

1 Skim the article. In which paragraph does the article discuss ... ?

- 1 work-experience projects
- 2 the school's location
- 3 school inspection results
- 4 a typical classroom at the school
- 5 examples of student school projects

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

- 1 School 21's modern glass building makes it
- 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

3 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 interdisciplinary studies.
 - 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

4 Find words or expressions in the text that mean:

- 1 is different from, in a positive way (lines 1-5)
- 2 in great detail (lines 17-21)
- 3 judged something for quality (lines 44-48)
- 4 words expressing approval or admiration (lines 54-58)

**School 21:
Learning for the 21st Century**

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School 21 is definitely not your typical school. The first thing that sets School 21 apart from many schools is its modern glass building. But there's a lot more. In classrooms, students don't sit at desks, but at round tables or on the floor in a circle. Teachers rarely lecture. Instead, there are lively discussions. In addition, there's an art programme called Makerspace, for sculpting, pottery, other crafts, digital design and media.

This isn't a selective, private school, but a state primary and secondary school in east London. It was established 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.

How is this being done? At School 21, it's through "slow education" and project-based learning. Slow education means learning something in depth, and it is often interdisciplinary – combining two or more subjects. For instance, students studying Shakespeare might learn about daily life in his time or compare his character Richard III to the historical king. In project-based learning, students produce individual and group work to demonstrate their knowledge. Again, this is often interdisciplinary – such as a music and science project about what sound looks like. 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, impeccable 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 high praise indeed. Perhaps it will encourage other schools to follow School 21's model.

