

## READING Good study habits

- 1 Discuss the questions with a partner.
  - 1 What was your favourite and least favourite subject at school? Why?
  - 2 When do you find it best to study? Why?
- 2 Look at *Texts A* and *B* on page 5 and answer the questions.
  - 1 Which text is a quiz?
  - 2 Which text looks more serious?
  - 3 Which text is about studying effectively?
- 3 Look at the texts again. Answer the questions.
 

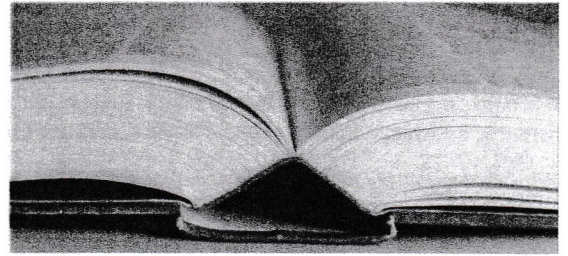
*Text A:*

  - 1 How many questions are there?
  - 2 How many answers are there for each question?
  - 3 What does the second part of the text tell you?

*Text B:*

  - 1 How many parts are there?
  - 2 Is there an introduction?
  - 3 Is there a conclusion?
- 4 Read *Text B* quickly. Answer the questions.
  - 1 Which is better: a planned target or a vague commitment?
  - 2 What two rewards are mentioned?
  - 3 What two reasons are given for delaying starting work?
  - 4 What is a more effective way of revising?
- 5 What different ways did you read the texts to answer the questions in ...
  - 1 exercise 2? 2 exercise 3? 3 exercise 4? **Read Study Skill**
- 6 Complete the quiz and then answer these questions.
  - 1 What is your learning style? 2 Do you agree with your result? Why (not)?
- 7 Look at the words in the table from *Text B*. Write the part of speech. Match the words with their meanings.

| word         | part of speech | meaning                         |
|--------------|----------------|---------------------------------|
| a crucial    | adjective      | 1 producing a successful result |
| b effective  |                | 2 awake/able to concentrate     |
| c vague      |                | 3 find (information) again      |
| d incentive  |                | 4 frightening or worrying       |
| e alert      |                | 5 something that encourages you |
| f put off    |                | 6 study hard in a short time    |
| g daunting   |                | 7 extremely important           |
| h worthwhile |                | 8 delay doing something         |
| i retrieve   |                | 9 not clear or definite         |
| j cram       |                | 10 useful                       |



### STUDY SKILL Effective reading (1)

Choose what to read, and how to read it to become an effective reader.

**Survey** the material to decide whether it is useful:

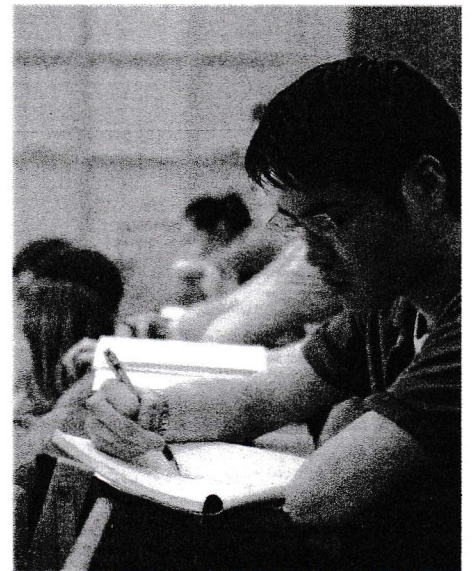
- Look at the title, headings, pictures, or graphs.
- Look at the style of the text and where it has come from.

**Skim** the text to see how the information is organized and to get a general idea:

- Read the title and any headings.
- Read the first sentence of a few paragraphs.

**Scan** the text to find specific pieces of information:

- Use what you learnt from surveying and skimming the text to locate the information you need.
- Move quickly through the text. Do not read every word.
- Stop when you come to the information you want.



## A What is your learning style?

Answer the questions in our quick quiz to find out how you learn best!

- 1 Do you think you learn better by ...  
A reading? B listening to lectures?
- 2 How do you prefer to learn from lectures?  
A I like to make notes during the lecture.  
B I like to record the lecture and listen again.
- 3 When the teacher uses a new word, do you want to see it written ...  
A immediately? B later?
- 4 If you need to memorize something, e.g. a formula, a quotation, or a poem, do you ...  
A write it out several times?  
B repeat it aloud to yourself and/or other people?
- 5 When you record new vocabulary, do you record the pronunciation?  
A Hardly ever B Usually
- 6 Do you ever read aloud to yourself (in your own language or in English)?  
A Rarely B Sometimes

### Results

#### Mostly As

If you scored mostly As, you are a more visual learner. You prefer to see the written word. You learn by reading and writing. Visual learners often think in pictures. If you find a particular task or text difficult, look for sources that will suit your learning style, e.g. sources with illustrations, charts, tables, or videos.

#### Mostly Bs

If you scored mostly Bs, you are probably a more auditory learner. You prefer to learn by listening and speaking. Auditory learners often learn best from lectures, discussions, by reading aloud, and by listening to audio material.

#### Mixture As and Bs

If you scored a mixture of As and Bs, like most people you probably learn through a mixture of styles. Sometimes you may prefer to learn by reading, at other times by listening. Ask yourself which is the best style for the particular task you are doing.

(280 words)

## B Becoming an effective student

Learning how to study effectively is an essential skill for students in any discipline. There are six areas which are **crucial** to developing good study habits. Work on these and you will become an **effective** student.

### Targets

Always set a realistic work target. Don't try to do too much. For example, plan to read one chapter of a book each evening rather than think about reading the whole book over the weekend. This kind of detailed, planned target is more effective than a **vague** commitment. It is sometimes helpful to tell your friends about your plan. This is a good **incentive** to keep you on target because they will know if you fail!

### Rewards

Develop a system of small rewards for your work. For example, stop for a cup of coffee or tea, or listen to a favourite piece of music after one hour's study. Rewarding yourself for keeping to your work plan will make you feel good about yourself.

### Timing

Make sure you choose a suitable time to study, i.e. when it is quiet and when you are most **alert**. Try to make this a regular, time-tabled part of your day. If you plan to start work at a certain time, say 7pm, do not find reasons to **put off** getting started. You can watch a DVD later, and your emails are not urgent!

### Quantity

A large task such as researching a new topic for an essay can be **daunting** – so daunting, in fact, that it can be difficult to sit down and make a start. Break the larger task down into several smaller ones. For example, make a list of questions that you will have to deal with in your essay, and then approach each question separately. This makes the work more manageable.

### Notes and learning styles

The books you are studying won't always present information in a way that suits your learning style. It is, therefore, **worthwhile** spending time making notes and organizing them in a way that suits you best. It is also a good idea to keep your notebooks neat and well organized. This will make it much easier to **retrieve** information later.

### Revision

Don't leave revision until the last moment. When you set your study targets, allow regular revision time. This is much more effective than trying to **cram** before an exam.

(395 words)

3 **Read Study Skill** Read *Text B* again. Write answers to the questions.

- 1 How does the writer think you can develop good study habits?
  - 2 Why is it a good idea to tell other people about your work plans?
  - 3 Why does the writer believe it is useful to reward yourself?
  - 4 What makes one time to study better than another?
  - 5 How can a large or complicated piece of work be made easier?
  - 6 What is the main benefit of keeping good class or lecture notes?
  - 7 How does the writer suggest you could improve your revision?
- 9 In your own studies, in which of the six areas in the article could you improve? How? Compare your answers with a partner.

### STUDY SKILL Effective reading (2)

You will often need to understand the details in a text. This is **intensive reading**. To do this effectively:

- Think about why you are reading, and what you need from the text.
- Skim the text to get an overview.
- Underline words and phrases which occur frequently and are important to know.
- If a particular part of the text is more difficult, read it again, asking yourself questions about it.
- Look up any words you need to understand in a dictionary.

## Education in the UK

- 10 Skim the text *The UK education system*. Which paragraph ...
- 1 describes the school year?
  - 2 gives an overview of education in the UK?
  - 3 describes secondary education from 11 to 16?
  - 4 describes primary education?
  - 5 describes secondary education from 16 to 18?
- 11 **Read Study Skill** Underline the content words in sentences 1–3 from the text.

### STUDY SKILL Effective reading (3)

You will have a large amount to read for your studies, so you need to be able to read quickly.

The first time you read a text intensively:

- Focus on content words (usually nouns, verbs, adjectives).

*It is easy to read this by looking at the content words.*

- Think about which parts of the text are relevant.

For further readings of the same text:

- Concentrate on parts of the text which are relevant.
- Read in sense groups of two or more words. Sense groups can be:  
subject + verb + object

*At the age of 16/most students take exams/in about ten different subjects.*  
phrases with a preposition

*At the age of 16/most students take exams/in about ten different subjects.*

- 1 The school year runs from September to July and is usually divided into three terms of approximately 13 weeks each.
  - 2 These schools are largely co-educational, that is, boys and girls attend together.
  - 3 Most students go to large comprehensive schools which teach children of varying abilities.
- 12 Use the content words to answer the questions on education.
- 1 Are the education systems in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland similar?  
*education system/Republic of Ireland/different/Northern Ireland*
  - 2 What schools do some 9-year-olds go to?  
*parts/England/children/leave/primary school/aged nine/go/middle school*
  - 3 How many young people go on to further education?  
*40%/young people/go/further education*
- 13 Divide the first paragraph from the text into sense groups. Read the paragraph aloud to a partner. Compare your paragraphs.
- By law in the UK / all children between 5 and 16 years of age / must receive a full-time education. / The vast majority, over 90%, of these children attend state schools. The education systems in Wales, Northern Ireland, and England are similar, whereas the education system in Scotland differs in a number of ways. This description will generally refer to the English state system.
- 14 Which paragraphs in the text are relevant if you are only interested in ...
- 1 primary education? 2 secondary education? 3 education in Scotland?

## The UK education system

**A** By law in the UK, all children between 5 and 16 years of age must receive a full-time education. The vast majority, over 90%, of these children attend state schools. The education systems in Wales, Northern Ireland, and England are similar, whereas the education system in Scotland differs in a number of ways. This description will generally refer to the English state system.

**B** The school year runs from September to July and is usually divided into three terms of approximately 13 weeks each. Students attend school from about 9.00 am to 3.30 pm, Monday to Friday, with a morning break and a break for lunch. Some students eat lunch in the school cafeteria, but many bring food from home.

**C** Most children in England go to primary school from the age of 5 to 11. These schools are largely co-educational, that is, boys and girls attend together. All schools follow the National Curriculum. The core, or main subjects, are English, mathematics, and science. Other subjects include history, geography, physical education, music, and art. In Wales, the Welsh language is a subject in Welsh-speaking schools. In the same way, in Northern Ireland, the curriculum includes the Irish language in Irish-speaking schools.

**D** At the age of 11 students move to a secondary school. Most students go to large comprehensive schools which teach children of varying abilities. At the age of 16, most students take exams (GCSEs) in about ten different subjects. At this point, just under 50% leave school and start other training or work.

**E** Students who remain in education can choose to continue at their school for up to two years, or go to a special college. Wherever they study, students specialize in three or four subjects, and there are further exams at the age of 17 (AS Levels) and again at 18 (A Levels). Good results in these are required to go to university.

(315 words)



## LANGUAGE FOR WRITING Comparing and contrasting

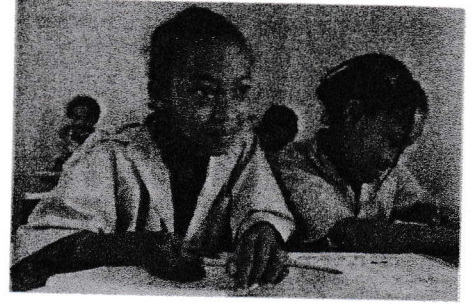
- 1 Look at the underlined expressions in the sentences from the text on page 6. Do they show that things are similar or different?

*The education systems in Wales, Northern Ireland, and England are similar, whereas the education system in Scotland differs in a number of ways.*

*In Wales, the Welsh language is a subject in Welsh-speaking schools. In the same way, in Northern Ireland, the curriculum includes the Irish language in Irish-speaking schools.*

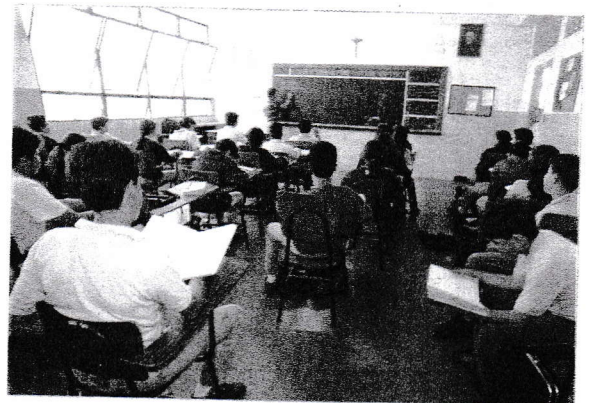
- 2 Underline other words and phrases in the sentences which show a similarity or a difference.

- 1 The school year in the UK runs from September to July. In Australia, on the other hand, students go to school from late January to December.
- 2 Both Sweden and France have a compulsory national curriculum.
- 3 Japanese schools are different from schools in many other countries in that they usually have an entrance exam.
- 4 Malaysian schools have two terms a year. In contrast, Australian schools have four terms.
- 5 School students all over the world are similar in that they have to take exams.



- 3 Add the words and phrases which you have underlined in exercise 2 to the correct part of the table. Make a note of the punctuation.

| similar                     | different               |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| <i>In the same way, ...</i> | <i>..., whereas ...</i> |
|                             |                         |



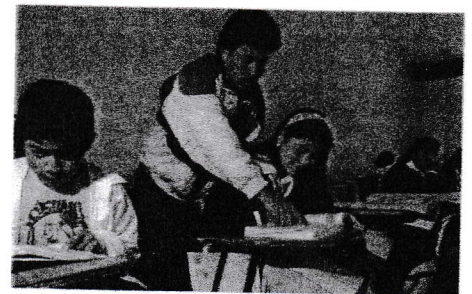
- 4 Use a word or phrase from the table to complete the sentences.

- 1 \_\_\_\_\_ Wales \_\_\_\_\_ Ireland include their own language in the curriculum.
- 2 State and private schools \_\_\_\_\_ all their students take school-leaving exams.
- 3 Northern Ireland and Wales have a similar education system to England. Scotland, \_\_\_\_\_, has its own system.
- 4 In the UK, education is compulsory for children until the age of 16, \_\_\_\_\_ in Brazil children can leave school at 14.
- 5 Students in Japanese schools often eat school lunches. \_\_\_\_\_, students in France also often eat in school.



- 5 Complete the sentences with your own ideas.

- 1 Schools and universities are similar in that \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2 Both boys and girls \_\_\_\_\_.
- 3 Literature is an arts subject. In contrast, \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4 English students take A Levels, whereas students in my country \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5 Primary school is different from \_\_\_\_\_ in that \_\_\_\_\_.



## WRITING Education in Japan and England: a comparison

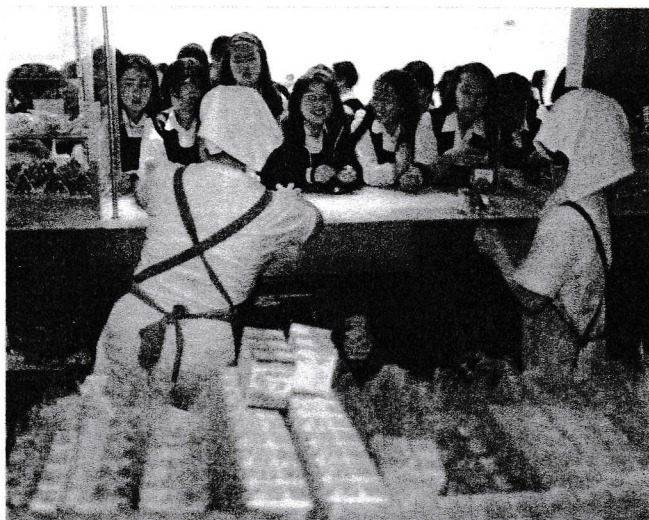
- Write three things you remember about the UK education system. Are these things the same or different in your country? Discuss with a partner.
- Look at the notes. Write a heading for each group of facts.

| England   | Japan  | your country: _____ |
|---|--|---------------------|
| <b>1</b> <u>General information</u><br>1.1 compulsory for 5-16 year olds<br>1.2 90% + go to state schools   | <b>1</b> _____<br>1.1 compulsory for 6-15 year olds<br>1.2 majority - state schools but some private (25%)                                     |                     |
| <b>2</b> _____<br>2.1 September - July<br>2.2 3 terms - about 13 weeks each<br>2.3 Mon-Fri 9.00-3.30 pm<br>2.4 lunch break - cafeteria, packed lunches          | <b>2</b> _____<br>2.1 April to March<br>2.2 3 terms - about 35 weeks a year<br>2.3 Mon-Fri 8.30-3.50<br>2.4 lunch break - most eat school food |                     |
| <b>3</b> _____<br>3.1 ages 5-11<br>3.2 co-educational<br>3.3 English, maths, science + others   | <b>3</b> Elementary school<br>3.1 ages 6-12<br>3.2 co-educational<br>3.3 Japanese, maths, science + others                                     |                     |
| <b>4</b> _____<br>4.1 ages 11-16 and 17-18<br>4.2 comprehensive - all abilities   | <b>4</b> High school<br>4.1 junior high ages 12-15<br>4.2 senior high ages 15-18   |                     |
| <b>5</b> _____<br>5.1 age 16 - GCSEs in 10 subjects<br>5.2 age 17 - AS Levels in 3 or 4 subjects<br>5.3 age 18 - A Levels in 3 subjects for university entrance | <b>5</b> _____<br>5.1 entrance exam to each school<br>5.2 entrance exam to each university   |                     |

- Write two or three questions for each heading.

### General information

- When is school compulsory?
  - What percentage of students go to state schools?
- Work with a partner. Answer your questions from exercise 3 about your country. Write your answers in note form in the table.



**Read Study Skill** Read the two long sentences from an essay comparing the education systems of Japan and England. Divide each sentence into two shorter ones.

By law, Japanese children have to attend school from the age of 6 to 15, on the other hand, English children start compulsory school at the age of 5 and continue until they are 16.

The Japanese and English education systems are similar in that it is necessary to take an exam to enter university however, Japan is different from England because each university sets its own entrance exam, whereas all English universities accept students with good A level results.

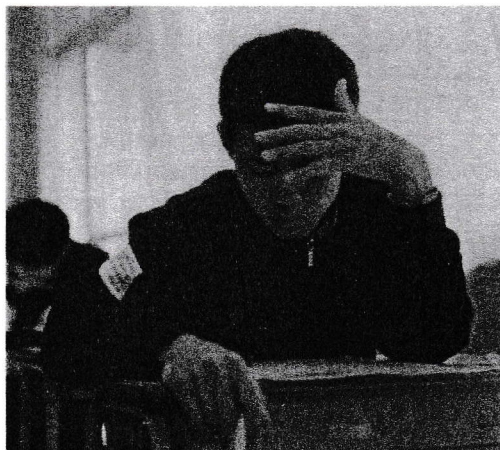
### STUDY SKILL Checking your writing (1)

Being accurate is very important in academic and professional writing. Check your first draft for:

- sentence length. Are your sentences too long or short?
- word order, linking words
- words left out, e.g. articles, prepositions, and auxiliary verbs

Read the pairs of short sentences from the essay. Rewrite each pair to make one sentence, using words or phrases to show similarity or difference from *Language for Writing* on page 7.

- 1 The Japanese school year starts in April. The English school year starts in September.
- 2 English schools have three terms. Japanese schools have three terms.
- 3 Japanese students eat a school lunch. Many English students take food to school for lunch.



Read the paragraph. Find and correct ...

- 1 two wrong uses of similarity and difference linking words and phrases
- 2 two missing prepositions
- 3 two examples of wrong word order

The school systems in Japan and England are different in that students have to take exams. However, Japan each school can set entrance exams. In the same way, English schools do usually not have entrance exams. At the end of their time school, students in both countries have to exams take to enter university. There are places for everyone with the right qualifications, but very good grades are required to get into the best universities in both countries. Although there are a number of significant differences between the systems, both countries share a commitment to high quality education for their young people.

### Writing a comparing and contrasting essay

Write an essay (150–200 words) comparing the education system in your country with **either** England **or** Japan. Use words and phrases from *Language for Writing* on page 7.

After you have written, check for sentence length, missing words, and the use of linking words and phrases.