Reading_EDUCATION

I. Read the text and answer the questions.

SIXTEEN - WHAT NOW?

You're 16 and finally you can leave school! By now, you're probably sick of teachers, desks, tests and exams. But don't just run for the exit. You need to think carefully about what to do next.

If you want a professional career, you will need to go to university and get a degree. To do that, you need to stay at high school for another two years. But you needn't stay at the same place. There are several options in the district of Northacre.

St. Leopold's School has the best pass rate of all the high schools in the district. It offers a wide range of subjects in the humanities and sciences. St Leopold's is, of course, a private school, so may be too expensive for you. But don't worry, there are several other options if you want to follow the academic route. Knowle Grammar School is a state school, so there are no fees, and it has excellent tuition and facilities. It is a boys' school from the ages of 11-16, but from 16-18 it is co-educational. But it is selective, so you'll have to pass an exam to get in. If you're interested in going into Business, check out Wyle River Academy. This school specialises in subjects like Business Studies, Management and Economics. If you prefer the arts, look at the courses on offer at Northacre College. Here you can study woodwork, art, textiles and much more.

Northacre College also offers a wide range of vocational qualifications. You can do a 1-year certificate or a 2-year diploma in subjects like electrics, plumbing, roofing and hairdressing. If you'd prefer to work outdoors, look at Milldown College, where there are courses in Farm Mechanics, Land Management, Animal Management and much more.

A final option is to get an apprenticeship with a local or national company. You will get on-the-job training, gain certificates or diplomas and start earning straight away. But be warned - places are limited! Find out more at the Jobs Fair on 26th May at Northacre College.

1. ***The aim of the article is to_____***

   A. advise young people about how to get to university.

   B. tell young people about the options available.

   C. advise young people to stay in education.

2. ***The article advises reader who want a professional career to_____***

LIVEWORKSHEETS

A. go to university immediately.

B. stay at the same school for two more years.

C. go to high school for two more years, then get a degree.

3. ***St Leopold's is the best school for_____***

A. good exam results.

B. humanities and sciences.

C. facilities.

4. ***You can only attend St Leopold's school if you_____***

A. pay tuition fees.

B. pass an exam.

C. study both humanities and sciences.

5. ***You can only attend Knowle Grammar School if you_____***

A. pass an exam.

B. are a boy.

C. can afford the tuition fees.

6. ***Anna wants to work with horses. Where is the best place for her to study?***

A. Wyle River Academy

B. Northacre College

C. Milldown College

7. ***Harry wants to be a builder. Where is the best place for him to study?***

A. Wyle River Academy

B. Northacre College

C. Milldown College

8. ***Kevin wants to be a fashion designer. Where is the best place for him to study?***

A. Wyle River Academy

B. Northacre College

C. Milldown College

9. ***Caroline wants to run her own company. Where is the best place for him to study?***

A. Wyle River Academy

B. Northacre College

C. Milldown College

10. ***What is the problem with apprenticeships?***

A. There are few available.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

B. They are expensive.

C. They don't give you any qualifications.

II. Read and choose the correct answer.

Most countries' education systems have had what you might call educational disasters, but, sadly, in many areas of certain countries these disasters' are still evident today. The English education system is unique due to the fact that there are still dozens of schools which are known as private schools and they perpetuate privilege and social division. Most countries have some private schools for the children of the wealthy; England is able to more than triple the average number globally. England has around 3,000 private schools and just under half a million children are educated at them whilst some nine million children are educated at state schools. The overwhelming majority of students at private schools also come from middle-class families.

The result of this system is evident and it has much English history embedded within it. The facts seem to speak for themselves. In the private system almost half the students go on to University, whilst in the state system, only about eight per cent make it to further education. However, statistics such as these can be deceptive due to the fact that middle-class children do better at examinations than working class ones, and most of them stay on at school after 16. Private schools, therefore, have the advantage over state schools as they are entirely 'middle class', and this creates an environment of success where students work harder and apply themselves more diligently to their school work.

Private schools are extortionately expensive, being as much as £18,000 a year at somewhere such as Harrow or Eton, where Princes William and Harry attended, and at least £8,000 a year almost everywhere else. There are many parents who are not wealthy or even comfortably off but are willing to sacrifice a great deal in the cause of their children's schooling. It baffles many people as to why they need to spend such vast amounts when there are perfectly acceptable state schools that don't cost a penny. One father gave his reasoning for sending his son to a private school, 'If my son gets a five-percent-better chance of going to University then that may be the difference between success and failure." It would seem to the average person that a £50,000 minimum total cost of second level education is a lot to pay for a five-percent-better chance. Most children, given the choice, would take the money and spend it on more enjoyable things rather than shelling it out on a school that is too posh for its own good.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

However, some say that the real reason that parents fork out the cash is prejudice: they don't want their little kids mixing with the "workers", or picking up an undesirable accent. In addition to this, it wouldn't do if at the next dinner party all the guests were boasting about sending their kids to the same place where the son of the third cousin of Prince Charles is going, and you say your kid is going to the state school down the road, even if you could pocket the money for yourself instead, and, as a result, be able to serve the best Champagne with the smoked salmon and duck.

It is a fact, however, that at many of the best private schools, your money buys you something. One school, with 500 pupils, has 11 science laboratories; another school with 800 pupils, has 30 music practice rooms; another has 16 squash courts, and yet another has its own beach. Private schools spend £300 per pupil a year on investment in buildings and facilities; the state system spends less than £50. On books, the ratio is 3 to 1.

One of the things that your money buys which is difficult to quantify is the appearance of the school, the way it looks. Most private schools that you will find are set in beautiful, well-kept country houses, with extensive grounds and gardens. In comparison with the state schools, they tend to look like castles, with the worst of the state schools looking like public lavatories, perhaps even tiled or covered in graffiti. Many may even have an architectural design that is just about on the level of an industrial shed.

11. The English educational system differs from the other ones because_____

A. it tries to make state and private equal.

B. more students are educated at private schools than state schools.

C. it contributes to creating a class system within society.

D. it is more expensive to run.

12. There are more private school children who go to university because_____

A. the lessons and teachers at the private schools are much better.

B. their parents often send their children to private schools.

C. they have more teaching hours.

D. the school create a successful environment.

13. A lot of parents often send their children to private schools_____

A. because they are not well-informed.

B. to show how much money they have to their friends.

C. to increase their chances of succeeding in the university exams.

D. because of the better sports facilities.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

14. It is suggested that some parents of children at private schools are _____

A. prejudiced and superficial.

B. more intelligent that those with children at state schools.

C. well-brought-up and cultivated.

D. overly protective.

15. Private schools_____

A. always have their own beaches.

B. teach sports that state schools do not.

C. spend more money per student than state schools.

D. spend more money on hiring good teachers.

16. The writer thinks that private-school buildings_____

A. are very attractive and luxurious.

B. generally do not look very nice.

C. are too big for the amount of students who attend the school.

D. are not built to suit student's needs.

17. In general, what do you think the writer's opinion of private schools is?

A. It isn't fair that those without money can't attend them.

B. They divide social classes but they offer better facilities and a more creative environment.

C. There is little difference between private and state schools.

D. They have the best teachers.

LIVEWORKSHEETS