

Lessons 3-4

Just Another Day at Work



2 Scan the article. What is this man's job?

3 Read the article again and choose the correct answer.

1 The government is trying to encourage teachers to work in ____ schools.

- a rural
- b city

2 The teachers work in ____.

- a one room
- b offices

3 The teachers think the training sessions are ____.

- a difficult
- b helpful

4 Dr Malik wants teachers to ____.

- a work together
- b study English

5 Dr Malik usually has a ____-hour working day.

- a ten
- b nine and a half



A day in the life of ...

My name is Dr Malik and I'm the principal of a boys' secondary school in Al Gharbia. I've been principal of this school for five years and, although it's a difficult job at times, I'm very proud of what my staff and I have achieved so far.

Being the head of a rural school can be quite a challenge. Not only do we have fewer facilities than city schools but we have a bit of a problem recruiting and keeping teachers. Understandably many young people prefer to stay and work in the cities, but the government has provided some good incentives for teachers who are willing to work in Al Gharbia, including new accommodation and improved leisure facilities, so things are getting better.

I want my staff to stay for a long time so I run training and personal development sessions on a regular basis. I believe my colleagues appreciate this and work hard to make sure the boys achieve their goals. Seldom do you see a teacher leaving the school before 3 o'clock in the afternoon and many stay in the workplace until much later.

The teachers work in an open plan room near my office and I encourage experienced teachers to help their less-experienced peers with lesson planning. We have one teacher from Britain who works in the languages department teaching English. It's useful having a native English speaking teacher but I think he finds it hard at times as he doesn't always understand our way of life.

Classes start at 7.30 am but I seldom arrive after 7 o'clock as I have so much work to do. Fortunately, I live quite near the school so I don't have far to commute, but some teachers have a long way to travel, so every morning I need to make sure that they have all arrived. A lot of my time is spent doing administrative tasks, especially during the exam period and, fortunately, I have a good manager who deals with the exams for me.

Most days I have meetings with parents to discuss their son's progress and then I have to make telephone calls to the education department, new teachers, suppliers, etc. I also spend a lot of time talking to the parents of young boys who are going to start at our school the following year. I show them around the school and tell them about the timetable and the facilities. Once my meetings are finished, I have meetings with the staff to talk about any issues they have with classes or pupils. At about 4.30 my meetings are finished and I can leave, but I rarely get home before 5 o'clock. It's a long and tiring day.