

## FACES OF EDUCATION

### I. DISCUSSION

#### 1. EDUCATION IN POLAND

Can you describe the system of education in Poland? (primary, secondary, tertiary education; types of schools, subjects taught, changes introduced by the reform of education in 2018, your opinion about the changes)

#### 2. WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT (OR HOW DO YOU IMAGINE) EDUCATION IN OTHER COUNTRIES? (e.g. Finland, the UK, South Korea)

#### 3. Which systems of educations are considered the best in the world? How do you know?

### II. Read the article *Why do Finnish pupils succeed with less homework?* on

<http://www.bbc.com/news/education-37716005>

and match the words to their definitions (source: <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/>)

- |                          |                                                                                                                                     |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. angst                 | A. strong worry and unhappiness, especially about personal problems                                                                 |
| 2. instruction           | B. here: the teaching of a particular skill or subject                                                                              |
| 3. toil                  | C. hard work, especially work that makes you feel physically tired                                                                  |
| 4. holistic approach     | D. dealing with or treating the whole of something or someone and not just a part                                                   |
| 5. tuition               | E. teaching, especially when given to a small group or one person, such as in a college or university                               |
| 6. to deliver            | F. to achieve or produce something that has been promised                                                                           |
| 7. to accord             | G. to treat someone specially, usually by showing respect                                                                           |
| 8. league tables         | H. rankings                                                                                                                         |
| 9. public accountability | I. the fact of being responsible for what you do and able to give a satisfactory reason for it, or the degree to which this happens |
| 10. assumption           | J. something that you accept as true without question or proof                                                                      |
| 11. relentless           | K. continuing in a severe or extreme way                                                                                            |
| 12. to mirror            | L. to represent something honestly                                                                                                  |
| 13. cohesive             | M. united and working together effectively                                                                                          |
| 14. equitable            | N. treating everyone fairly and in the same way                                                                                     |
| 15. inevitable           | O. certain to happen and unable to be avoided or prevented                                                                          |
| 16. to tinker            | P. to make small changes to something, especially in an attempt to repair or improve it                                             |
| 17. counterparts         | Q. a person or thing that has the same purpose as another one in a different place or organization                                  |
| 18. score                | R. the number of points, goals, etc. achieved in a game or competition                                                              |

### III. Read the text Why do Finnish pupils succeed with less homework?

<https://www.bbc.com/news/education-37716005>,

watch the video School Swap: Korea Style, Episode 1 Full BBC Documentary 2016

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aZsYdesxVCg>

and decide if the sentences are True, False (or if the information is not included in the text).

1. Parents of British kids are not happy with the level of education in the UK
2. Finnish students spend less time doing homework compared to other countries
3. Finnish students have much shorter holidays than British students
4. Obligatory education in Finland starts at the age of 3
5. Finnish parents want schools to be family-oriented
6. Teachers are not highly respected or paid well in Finland
7. There are many rankings and test administered in order to assess students in Finland
8. Kids in Korea experience high pressure and competition
9. Education in Korea does not depend on politics / politicians
10. Student in the UK spend less time at school compared to Finnish students
11. Finnish schools have better results because they spend more time learning
12. A study by British scientists has shown that extra homework did not influence their test outcomes

### IV. Complete the sentences with the following words:

*achievement counterparts high-status instruction oil scores tests tuition*

1. Democratic schools adopt a completely new approach towards classroom \_\_\_\_\_.
2. When it comes to the international Pisa \_\_\_\_\_, Finland is in the sixth place in the world.
3. Finnish students spend less time at school compared to their English \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Private \_\_\_\_\_, which offers additional classes run in the evening, is extremely popular in South Korea.
5. Students in South Korea burn midnight \_\_\_\_\_, because they spend long evenings at hogwans.
6. High average \_\_\_\_\_ can grant a student a place at a top university.
7. Teaching is a \_\_\_\_\_ profession in Finland.
8. Extra homework has positive impact on students' \_\_\_\_\_.

### V. Complete the expressions from the text:

(use the following words: *centenary, kitchen, midnight, tail, value*)

\_\_\_\_\_ table arguments - informal family discussions

the \_\_\_\_\_ wagging the dog - a situation in which a large group has to do something to satisfy a small group

burn \_\_\_\_\_ oil - stay up very late in order to study or do some other work

deliver greater \_\_\_\_\_ in learning in fewer hours - provide better education in smaller number of classes

\_\_\_\_\_ commemorations - 100 years celebrations

### VI. DISCUSSION:

So what's going on? How do the Finns seem to start later, have fewer lessons and then finish ahead?

How is the South Korean system of education different from Polish/ British education?

What is worth implementing into the Polish system of education? What is not?

If you had the power to change anything in Polish education, what would it be?