

School: Is Big Better?

2b Read the text to do with school. For each question choose the answer (A, B or C) which you think fits best according to the text.

IS BIG BETTER?

There is a big debate raging at the moment over educational policy. Should the government respond to psychologists' advice that students learn better in small groups of under twenty by reducing class sizes or would the money be better invested in improving teacher training? It is an interesting dilemma.

For many years parents have been voting with their feet by withdrawing their children from state education in favour of the smaller classes provided by the fee-paying independent schools. Apparently, the matter is not straight-

forward. Some experts now maintain that class size is less important than the abilities of individual teachers. If a teacher is talented, it doesn't matter whether there are 15 or 50 students in the class.

Some schools in the UK are actually opting for larger classes of 70 or above because there are real benefits to be had from this. These include the chance to subdivide groups according to ability and set different learning programmes. Obviously, this will only work if the teacher is supported by assistants and technology. However, it



does make some sense in that in this way several learning styles, learning speeds and concentration spans can all be catered for – even if the main class teacher does have to address his class using a loudspeaker!

1 Which of the following is mentioned in the text as a fact, not an opinion?

- A** Students learn better in independent schools.
- B** Gifted teachers can teach very large groups.
- C** Dividing students into smaller groups in big classes is problematic.
- D** Classes with more than fifty students can be found in the UK.

2 From the texts in activity 2a and 2b we learn that

- A** not all teachers are capable of controlling very large classes.
- B** it is important to keep all students engaged in class.
- C** teachers need assistance in controlling their classes.
- D** students' ability to concentrate for long periods varies.

Complete the sentences with the correct prepositions.

- 1** The students put a lot of chairs out in the hall _____ anticipation of a large audience.
- 2** The car **drew** _____ in front of the hotel and two businessmen got out.
- 3** Sally was so naughty at school that she **ended** _____ being expelled.
- 4** All the traffic in the town centre **came** _____ a stop when the traffic lights failed.
- 5** Customers at the new supermarket are **voting** _____ their feet and this week they had fifty per cent fewer shoppers.
- 6** At the restaurant, I **opted** _____ something quite small as I wasn't very hungry.

Complete the sentences with the correct adjectives in the box.

learning deserted motivational
treasured concentration

- 1** The successful businessman gave a _____ speech that was really inspiring.
- 2** I had a very short _____ span when I was younger.
- 3** This area of the town is _____ at night and can be dangerous.
- 4** One of my most _____ memories is going for walks with my grandad down by the river.
- 5** People's _____ styles can change when they get older.