

UNIT 3: SKILLS TEST A

READING

Read the text and answer the questions.

Everyone knows that it's often difficult for students to concentrate on their work at school. We asked our readers for some answers.

Alex

Yes – it's a big problem! Last year it was very hard. We had a lot of tests at school and the teachers gave us hours of homework. I worked until 10.30 every night. I didn't have time to go swimming or watch TV. My friends did the same. We didn't get much sleep because we got up at 6.30 in the morning to go to school. We were all very tired in the mornings. I often wanted to stay in bed and not go to school!

One day, five students went to sleep during maths! Our teacher was worried, and she had an idea. She and the other teachers talked about the problem. They suggested a different start time for school – 9.00 and not 8.00. We finished at the usual time, but we had a short lunch and short break times.

At first, we weren't sure about the idea. We liked long break times with our friends. But after a week everyone agreed. It was a good change! We weren't tired, and we could study. The idea was to have the change for only two months until our exams and then go back to the old times. But after two months, they decided to keep the new start time.

We're all happy now because we can stay in bed. The teachers are happy because we don't go to sleep in their classes!

Task 1

Choose the correct answer (A, B or C).

- 11 Why did Alex and his friends go to bed late?
 - A They watched a lot of TV.
 - B They did a lot of school work.
 - C They did sports.
- 12 When did a teacher understand there was a problem?
 - A Pupils didn't come to classes.
 - B Pupils were late for school.
 - C Pupils slept in class.
- 13 What changes did the school make?
 - A the time the school day began
 - B the number of breaks during the school day
 - C the time the school day ended
- 14 The pupils didn't like the changes in the beginning because
 - A they wanted more time with their friends.
 - B they had problems getting to school.
 - C they liked finishing early.
- 15 What time do pupils at Alex's school start lessons now?
 - A 8.00
 - B 9.00
 - C 10.30

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Task 2

Answer the questions.

- 16 Why did Alex and his friends have a lot of homework?
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- 17 Who had an idea to solve the problem?
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- 18 Why was this a good idea?
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- 19 How long did the school first want the changes to last?
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- 20 How do the teachers feel now and why?
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Total: 50