Learning at home

Multiple-choice

1 Work in pairs. Describe the pictures (1–3) and discuss the questions.

1. Which classroom situation is closest to your own school experience?
2. Which one do you think is the best environment for learning? Why?

EXAM STRATEGY

- У цьому завданні потрібно прочитати текст та вибрати з чотирьох варіантів одну правильну відповідь.
- Прочитайте текст та запитання, що наведені в екзаменаційному завданні. Прикрийте варіанти A–D і спробуйте відповісти на запитання своїми словами.
- Потім порівняйте варіанти відповідей зі своїми міркуваннями та виберіть правильні відповіді.

2 Read the exam strategy and the text about home-schooling in exercise 4. Answer the questions (1–2).

1 Who is Erin Morgan?
2 What was Erin worried about?

3 Read the options (A–D) for the questions (1–2) from exercise 2. Choose the correct answers. Are they similar to your ideas from exercise 2?

1 A A parent who is planning to do home-schooling.
B An expert on home-schooling.
C A parent who is teaching her children at home.
D An adult who was home-schooled.

2 A Her children would not make friends.
B Her children wouldn't learn enough.
C She couldn't teach them music.
D Her children would be bored.

Have you ever thought about leaving school and learning at home? Thousands of young people do exactly that. It's called 'home-schooling' or 'home education'. So why do parents make the decision to do this? Some parents take their children out of school due to bullying or other serious problems, but there is a growing number of British parents who choose to home-educate their children from the start.

We spoke to Erin Morgan, who chose home-schooling for her children. 'We took our children out of school when my son Joseph was six and daughter Lily was eight. There were no problems with teachers and neither of the children was being bullied – in fact they were quite popular – but they were simply bored. With large class sizes, little money and other problems, it's difficult for teachers to give some children the individual attention they need.'

'When we started home-schooling, I was worried the children wouldn't fit in socially, so they have a few organized activities a week. Joseph is learning the trumpet and plays in a band. Lily goes to ballet classes and they both have swimming lessons. **This** means they learn skills and enjoy the company of other children at the same time. In addition, I belong to a home-schooling network so we often get together for trips with other home-schoolers.'

'We don't have a set timetable, but negotiate what we're going to do every day. Morning activities include using the computer, writing, spelling, reading, maths and science. After lunch, we generally choose something more creative like art, sewing or gardening. I have to admit that some activities are more popular than others, but in my view, it's important to get through every subject in order to get a good general education.'

'People ask what happens when home-schoolers get to secondary school age. I have friends with teenage children and most of them have decided to follow a syllabus and take GCSE exams. This has meant a more organized day, but the young people still take a great deal of responsibility for their own learning. One boy I know is planning to stop home-schooling when he is 16, do a part-time college course and then go on to university.'

'Whatever the age of your children, home-schooling is a challenge, but in my opinion the worst thing to do is to turn the home into a formal school. Learning should be fun, and children and young people need to feel happy in order to achieve.'

4 EXAM TASK Read the text. For questions (1–5) choose the correct answer (A, B, C or D).

1 The writer says that home-schooling in Britain …
A is a serious problem.
B only happens when children are unhappy at school.
C must start at a very young age.
D is becoming more common.

2 Which of the following is **not** a reason why Erin decided to home-school her children?
A The classes had too many students.
B Her children didn't get on with other students.
C The teachers couldn't give the students enough attention.
D Her children were not interested in the material.

3 What does the word '*This*' in paragraph 3 refer to?
A Lily's swimming lessons.
B Joseph's music classes.
C Lily and Joseph's after-school activities.
D The parents' meetings with other home-schoolers.

4 According to Erin, Lily and Joseph …
A especially enjoy the creative activities.
B can decide what activities to do each day.
C will not take GCSE exams.
D will go to a regular school when they're 16.

5 Why did the author write the article?
A To convince parents to do home-schooling.
B To warn parents about the problems with home-schooling.
C To describe home-schooling and the reasons for choosing it.
D To point out the need for improvements to local schools.

5 Work in pairs. Discuss the questions.

1. What are the advantages and disadvantages of home-schooling?
2. What subject(s) could you learn more easily with individual teaching? What subject(s) would be difficult to teach at home? Why?

Words in context

6 Find the highlighted words in the article. Match the words with their definitions (1–6).

1 organized in a strict manner _____
2 written outline of what needs to be studied _____
3 designed for a specific person or done with one person only _____
4 become an accepted part of a group _____
5 schedule which gives times for doing things _____
6 using cruelty to frighten someone who is weaker _____

7 Complete the sentences (1–6) with words from exercise 6.

1 Jack experienced some _____ at primary school because he was so much shorter than the other students.
2 We don't offer _____ art classes. People just get together to paint and discuss their work.
3 Susan was much better at French than the other students, so the school arranged _____ lessons for her.
4 After being home-schooled for six years, it took Celia a while to _____ at the local secondary school.
5 The _____ for this class requires students to read eight novels and write four papers.
6 A predictable _____, with set times for doing various activities, makes young children feel relaxed and secure.

8 Choose the correct words to complete the sentences (1–7).

1 The best lesson you can ***teach/learn*** your students is how to find their own information.
2 If you want to be good at an extreme sport, you need a lot of ***practice/practise***.
3 Would you ***borrow/lend*** me your e-reader so I can read a new book?
4 Be careful what you say – he is very ***sensible/sensitive*** to criticism.
5 You shouldn't ***lend/borrow*** more money than you can easily pay back.
6 The best thing I ***learned/taught*** from that class was that I really can understand maths.
7 Sharing your flat with someone is a very ***sensible/sensitive*** decision if you need to save money.

9 Work in pairs. Discuss the questions.

1. Is there a skill you could teach? Is there a skill you'd like to learn when you're older? Why?
2. How much time do you spend practising English outside school?

LIVEWORKSHEETS