Education

Exercise 1

Complete definitions 1 – 14 with words and expressions from the box. You will not need all of the words and expressions from the box.

acquire class correspondence course course day release degree
discipline doctorate elementary (education) elementary school
enroll exam experience faculty fail fees grade grades grade school
graduate (noun) graduate (verb) graduate school grant higher degree
higher education high school junior high school kindergarten learn
learning resources center lecture lecturer lesson literacy mature (student)
middle school night class numeracy opportunity pass physical education
private school professor prospectus public school qualifications quarter
retake (an exam) resources secondary (education) semester seminar
SAT® (Scholastic Aptitude Test) sit / take (an exam) skills study subject
syllabus topic tutor tutorial undergraduate

1. A _____ is an educational course that you take at home, receiving your work and sending it back by mail or email. A _____ is a lesson in the evening for people who work during the day. People who have a job might be given _____ by their employer, which means that can take a day off work about once a week to attend a course of study.

2. The _____ is an examination that students must take before they can go to university.

3. A _____ is a period of time in which students are taught a subject in school (also called a _____.

4. A _____ is a talk given to a group of students at college or university about a particular _____. The person who gives this talk is called a _____. A _____ is a meeting at which a group of students discuss something they are studying. A _____ is a meeting at which one student, or a small group of students, discusses something he / she is studying with his / her _____.

5. _____ is the ability to read and write. _____ refers to basic skills in mathematics.

6. A _____ is a small book that provides information about a university. Once a students who has read this book decides he / she would like to study there, he must _____ (in other words, he / she puts his / her name on the official list of students).

7. A _____ is a main department at a university. This word can also be used to refer to the teaching staff of a school, college, university, etc.

8. _____ refers to sports and exercise that children do at school as a school subject.

9. A _____ is a school that is funded by taxes. A _____ is a school where the parents of the children who attend it must pay _____.

10. A _____ is school for very young children (aged 4 or 5), which prepares them for the first _____ at school. An _____ is a school for the first six or eight years of a child's education. It is also known as a _____.

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11. A _____ is a list of the main subjects in a course of study (sometimes called a *curriculum*).

12. A _____ is a school for students between the ages of 12 and 14 or 15. It is also known as a _____. From the age of 14 or 15, students attend a _____.

13. A _____ is one of two periods into which the school year is divided. A _____ is one of four periods into which the school year is divided.

14. A _____ is someone who has completed a course at school, college, or university. A _____ is a college or university where students can study for a _____ such as a Master's or Ph.D.

Exercise 2

Use your dictionary to check the meanings of the other words and expressions in the box.

Exercise 3

Complete this essay with appropriate words and expressions from the box in Exercise 1. You may need to change the form of some of the words.

You are never too old to learn. Do you agree with this statement?

Education is a long process that not only provides us with basic (1) _____ such as (2) _____ and (3) _____, but is also essential in shaping our future lives. From the moment we enter (4) _____ as 5-year-olds, and as we progress through (5) _____ and (6) _____ education, we are laying the foundations for the life ahead of us. We must (7) _____ ourselves to work hard so that we can (8) _____ exams and gain the (9) _____ we will need to secure a good job. We must also (10) _____ valuable life skills so that we can fit in and work with those around us. And of course (11) _____ helps us to develop our bodies and stay fit and healthy.

For most people, this process ends when they are in their mid-to-late teens and they (12 _____ from high school. For others, however, it is the beginning of a lifetime of learning. After they finish school, many progress to (13) _____ education where they will work towards a (14) _____ in a chosen (15) _____ at university. After that, they may work for a while before opting to study at a (16) _____ for a Masters degree, or a (17) _____. Alternatively, they may choose to attend a (18) _____ after work or, if they have a sympathetic employer, obtain (19) _____ so that they can study during the week. And if they live a long way from a college or university, they might follow a (20) _____ using mail and the Internet. In fact, it is largely due to the proliferation of computers that many people, who have not been near a school for many years, have started to study again and can proudly class themselves as (21) _____ students.

We live in a fascinating and constantly changing world, and we must continually learn and acquire new knowledge if we are to adapt and keep up with changing events. Our schooldays are just the beginning of this process, and we should make the best of every (22) _____ to develop ourselves, whether we are eighteen or eighty. You are, indeed, never too old to learn.

Exercise 4

Now try this essay. Use words and expressions from the vocabulary box in Exercise 1, and any other words or expressions that you think would be relevant.

Do you agree with this statement? "The most important things in life are not learnt at school or college." Use examples and details in your answer.

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