

Britain

[D] In the United Kingdom (Britain), the educational system reflects the class system. All state schools—primary, secondary, and university—are free, and the first nine years are egalitarian; all students learn the same material. At age eleven, students take an important national exam. After this, they attend one of three possible secondary schools: college preparatory, vocational (for job training), or comprehensive (with both groups of students). However, 7 percent of British students attend expensive private schools. These are students from upper-class families. Half of the students at Oxford and Cambridge universities come from such expensive secondary schools. Although all universities are free, only 1 percent of the lower class goes to university. Because graduates from good universities get the best jobs, it is clear that success is largely a result of one's social class.

The United States

[E] Education in the United States is more democratic than in many countries, but it also has serious problems. Public primary and secondary schools are free, and almost 80 percent of all Americans are high school graduates. Students themselves decide if they want college-preparatory or vocational classes in high school; no national exam determines this. Higher education is not free, but it is available to almost anyone, and about 70 percent of all high school graduates attend college or university. Older people have the opportunity to attend college too because Americans believe that "you're never too old to learn."

However, there are also problems in U.S. schools. In many secondary schools, there are problems with lack of discipline and with drugs and crime. In addition, public schools receive their money from local taxes, so schools in poor areas don't have enough good teachers, or laboratory equipment, and the buildings are often not in good condition. Clearly, U.S. education reflects both the best and the worst of the society.

Conclusion

[F] It is clear that each educational system is a reflection of the larger culture: its economy, values, social structure, and problems. Look at a country's schools, and you will learn about the society in which they exist.

Drill 1

Find the word or phrase that is closest in meaning to the synonym of each word in the left-hand column. Write the letter in the blank.

ابتدایی - اولیه	1. primary	(a) pertinent
مرتبط - مربوط	2. relevant	(b) initial
روستایی	3. rural	(c) settle
تعیین کردن	4. determine	(d) rustic
امکان پذیر	5. possible	(e) junction
ارتباط	6. connection	(f) practical

Drill 2

Find the word or phrase that is closest in meaning to the antonym of each word in the left-hand column.

.....	1. comprehensive	(a) disappear	ناپدید شدن
.....	2. attend	(b) selective	انتخابی
.....	3. primary	(c) ultimately	نهایتاً
.....	4. entire	(d) Unattainable	غیر قابل دسترس
.....	5. possible	(e) break	شکستن
.....	6. connection	(f) briefly	به طور خلاصه

Drill 1

1. B

2. a

3. d

4. c

5. F

6. e

Drill 2

1. b

2. a

3. c

4. f

5. d

6. e

Lesson two: “Preview words for study ”

1. *predict* پیش‌گویی / پیش‌بینی کردن
2. *Unbelievable* تعجب‌آور – غیرقابل باور / باور نکردنی
3. *over crowded* بسیار شلوغ / انبوه شدن / ازدحام کردن
4. *Due to* به دلیل / بخاطر / بعلت
5. *crime* تقصیر / گناه / جنایت
6. *access* دسترسی / وسیله حصول / دسترسی
7. *urban* شهرنشین / شهری
8. *Mayor* شهردار
9. *improve* پیشرفت کردن / اصلاح کردن / بهبود دادن
10. *establish* بنا نهادن / برپاساختن / تاسیس کردن
11. *solution* محلول / راه حل / چاره‌سازی
12. *instead* به جای / در عوض
13. *exchange* معامله / داد و ستد کردن / مبادله
14. *already* قبلاً / پیش از این
15. *neighbor hood* اهل محل / مجاورت / همسایگی
16. *pleasant* دلپذیر / خوش‌آیند
17. *strict* محکم / اکیداً / سخت
18. *night mare* خواب ناراحت / کابوس
19. *expert* متخصص (ماهر)
20. *horrible* ناگوار / مهیب / سهمگین
21. *actually* عملاً / واقعاً
22. *rich* پرشکوه / دولت‌مند / توانگر
23. *creative* آفریننده / خالق

24. **collection** اجتماع / جمع‌آوری
25. **subway** مترو / راه زیرزمینی
26. **Transportation** ترابری / حمل و نقل
27. **focus** متمرکز کردن / مرکز توجه / کانون
28. **decided** قطعی / مصمم
29. **Quality** چگونگی / کیفیت
30. **income** عایدی / درآمد

A City That's Doing Something Right

[A] There's good news and bad news about life in modern cities—first the bad. People who study population growth predict a nightmare by the year ٢٠٢٥, the global population will be more than ٨ billion and almost ٤ billion of these people will be living in cities in developing countries such as India and Nigeria. Population growth is already causing unbelievable overcrowding. Nairobi, Kenya has basic services for ٢٠٠٠٠٠٠ people but has a population of ٥ million. Mexico City is home to almost ٢٥ million people. By the year ٢٠٢٥, population experts predict, ٦٦٠ million people will be living in cities in India. Due to overcrowding these cities have problems with air pollution, disease, and crime. People spend hours in gridlock—that is, traffic so horrible that it simply doesn't move—when they commute daily from their homes to their work and back. There, isn't enough water, transportation, or housing. Many people don't have access to health services or jobs. Now the good news: in some cities, instead of worsening urban life is actually getting much better.

A City and Its Mayor

[B] It might not be a surprise to find that life in affluent cities is improving. But what about cities that aren't rich? The city of Curitiba, Brazil, proves that it is possible for even a city in a developing country to offer a good life to its residents. The mayor of Curitiba for twenty-five years, Jaime Lerner, was an architect and a very practical person. Under his leadership, the city planners established a list of priorities—in other words, a list of what was most important to work on. They decided to focus on the environment and on the quality of life. With an average income of only about \$٢٠٠٠ per person per year, Curitiba has the same problems as many cities. However, it also has some creative solutions.

Garbage Collection

[C] One creative solution is the method of garbage collection. In neighborhoods that garbage trucks can't reach, poor people bring bags of trash to special centers. At these centers, they exchange the trash for fresh produce—such as potatoes and oranges—or for bus tickets. At a recycling plant, workers separate bottles, plastic, and cans from other trash. Two-thirds of Curitiba's garbage is recycled, which is good for the environment. And the plant gives jobs to the poorest people, which improves their lives.

Transportation

[D] Due to careful planning, Curitiba does not have the same traffic problems that most cities have. The statistics are surprising. The population has grown – now twice the size it was in 1974—but traffic has actually decreased 10 percent. Curitiba needed a mass-transit system but couldn't afford an expensive subway. City planners began, instead, with an unusual system of buses in the center lanes of five wide major streets. At each bus stop, there is a forty-foot-long glass tube. Passengers pay before they enter the tube. Then they get on the bus "subway style"—through wide doors. This allows people to get on and off the bus quickly and efficiently. People don't crowd onto the bus; loading and unloading takes only thirty seconds. This makes commuting more pleasant and also helps to solve the problem of air pollution.

Street Children

[E] Then there is the problem of street children. To help solve this problem, Jaime Lerner talked seriously with owners of factories and stores. Each factory and store owner agreed to take care of a few street children—to give them a meal every day and a small amount of money. In exchange, the children do small, simple jobs in the garden or office. In addition, the city hired teenagers to keep the public parks clean.

The Environment

[F] To make the environment both cleaner and more beautiful, Curitiba has strict laws against polluters. But it also has low taxes for companies that have green areas, so several hundred major industries such as Pepsi and Volvo have offices in the city. Bringing natural beauty into the city is a priority. For this reason, Curitiba gave 1,000 million young trees to neighborhoods to plant and take care of. And the downtown shopping area is now a pedestrian zone—in other words, for walkers only, no cars—and is lined with gardens.

A Symbol of the Possible

[G] Clearly, overcrowding in big cities worldwide is the cause of serious problems. However, the example of Curitiba provides hope that careful planning and creative thinking can lead to solutions to many of them. Curitiba is truly, as Lewis Mumford once said of cities in general, a "symbol of the possible."