

Read the text and choose the right answer



**GO TO SCHOOL
IT'S THE LAW!**

It isn't easy to stop truancy. Sometimes schools are so big that it is difficult to know who is playing truant. Advanced technology is helping a lot. Many schools are changing their systems for recording who is present and who is absent. In the past teachers always wrote it down, but now it's becoming more common to use computers. In a group of private schools in Tokyo, students put out their hands for examination every morning. A special computer looks at each student's fingers to check their fingerprints. Prison officers use the same technique with criminals in prison. It means that teachers know exactly who is in class and who isn't.

Schools also use technology to tell parents. A school in Scotland uses a system from the US called Phonemaster. It automatically telephones parents when a student is 30 minutes late for school. The phone doesn't stop ringing until someone answers it. In other countries, like Australia, the school automatically sends a text message to parents when their child is not at school.

In some countries, truancy is the parents' responsibility. In the UK, parents pay a fine when their children are often absent from school for no good reason. Last year over 50,000 parents paid fines of more than £60. In the US, Miami police arrested one parent, Mindy Pearl Viera, because her teenage daughters didn't go to school more than 100 times that year.

The police in the Malaysian town of Seremban have a more 'educational' approach. When they find a student who is in the street and not at school, they take them to the police station where there is now a special 'reading room'. The students read books while they are waiting for their parents to come and take them home. Students who don't finish the book take it home and then write a summary of it.



The law in the UK and many other countries says that children under 16 need to go to school. When they don't go to school, it's a crime. It's called 'truancy'. Students miss school for a variety of reasons. Perhaps some are bored or perhaps the work is too hard. Some students stay away because their classmates bully them. However, education is very important and students should not miss school.

1. Truancy is when...

- a. adolescents don't go to school because of an illness.
- b. teachers send bullies home.
- c. children miss school without a good reason.

2. How do many teachers check their students are in class these days?

- a. They write their names down.
- b. They use computers.
- c. They use fingerprinting.

3. When does Phonemaster call a parent?

- a. when a student misses a day at school.
- b. when a student is half an hour late.
- c. when they don't answer the phone.

4. In which country do parents pay money for truancy?

- a. The US.
- b. Australia.
- c. The UK.

