

PART 6

You are going to read an article about education. Six sentences have been removed from the article. Choose from the sentences **A-G** the one which fits each gap (37-42). There is one extra sentence which you do not need to use.

A LESSON IN EDUCATION

You could say that the modern education system in Britain is based on equality. All boys and girls, whether they are wealthy or not, are entitled to an education. However, it was not always like this.

37 In the early Middle Ages, education was mainly the responsibility of the church. It was, therefore, only boys intending to become priests or monks who benefited from formal learning.

Grammar schools followed in the 12th century. First opened by the church to teach Latin grammar to boys, by the 16th century such schools also taught the languages and literature of the ancient Greeks and Romans. However, they were no longer run solely by the clergy, but by merchant and trade associations as well. **38** In fact, before the late 1800s, girls had little or no opportunity at all to receive a formal education.

The poorer classes were also discriminated against. While the sons of wealthier families attended exclusive 'public schools', the majority of the poor stayed at home. This problem was first addressed in the 1700s with the introduction of 'charity schools' which provided free teaching and clothing for the children of the poor. **39** A type of modern-day 'monitor' can still be found in some British schools today. Although they are not responsible for teaching lessons, these monitors, or 'prefects' as they are now more commonly called, help to discipline the younger students and teach them the rules of the school.

In 1870, elementary education was introduced by William Forster. 'Elementary' means basic, and the aim was to teach students the basics of reading, writing and arithmetic, or the three 'Rs' as they were known. Unlike charity schools, which were located mainly in towns and cities, primary schools were built throughout the country so that more children could receive an elementary education. Many children, however, were still unable to go to these schools; since their families were so poor, they had to work instead. **40** All children, male and female, whether wealthy or not, had to attend primary school until the age of eleven.

In 1918, a new law was introduced to raise the school-leaving age. It meant that any student who failed to be accepted into grammar school would still be entitled to a free education up until the age of fourteen. **41** Students now had to go to school until they were at least fifteen years old, and new 'secondary schools' were developed. At the age of eleven all children would be made to take an examination. The successful candidates would immediately begin grammar school, while the less successful students would attend the new secondary schools. **42**

Nowadays, most grammar and secondary schools have been replaced by comprehensive schools. Comprehensive schools welcome students of all abilities, so there is no longer any need for eleven-year-olds to take a special test. Although grammar schools still exist in some places, comprehensive education, which is generally considered to be the fairest system, offers a high standard of education to all.

- A** Although many people were against it, this system continued for almost thirty years.
- B** Free education was introduced only at the beginning of the 20th century.
- C** Although the majority of British schools continue to be state-run, the government is actively encouraging them to become more independent and to take greater control of their own affairs.
- D** It wasn't until almost four hundred years later that grammar schools opened their doors to female students.
- E** Less than thirty years later, the education policy was changed again.
- F** For this reason, ten years later, elementary education was made compulsory.
- G** It was in these schools that older students learned from the teachers and then passed their knowledge on to the younger students.