

5

SCHOOL



ABOUT YOU

 **03** Watch the video and discuss the questions.

How many different subjects do you study?

How much homework do you usually get each day?



School subjects

1 Match the school subjects in the box to the pictures. Listen and check. Then repeat.

EP



biology

chemistry

design and technology

drama

foreign languages

geography

history

ICT

maths

PE

physics

science

A



B



C



D



E



F



G



H



I



J



K

$$234 + 567$$

L



2 Read the article about schools in Finland and choose the best title.

- A Starting young
- B New ways of learning
- C Time for homework



36

In international tests of maths, science and reading, students in Finland do well. This is good news! But when you look more carefully at the schools, it's not easy to explain. Finnish students don't start school until they are seven years old. The school day is short, about five hours, and there are only three or four classes a day. Students don't have much homework and there are no exams. So, why don't they do badly in tests? Perhaps something else can explain it.

There is another unusual feature of schools in Finland. For most of us, the school timetable is a list of subjects, for example ICT, history, foreign languages, geography, with one lesson following another. But some experts believe our brains work in a different way. They say our brains don't divide our learning into subjects. Our brains learn better when they get new information in context. This is why some Finnish schools don't teach subjects separately. Instead, they give students a project, such as 'the weather', and then bring school subjects into the project.



So how do some experts believe we learn most easily? Here's an example of a project with a class of 12-year-olds. Students watch a video re-enactment of the end of the city of Pompeii. Then on their laptops they compare ancient Italy under the Romans with modern Finland. Groups look at different parts of the topic and then share their ideas. They also use 3D printers to make a tiny Roman building. Later, they use the pieces of the building for a game. This project includes history, ICT, and design and technology.

3 Read the text again and answer the questions.

1 At what age do Finnish students go to school?

They start school _____

2 How long are they at school every day?

For _____ every day.

3 Do students have any homework?

They _____

4 Do subject words appear on all school timetables?

Yes, _____ appear on all school timetables.

5 How do some experts think our brains work?

They think our _____ is connected.

6 In Finland, do students

a complete a project at the same time as they learn school subjects, or

b study school subjects and then complete a project?

7 What subjects do students learn when they do the project on Pompeii?

H _____

In international tests of maths, science and reading, students in Finland do well. This is good news! But when you look more carefully at the schools, it's not easy to explain. Finnish students don't start school until they are seven years old. The school day is short, about five hours, and there are only three or four classes a day. Students don't have much homework and there are no exams. So, why don't they do badly in tests? Perhaps something else can explain it.

There is another unusual feature of schools in Finland. For most of us, the school timetable is a list of subjects, for example ICT, history, foreign languages, geography, with one lesson following another. But some experts believe our brains work in a different way. They say our brains don't divide our learning into subjects. Our brains learn better when they get new information in context. This is why some Finnish schools don't teach subjects separately. Instead, they give students a project, such as 'the weather', and then bring school subjects into the project.

So how do some experts believe we learn most easily? Here's an example of a project with a class of 12-year-olds. Students watch a video re-enactment of the end of the city of Pompeii. Then on their laptops they compare ancient Italy under the Romans with modern Finland. Groups look at different parts of the topic and then share their ideas. They also use 3D printers to make a tiny Roman building. Later, they use the pieces of the building for a game. This project includes history, ICT, and design and technology.

4 In pairs, ask and answer the questions.

- 1** Which are your favourite subjects?
- 2** Which subjects don't you enjoy as much?
- 3** Which subjects are you best at?



PRONUNCIATION

Word patterns

37

5

Listen and look at the word patterns in the table. Then put the words in the box into the correct column.



0o	0oo	o0oo
<i>topic</i>	<i>audience</i>	<i>communicate</i>

biology chemistry classroom favourite geography
history languages science technology



38

Listen and check. Then repeat.

1 Match the two halves of the words. Then write the whole words below.

a his	b bio	c ence	d mat
e geo	f hs	g dra	h logy
i sics	j phy	k istry	l sci
m chem	n tory	o ma	p graphy

0 *a + n = history*

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

4 _____

5 _____

6 _____

7 _____

2 Choose the correct answers.

- 1 I want to work with numbers, so I need to study _____.
A biology **B** maths **C** science
- 2 I want to travel to other countries, so I need to study _____.
A drama **B** foreign languages **C** PE
- 3 I want to write computer programmes, so I need to study _____.
A chemistry **B** geography **C** ICT
- 4 I want to be an actor, so I need to study _____.
A maths **B** history **C** drama
- 5 I want to help find new medicines, so I need to study _____.
A design and technology **B** biology **C** history

3 Write the correct subject. Do not use *science*.

In which subject do you do these things?

- 1 play basketball _____
- 2 learn about rivers, mountains
and oceans _____
- 3 learn about facts from the past _____
- 4 draw something then make it _____
- 5 learn about using numbers _____
- 6 study how plants grow _____
- 7 learn about space, the moon
and the stars _____
- 8 learn about computers and
using the internet _____
- 9 speak, hear, read and write
lots of new words from a
different country _____