

**READ THE TEXT AND COMPLETE THE GAPS WITH THE  
MISSING PARTS GIVEN.**

1-Good communication skills are more important now than ever in order for people to live and work together.

2-He believes that these skills are as important as traditional subjects like maths, science, literature and so on.

3-One careless mistake could really hurt someone.

4-She says there were moments when she felt afraid.

In Singapore, primary and secondary school students take outdoor skills courses as part of their studies. They're usually three or five days long and include rope and rock climbing, going to sea in a small boat called a kayak, sleeping in a tent each night, taking long walks in the jungle and learning to start fire. It's real life.



(A) \_\_\_\_\_ So should outdoor skills really be taught at school? Why does Singapore government think this should be part of every student's education?

Minister for Education Ng Chee Meng says that the challenge of the outdoor course helps students to develop skills like critical thinking, working together and good communication – abilities that are necessary for work and life. (B) \_\_\_\_\_.

Students need to learn from books, but for some lessons, reading isn't as useful as doing.

What do students think? “It was good!”, said one teenager after the course. According to blogger Singapore Student, “It makes you a more independent and caring person”. Angelique, another student in Singapore, had such a good experience that she went back for a twenty-one-day course. “It helped me to grow stronger”, she says. The kayak trip was stressful because of stormy weather. (C)\_\_\_\_\_. But she remembered that “smooth seas never made a skilled sailor” and felt brave enough to continue against the storm. I’m thankful for this amazing opportunity, and I would do it again”, she says.

Right now, students attend courses with groups from their own school. After 2020, however, all students will do the course in groups from several different schools. Why does it matter? People from China, Malaysia, India and other cultures live closely together in Singapore. (D)\_\_\_\_\_

Working closely with students from other cultures is a great way to learn this useful lesson.

One student said: “There’s nothing t be afraid of and nothing’s impossible”. And that’s a great lesson to learn.

### CHOOSE THE BEST ANSWER:

What does this expression “*smooth seas never made a skilled sailor*” mean?

- 1- Kayaking may be difficult at first, but the sport is great.
- 2- Challenging experiences often give the best lessons of life.
- 3- It’s better to solve your problems when you have friends
- 4- Kayaking in the sea is frequently more difficult than in a river.