

READING An Article

1 Read the article and complete the sentences using your own words.

- 1 Pottery is an example of a craft that
- 2 When doing projects, students work both
- 3 One way students practise oracy in class is by
- 4 Students working for a group of hotels
- 5 The writer hopes that other schools

2 Choose the correct answer.

- 1 The school's founders blamed typical fact-based education on ...
 - a teachers
 - b lack of creative thinking
 - c the exam system
 - d the number of compulsory subjects
- 2 What is slow education?
 - a It is another term for project-based learning.
 - b It refers to a new combination of school subjects.
 - c It allows students to learn at their own pace.
 - d It emphasises deep learning of a subject.
- 3 From Year 10 on, students spend ...
 - a half a day every week getting work experience
 - b afternoons preparing for the GCSE exams
 - c a week in an organisation or company
 - d time each afternoon working on a real-life project

3 Find words or expressions in the text that mean:

- 1 in great detail (lines 15-21)
- 2 judged something for quality (lines 36-49)
- 3 extraordinary (lines 36-49)
- 4 words expressing approval or admiration (lines 36-49)

School 21: Learning for the 21st Century

School 21 is definitely not your typical school. The first thing that makes it different from many schools is its modern glass building. But there's a lot more. The students don't sit at desks, but at round tables or on the floor in a circle.

- 5 Teachers rarely lecture. Instead, there are lively discussions. In addition, there's an art programme called Makerspace for digital design, media and crafts, such as sculpting and pottery.

This isn't a selective, private school, but a state primary and secondary school in east London. It was founded in 2012 by three educators who believed that standardised national exams meant schools were emphasising the acquisition of facts over critical thinking and creativity. They wanted their new school to do it all.

- 15 How is this being done? The answer is through "slow education" and project-based learning. Slow education means learning something in depth, often combining two or more subjects. For instance, students studying Shakespeare might compare his character Richard III to the historical king, or students might do a music and science project about what sound looks like. In project-based learning, students produce individual and group work to demonstrate their knowledge. School 21 also emphasises oracy – the ability to speak clearly and accurately. Material is taught in ways that require student participation through questions and answers and discussions. Students also present projects orally and give talks on issues they care about.

Another feature of the school is work experience. Starting in Year 10, students work one afternoon a week in a company or an organisation doing a real-world project. Recent examples include creating a children's menu for a hotel chain, designing an app for the Department of Education and a social media campaign against youth violence. And because there's no escape from exams, GCSE (General Certificate of Secondary Education) studies begin in Year 10. So far, students have achieved excellent marks.

- Ofsted, which assesses schools, has rated School 21 very positively. Inspectors said that its "innovative and creative way of organising subjects promotes outstanding learning". They noted students' excellent attitudes to learning, good manners and respect for everyone, their maturity and

confidence in speaking, and their remarkable work demonstrating "knowledge and skills at levels beyond those expected for their age group". That's clearly high praise. Perhaps it will encourage other schools to follow School 21's model.



WRITING An Informal E-mail

1 Choose two adverbs that can be added to each sentence. Then rewrite the sentences with the words you chose.

1 I signed up for two tough science classes.

- a barely c very
b generously d unfortunately

2 I'm enjoying chemistry because my teacher makes it all seem fun.

- a actually c a bit
b incredibly d hardly

3 It's impossible to describe how boring my computer programming class is!

- a extremely c practically
b obviously d carelessly

4 Writing these daily short stories for my English class has been difficult.

- a poorly c barely
b fairly d honestly

2 Complete the e-mail using the adverbs below.

luckily | certainly | hopefully | quite
virtually | especially | barely

Send Options Help

Hi Steve!

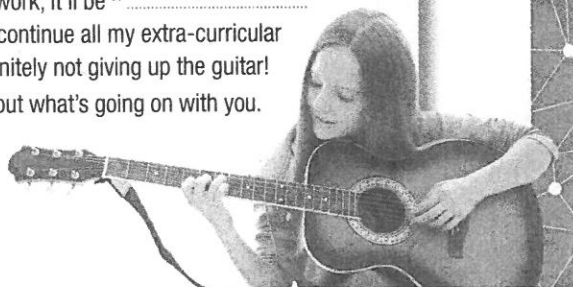
How have your first couple of weeks of school been? For me, this term is ¹ going to be a challenge. I'm already feeling ² stressed! I'm taking literature, history, environmental science, geography, calculus and French – and there's so much homework that I can ³ keep up. Fortunately, though, I like all of my classes except calculus, which I'm doing poorly in. I wasn't ⁴ surprised when I failed the first test. ⁵ , Jane's going to go over everything with me this weekend, and ⁶ , I'll start understanding the subject.

With so much schoolwork, it'll be ⁷ impossible for me to continue all my extra-curricular activities, but I'm definitely not giving up the guitar!

Can't wait to hear about what's going on with you.

Take care,

Amy

**TASK** Write an Informal E-mail

Write an e-mail to a friend about the start of your school year. Write 100–120 words.

PREPARE FOR THE TASK

3 Answer the questions below.

- 1 What classes are you taking this term?
- 2 Which classes are you enjoying / not enjoying?
- 3 What especially interesting, boring or challenging assignments have you had so far?
- 4 What extra-curricular activities are you doing / thinking of doing?

DO THE TASK

4 Organise your ideas into paragraphs and write your e-mail. Use the model in Exercise 2 and the Useful Expressions below to help you. Remember to use adverbs of manner, degree and comment.

USEFUL EXPRESSIONS

Hi ... ! / Dear ... ,

How have you been?

What's up? / What's new with you?

What's going on with you? / How are things going?

For me, / Personally, ...

I'm already feeling ...

I'm not sure (about) ...

Can't wait to hear from you. / Can't wait to hear about what's going on with you.

Take care,

CHECK YOUR WORK

5 Use the checklist below to check your work.

- Organisation
- Spelling
- Punctuation
- Word order
- Grammar
- Use of adverbs
- Use of connectors