READING

Brooklyn Free School

1 Read the blog quickly. Is this school the same as your school or is it different?



Brooklyn Free School has one part for students aged 11–18 and one for students aged 4–11. Students in both parts choose the subjects they take, never do homework and don't have to take exams or tests. And if they're not enjoying a chemistry lesson, for example, they can walk out, or go to the students' room and read a book. Three younger kids were doing this when I went in there on my visit. Other examples of subjects on the timetable are writing films and building design – a very popular subject.

Some people think this kind of school is a bad idea. They don't think it teaches students the things they'll need when they grow up. They also think the school's only for people who have lots of money. But actually, only 20% of the students pay the whole cost of being at the school.

So what do the students think? One student, Marlon, says in his favourite class he watched a TV show about city life. It taught him a lot. In another, students discussed how people decide about things or vote. They then ate at local restaurants and decided which one they liked the best. Marlon also enjoyed making models of other students in a design class.

But Marlon found it hard when he started at the school. It took more than a year for him to feel comfortable there. He played computer games in the students' room for most of that first year. Now he enjoys classes and says he wouldn't like to go to school anywhere else.

PREPARE FOR THE EXAM

Reading Part 3

2 For each question, choose the correct answer.

1 What does the first paragraph tell us about Brooklyn Free School?
- A Only students aged 11–18 can decide to go to a class or not.
- B Both older and younger students can choose their subjects.
- C The older students have lessons with the younger students.

2 The writer saw some children at the school
- A leaving a chemistry lesson.
- B reading books instead of going to lessons.
- C enjoying a building design lesson.

3 The writer explains why it is not true to say that
- A there are too few students at the school.
- B the school doesn't teach students useful things.
- C only rich students can go to the school.

4 What did Marlon enjoy doing the most?
- A learning about city life
- B going to restaurants
- C making models of people

5 How does Marlon feel about the school?
- A He is happier there now than he was.
- B He likes it because he can play computer games there.
- C He wants to try another type of school.

EXAM TIPS

- Read the text once before you answer the questions.
- After you choose your answer, look at the text to check that the other answers are wrong.

LIVEWORKSHEETS