**ON EDUCATION**

**Task 1 – Reading comprehension**

 **a. Read the following text. Try to guess the meaning of new vocabulary in bold type from the context.**

***MORE CARROTS THAN STICKS***

(Adapted from: The Independent, June 1995.)

The headteacher of St Chad's, Tilbury, is holding up the record of a pupil who has recently been excluded from the school. It runs to more than 15 closely written pages. Almost every day, reports of incidents going back 18 months tell the story of one child bringing a school to the end of its tether. The list goes on and on: swearing at another pupil; smashing a window; using threatening behaviour; telling a teacher to stick a **detention** “up his jaxi”.

The point David Anderson is trying to make is that the decision to **exclude** a pupil from school is not reached lightly. The exclusionrate at St Chad's is high: last year there were 90 **short-term** and six **permanent** **exclusions**; this year it stands at 41 short-term and five permanent, two of them **reinstated** - but it is coming down.
“We have to be seen to be trying every possible **strategy** in order to avoid a permanent exclusion, which is very upsetting to a pupil's future education,” he says. “I will only do it if I believe that I have done everything I can possibly do for the child.”
St Chad's has a number of strategies for improving pupils' behaviour, the first of which is by **rewarding** them when they do well. Pens, trips to a burger bar and cinema tickets are on offer.

But when these **incentives** fail, there is a range of **sanctions** to fall back on, from short lunchtime detentions to a **warning letter** being sent home.
After three of these letters, the parents are asked into school to discuss the situation. The second time this happens, a short exclusion of up to five days may be **imposed**, and on the third occasion the school's governors discuss the case. Sometimes, one of them will offer support, dropping in to see the pupil and the parents and **monitoring** the child's behaviour.

Not many pupils get to this stage - only about two every half-term - but for those who do, an exclusion of 10 days is considered. As a last **resort,** there is the possibility of permanent exclusion.

There are also internal exclusions in which the child works outside the head's office or spends a day or half a day with a head of year. There used to be a space set aside for this, but it was dropped because “Room 29” too often became a **focus** for troublemakers.

While all this is going on, the child is also **assessed** to see if she or he has **learning problems** or **emotional difficulties**.

Mr Anderson, who has been head of St Chad's for eight years, says many of his **staff** believe he should permanently exclude more pupils. But he knows he has a responsibility to **balance** the teacher's need for a safe working environment with the pupil's need for an education.

“When pupils are excluded from one school and move to another, in my experience it seldom works out; the problems continue. It isn't a solution,” he says.

**b. Dictionary work. Look up the words in bold. You can help yourself with an online dictionary, such as** <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/>**. Use the word in a meaningful sentence.**

An example:
- ***detention*** = a form of punishment in which children are made to stay at school for a short time after classes have ended: *She has had four detentions this term.*

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**c. Read the text again and decide whether the following statements are T (true) or F (false).**

|  |  |  |
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|  | **T** | **F** |
| 1. The report is about several students who have recently been expelled from St Chad's school.
 |  |  |
| 1. Generally, at St Chad's school there are more short-term than permanent exclusions.
 |  |  |
| 1. They expel students for minor offences.
 |  |  |
| 1. If students improve their ways of behaviour, they are praised and rewarded.
 |  |  |
| 1. An exclusion of a few days off school is never considered.
 |  |  |
| 1. “Room 29” is always a good solution to discipline a disruptive kid.
 |  |  |
| 1. Teachers have a right to work in a safe environment.
 |  |  |

**d. Speaking. Answer the following questions related to the text, using upgraded vocabulary. Do not hesitate to express your personal opinion on the matter.**

1. What do you think about discipline in St Chad's?
2. Enumerate ways of unacceptable/inappropriate/disruptive behaviour at school.
2. What is the situation in Slovene primary and secondary schools like?
3. What advice should we give to a student who is about to be expelled?
4. How far do you agree with the comment that some students do not deserve to be at school?
5. How would you try to solve the problem of poor discipline in schools?
6. Are you in favour of strict or lax discipline at school?
7. What kind of punishments would you introduce for badly behaved kids?
8. Explain the title of the text.

**e. Boosting vocabulary. Fill in the blanks with the suitable words from the box bellow.**

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| ***fail****,* ***enrol in/at****,* ***co-curricular****,* ***school-leaving****,* ***natural science****,* ***students****,* ***compulsory****,* ***values****,* ***single-sex****,* ***success****,* ***social studies****,* ***basic****,* ***pupils****,* ***mixed****,* ***higher*** |

1. Primary school children are usually called \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, secondary school youngsters and young people studying at the university or college are called \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
2. Chemistry, biology, physics ... are the so-called \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ subjects, whereas psychology, sociology ... are referred to as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
3. Besides lessons, students can also attend other \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ activities at school such as school theatre, reading club, dancing lessons, etc.
4. Matura is the Slovene \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ exam. You can take Slovene, English and Maths at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ level of achievement. If you are successful and you gather enough credits, you can \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the faculty or university of your choice.
5. The opposite of *to* *pass* the exam is to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ it.
6. Primary education in Slovenia is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ whereas secondary and tertiary are not (there is a law that all children have to finish primary school).
7. In England, there are state and private schools. Eton and Harrow are the most well-known public schools. They have a long history and tradition. Parents need to put their child's name on a waiting list immediately after birth to make sure they will get a place. Both schools are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, which means that only boys can attend the lessons there. State schools can be attended by boys and girls, such schools are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
9. Besides maths, geography, history ... school should teach you social and interactive \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, such as willingness to help, to co-operate, tolerance ...
10. Education is the key to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, they say.

**Task 2 – Boosting speaking skills**

 **There are some common characteristics about schools in the USA. Since each state and school district have the right to set their own laws and regulations, there is no set of rules and laws for every American school. Below is a list of examples of how some American schools operate and what they require for their students. Express surprise, (dis)approval, (dis)belief, (dis)agreement referring to the statements below.**

1. Needy children stay in kindergarten all day long, the others just half day.
2. Parents are very involved with young children at school, which diminishes as children grow up.
3. Unexcused absences count against your grades (each day truant causes grade to drop ½ a point – from A to A minus, from B to B minus).
4. There are no “sport days” or “free days”.
5. Parents are responsible for getting children to school; state laws make parents pay a penalty fine of several $100; police pick up students out on streets and take them to truancy centres, where parents pick them up but only after receiving counselling.
6. Alternative high schools are available in big towns for “non-traditional” or troubled students.
7. Handicapped students are educated at same schools, in regular classrooms.
8. Most students drive their cars, which require a huge parking lot although school buses are furnished by law.
9. Students have required subjects: 4 years of English, 1 year of American government, 1 year of American history, 2 years of science, 3 years of maths, 4 years of physical education, ½ year of health education, ½ of computer education and elective subjects: art, ceramics, orchestra, band, foreign languages, advanced science, various journalism and literature courses, geography, economics.
10. All students report between 7:00 and 7:30 am, and have six classes each day (50 minutes each).
11. Students rotate from class to class, teachers stay in rooms, with their own office there. They are not allowed to leave campus during the day.
12. Report card grades: A = highest, F = failing, C= average.

**Task 3 – Listening and writing**

 **a. Listening comprehension**

Watch the following videoclip and concentrate on what people say about their experience with teachers. Do people imagine the world without teachers? What about you?

*World without teachers (an interview with various speakers)*

[**https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\_continue=132&v=RN3iLeq1828**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=132&v=RN3iLeq1828)

**b. Writing skills**

In about 160 words write a paragraph about the qualities a good teacher, who wants to leave positive footprints on his/her students, should possess.

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**Task 4 – Practising writing skills**

Having learnt many new facts about schooling in the USA, compare different aspects of education, such as the curriculum, schedule, school obligations, punishments, testing, campus … Write an essay in 220–250 words, comparing and contrasting both systems. Use linkers but, while, whereas …

**EDUCATION SYSTEM OF SLOVENIA vs. EDUCATION SYSTEM OF THE USA**

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