipes and to the taps of domestic homes. Many members of the public remain suspicious of water that has been treated with such a harsh chemical. Its ease of use and affordability has meant that chlorine often plays an important role in making tainted water supplies safe for consumption immediately after natural disasters have occurred.

Some water also undergoes distillation. This involves water being boiled until it converts to steam, which then passes through a cooling tube and becomes water again. Toxic compounds and impurities such as heavy metal residue are left behind in this process, so the steamed water is typically cleaner than the pre-distilled version. Unfortunately, distillation equipment also removes up to fourteen types of beneficial minerals that naturally occur in water. Consequently, those who rely on distilled water may need to take mineral supplements.

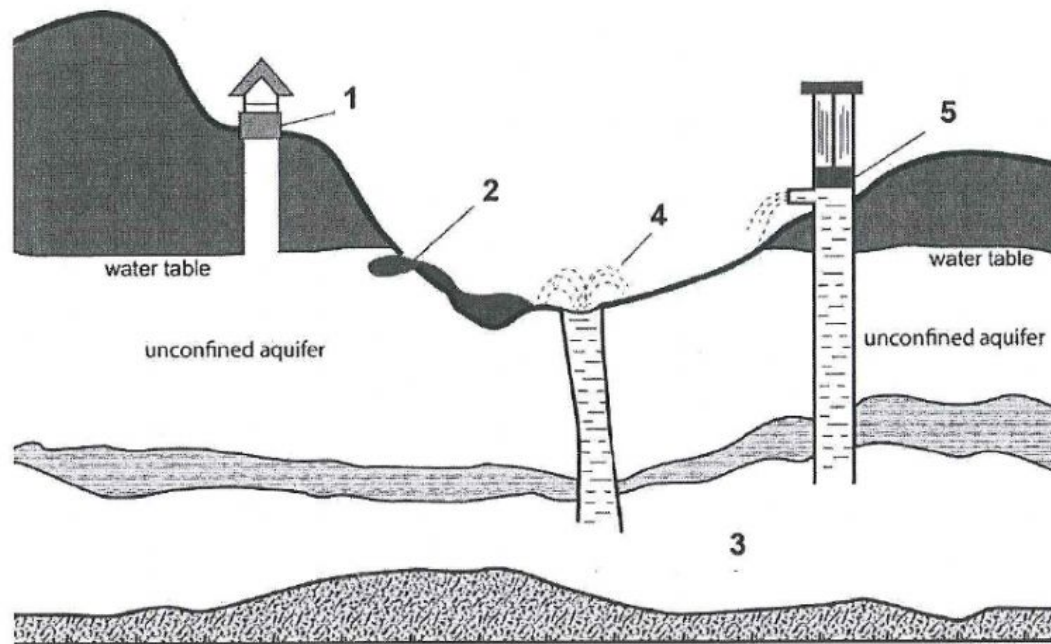
In developed countries, all forms of drinking water are typically subject to stringent quality control processes, so there is little evidence to suggest importing bottled water at significant expense will be safer or healthier than regular tap water from a municipal drinking supply. Both tap water and bottled water are tested for pathogens and contaminants and, aside from isolated cases related to issues such as faulty plumbing or old pipes, tap water are harmless. Nevertheless, many purchasers of bottled water still justify their choice on the quite reasonable basis that tap water has a distinctly unpleasant aftertaste related to the chlorination process it has undergone.

Questions 1–5

Label the diagram below.

Choose **NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS** from the passage for each answer.

Write your answers in boxes 1–5 on your answer sheet.



- 1 _____ (provides access to trapped water)
- 2 _____ (due to the lower land level)
- 3 _____
- 4 flowing artesian well (looks like _____)
- 5 _____ is necessary to access this water source

Questions 6–11

Classify the following statements as referring to

- A reverse osmosis
- B UV light treatment
- C chlorination
- D distillation

Write the correct letter, **A, B, C** or **D**, in boxes **6–11** on your answer sheet

NB You may use any letter more than once.

- 6** It continues to protect water as it is being transported.
- 7** It is particularly useful during emergencies.
- 8** It uses a physical barrier to separate unwanted matter from water.
- 9** It prevents bacteria from reproducing.
- 10** It removes all mineral particles.
- 11** It produces a lot of waste water.

Questions 12 and 13

Choose **TWO** letters, **A–E**.

Write the correct letters in boxes 12 and 13 on your answer sheet. Which **TWO** of the following claims about water are made by the writer?

- A Bottled water is overpriced.
- B Tap water may not have a nice flavor.
- C Most people should drink bottled water.
- D Tap water is usually safe to drink.
- E Public water supplies need better maintenance.