

## Unit 7. Education options for school-leavers

### VOCABULARY

#### I. Complete the sentences with the correct forms of the words in brackets.

1. More and more school-leavers are interested in specific trades, so they plan to go to (vocation) \_\_\_\_\_ schools.
2. Certain jobs require (high) \_\_\_\_\_ education at colleges or universities.
3. After his (graduate) \_\_\_\_\_, my father started working for an NGO.
4. If you want to become a (profession) \_\_\_\_\_ cook, please apply for our cooking course.
5. My sister has spent months studying for her (enter) \_\_\_\_\_ exam into a famous university.
6. At present, our restaurant needs ten (apprentice) \_\_\_\_\_ now, so if you are interested, let us know immediately.
7. During her college years, my mother (manage) \_\_\_\_\_ to study and do two part-time jobs at the same time.

#### II. Complete the sentences with the correct forms of the words/phrases in the box.

|                      |                |                    |               |
|----------------------|----------------|--------------------|---------------|
| brochure             | education fair | academic education |               |
| vocational education | qualification  | institution        | school-leaver |

1. You don't really need \_\_\_\_\_ or qualifications in order to work as a shop assistant. You will just need on-the-job training.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ is getting more and more popular these days because it is cheaper than higher education.
3. Many universities often organise \_\_\_\_\_ to help school students with their career orientation.
4. A lot of \_\_\_\_\_ still don't know what they want for their future careers.
5. Certain jobs require applicants a lot of \_\_\_\_\_ in order to be selected.
6. Here are \_\_\_\_\_ that provide information about our courses. Please take one.
7. These educational \_\_\_\_\_ provide more options for school-leavers.

#### III. Mark the letter A, B, C, or D to indicate the word(s) CLOSEST in meaning to the underlined word(s) in each of the following questions.

1. Our university has a **fair** selection procedure to all school-leavers to ensure that education opportunities are for all.  
A. equal                      B. flexible                      C. checked                      D. limited
2. Many universities are under pressure to **trade off** short-term benefits against long-term goals.  
A. exchange                      B. buy                      C. sell                      D. balance

#### IV. Mark the letter A, B, C, or D to indicate the word(s) OPPOSITE in meaning to the underlined word(s) in each of the following questions.

1. In our country, **formal** education is compulsory until students finish their lower-secondary school.  
A. received in a school                      B. institutional  
C. receive through practical training                      D. local
2. An order came down from **on high** that school uniforms were to be compulsory on every weekday.  
A. tall people                      B. unimportant people



A B C D

4. My father didn't remember having asking my friends so many personal questions.

A B C D

5. My aunt regretted not having choose to study at a vocational school as suggested by her teacher.

A B C D

## SKILLS

### READING

**I. Read the following passage and mark the letter A, B, C, or D to choose the word or phrase that best fits each of the numbered blanks.**

Vocational Education and Training (VET) (1) \_\_\_\_\_ people with the workplace skills and technical knowledge they need to meet current and future (2) \_\_\_\_\_ demands. Put simply, VET is skill-based education and training.

VET is the education option that offers a(n) (3) \_\_\_\_\_ alternative to university through standalone qualifications. It also gives you apprenticeships and traineeships that let you learn in the workplace while in paid employment.

There are VET courses for all occupations reporting a shortage of labour. In today's competitive job (4) \_\_\_\_\_, it's important for you to have the right technical skills and qualifications. A practical approach to (5) \_\_\_\_\_ prepares you for the real world.

*(Adapted from education.nsw.gov.au)*

- |                   |                  |              |                  |
|-------------------|------------------|--------------|------------------|
| 1. A. provides    | B. asks          | C. increases | D. realises      |
| 2. A. opportunity | B. employment    | C. advantage | D. knowledge     |
| 3. A. educational | B. challenging   | C. practical | D. difficult     |
| 4. A. supermarket | B. shop          | C. store     | D. market        |
| 5. A. education   | B. participation | C. school    | D. qualification |

**II. Read the text and decide whether the following statements are true (T) or false (F).**

#### Language and cultural barriers facing international students

International students face a lot of academic concerns as well as cultural and language barriers, especially during their first few months. Academics, in particular, is bound to suffer unless students are comfortable with the language and cultural context. Foreign students who are not proficient in English are usually offered assistance through additional language courses, but often the structure of these lessons is not designed to deal with the academic requirements.

In a survey of international students in the U.K., 50% experienced difficulty in meeting the required standard of English to follow their courses. Meanwhile, 43% said their overall education and grades were affected by language barriers and 30% of students had to switch from their main courses to English language courses. Cultural barriers also made a negative impact on students' abilities to develop academics and language. The same survey reported that 17% of students said cultural differences did not affect their education compared to 40% who said they were very much affected by the difference (Bukhari, 2015).

*(Source: <https://research.com/education/studying-abroad>)*

1. Language barrier is the only problem facing international students. \_\_\_\_\_
2. The provided language courses help students deal with the academic requirements. \_\_\_\_\_
3. Half of international students in a survey struggled to meet the required standard of English. \_\_\_\_\_
4. Nearly forty percent of surveyed students' overall education and grades were affected by language barriers. \_\_\_\_\_
5. Students' abilities to develop academics and language were negatively influenced by cultural barriers. \_\_\_\_\_

**III. Read the following passage and mark the letter A, B, or C to indicate the correct answer to each of the questions.**

The job market is extremely competitive and skilled employees are high in demand. In fact, degrees are required for a wide range of careers such as Medicine and Education. A university education will help young people succeed in today's workforce and establish an enjoyable career of their choice.

University education helps you improve prospects for life. University graduates gain professional qualifications that are recognised and respected worldwide. Besides, they are offered higher pay and greater financial stability. In addition, they are also given the option to fast-track their career with graduate study.

University education also helps students learn and discover. **It** exposes students to new research and technology. Studying at university encourages creative and independent thought as well. And university life exposes students to other cultures and backgrounds through training activities, such as student exchange programmes.

Studying at university, students **conquer** intellectual challenges and develop a sense of achievement. University builds initiative and leadership skills that can be used for life. That is why university education has always been in many school-leavers' plan after school.

(Source: adapted from <https://www.monash.edu/study/>)

1. This passage is mainly about \_\_\_\_\_ .
  - A. The benefits of university education
  - B. The challenges facing the job market
  - C. The expensive cost of university education
2. Why are *Medicine and Education* used in Paragraph 1?
  - A. To show that the job market is very competitive
  - B. To give examples of the careers that require a university degree
  - C. To give examples of successful careers in our competitive job market
3. Why is *Besides* used in paragraph 2?
  - A. To compare with the previous point
  - B. To give an additional example
  - C. To provide another point
4. The word **It** in paragraph 3 refers to \_\_\_\_\_ .

- A. university education
- B. research and technology
- C. independent thought

5. The word **conquer** in paragraph 4 is closest in meaning to \_\_\_\_\_ .
- A. want to achieve
  - B. succeed in dealing with
  - C. avoid talking about

**SPEAKING**

**IV. Mark the letter A, B, C, or D to indicate the option that best completes each of the following exchanges.**

1. Tom: Mrs Hoa, \_\_\_\_\_ tomorrow morning? I would like your advice on my options after leaving school.  
Mrs Hoa: Sorry, I have classes tomorrow morning. But I'm free in the afternoon.
- A. could I meet you
  - B. will I meet you
  - C. do I meet you
  - D. do you want to meet me
2. Mr Kien: I'm sorry, I can't meet you this Saturday, Lan. Another time, perhaps?  
Lan: Would this Sunday \_\_\_\_\_, Mr Kien?
- A. work well
  - B. suit you
  - C. do good
  - D. have time

**V. Complete the dialogue, using the phrases from the box.**

- A. I'll see you this Sunday at around 2 p.m.
- B. When's convenient for you?
- C. I'm afraid I can't make it at that time.

- Mark: Mr Quang, I'd like to make an appointment with you about our group project. (1) \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr Quang : I'm quite busy this week. Are you free on Saturday morning?  
Mark: (2) \_\_\_\_\_ Would Sunday afternoon be OK for you?  
Mr Quang : Sounds good. (3) \_\_\_\_\_

**WRITING**

**VI. Choose the sentence that has the closest meaning to the given sentence.**

1. Having visited the education fair helped me know more education options for school-leavers.
- A. I know more education options because I have visited the education fair.
  - B. I know more education options before I visited the education job fair.
  - C. Before visiting the education fair, I have visited many other job fairs.
  - D. Although I have visited the education fair, I already know more about education options.
2. My father was proud of having studied at a top university in Viet Nam.
- A. My father took no pride in having studied at a top university in Viet Nam.
  - B. Having studied at a top university in Viet Nam made my father proud.
  - C. My father was made to be proud of his top university in Viet Nam.

- D. Being proud of Viet Nam, my father had studied at a top university.
3. Having asked his parents for advice, Lam decided to go to a vocational school.
- A. Before asking his parents for advice, Lam didn't want to go to a university.
  - B. Without asking for anyone's advice, Lam's parents forced him to go to a vocational school.
  - C. Lam decided to go to a vocational school after he had asked his parents for advice.
  - D. Lam decided to go to a vocational school despite his parents' objection.
4. Having studied the available courses, Lan decided to register for the cooking course.
- A. The cooking course wasn't the one that attracted Lan's attention after having studied the courses.
  - B. Without having studied the courses carefully, Lan decided to register for the cooking course.
  - C. Lan registered for the cooking course because it has been studied carefully.
  - D. After having studied the available courses, Lan made up her mind to choose the cooking course.
5. Not having asked anyone for advice, my brother made a wrong choice in his higher education.
- A. My brother made a wrong choice in his higher education because he didn't ask anyone for advice.
  - B. Even though my brother asked everyone for advice, he still made a wrong decision in his higher education.
  - C. My brother made a wrong choice in his higher education, so he didn't ask anyone for advice.
  - D. My brother didn't ask anyone for advice because he made a wrong choice in his higher education.
6. My mother regretted not having taken the entrance exam into a teacher training college.
- A. Not having taken the entrance exam into a teacher training college wasn't my mother's choice.
  - B. My mother felt regretful because she hadn't taken the entrance exam into a teacher training college.
  - C. Having taken the entrance exam into a teacher training college made my mother regretful.
  - D. Feeling regretful, my mother took the entrance exam into a teacher training college.
7. Having considered things carefully, my grandmother didn't make any wrong decisions in her life.
- A. Although my grandmother had considered things carefully, she still made a lot of wrong decisions in her life.
  - B. My grandmother considered things carefully because she had made a lot of wrong decisions in her life.
  - C. My grandmother didn't make any wrong decisions in her life because she had considered things carefully.
  - D. Due to her careful considerations, my grandmother didn't make many wrong decisions in her life.

***VII. Write a letter (140-170 words) to request information about the course in the following advertisement.***

**Want to be a chef?**

- Are you interested in cooking?
- Our For Future Vocational School provide cooking courses of all types.
- ✓ No qualifications needed to register \_\_\_\_\_
- ✓ Reasonable cost \_\_\_\_\_
- ✓ Apprenticeships provided \_\_\_\_\_

Need to take a test

Further discount for poor students

Opportunities to be offered the job