

## HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT SCHOOL?



### WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE SUBJECT? IS THERE A SUBJECT YOU DISLIKE?

At the moment, my favourite subject is (science / history / geography / ...).

A subject I dislike is (maths / music / physics / ...).

### FOR WHICH SUBJECT DO YOU STUDY MOST? WHICH SUBJECT IS EASIEST FOR YOU?

I spend the most time on ... because I (really enjoy it / don't know much about it / am finding it the hardest subject / ...).

The easiest subject for me is ... since I (am very interested in it / have an excellent teacher / already know a lot about it / ...).

### WHICH SUBJECT DO YOU CONSIDER THE MOST IMPORTANT? ARE THERE ANY OTHER SUBJECTS YOU'D LIKE TO HAVE AT SCHOOL?

The most important subject for me is ... because I (will use it in my work one day / think it's part of a good education / know I'll need it in life / ...).

I wish that we could also have (psychology / photography / drama / ...).



### HOW DO YOU LIKE TO SPEND BREAKS BETWEEN CLASSES?

During breaks I enjoy (playing sport / talking with friends / having a snack / ...).

Sometimes I like to (use my mobile phone to call or send a message / see a teacher for some help / do some reading / ...).

### WHAT'S THE SPORTS PROGRAMME LIKE AT YOUR SCHOOL?

During the year, we have (physical education classes / after-school sports / a fitness club / ...).

We also (compete in sports with other schools / have an annual outdoor sports day / go to the ice-skating rink in the winter / ...).



### WHAT EXTRA-CURRICULAR AND SPECIAL ACTIVITIES DO YOU HAVE AT YOUR SCHOOL?

At our school, students can (join an English club / participate in amateur theatre / help in some community projects / ...).

Once or twice a year, we have a/an (camping trip / school ball / excursion to a place of interest / ...).



### IS THERE ANYTHING YOU'D LIKE TO CHANGE AT YOUR SCHOOL?

I would like to suggest that we have (smaller classes / a school newspaper / a choir or orchestra / ...).

I don't see a need for changes. I enjoy attending this school because (the teachers are nice / we have modern equipment / there are good sports facilities / ...).



## EASY WAYS TO IMPROVE SCHOOL GRADES

You know that it takes effort to do well academically. But, did you know there are ways to make the job easier and the results better? Here are four proven tips to help you succeed at school.

**Sit near the front.** While this might sound simple or untrue to some, students who sit at the front of the class usually do better than those who take the back rows. Actually, it's easy to see why. There is less distraction, more interaction with the teacher, as well as a better view of what's going on and the feeling of needing to pay attention. And here's a less known fact that will add to your success: Others will see you as a more serious student. This in turn will cause you to see yourself that way as well, and motivate you to work harder.

**Ask questions.** This shows you are trying to understand. Don't just assume you understand when you're not really sure. If you're embarrassed to ask in front of the class what may seem to be a silly question, see the teacher afterwards. Talking to your teacher in the classroom and during office hours has many benefits! First, the teacher will tend to take you more seriously and give you more attention. Second, it will help you form a rapport with your teacher, which will cause you to unconsciously want to try harder. Third, the teacher will like you more (if you're kind and respectful to them) which might win you some extra points when your work is graded. And finally, talking to your teacher will keep you more involved in the class, which is favourable to learning.

**Be neat.** Studies have shown that teachers tend to give higher marks for school assignments that are neatly handwritten or typed, even if the content is the same as that of a sloppily presented piece of work (looking like the student doesn't care). This doesn't mean you should lower the quality of what you say. But, if your work looks neat and it's easy for the instructor to read, you may get a slightly better mark. And sometimes every little bit helps.

**Spread out studying.** Don't wait until the last minute to study for an exam. Instead, plan some daily study time so you don't end up having a cram session. One of the laws of learning is that a task is remembered better if it is practised for several short periods of time, rather than over one long period. In other words, if you study an hour or so every day for a week, you'll remember much more than if you stay up the whole night, trying to learn everything before the big test the next day.

Try all four of these simple tips and see for yourself whether or not your school results get better.

### Discuss the questions

- Why do students who sit near the front of the class often earn better marks?
  - How does asking questions and talking to the teacher benefit students?
  - Why is handing in neat work an advantage for students?
  - "To take some time out of every day to study is a good rule to follow." Why?
  - Does burning the midnight oil before a big test pay off? Why?
  - Which of the four study tips are you already practising?
  - What other effective study techniques do you know?
  - What do you think are some personal qualities of good learners?
- Is it important to do well at school? Explain.  
An English proverb says: "Knowledge is power." How is it true?



### Vocabulary

**burn the midnight oil** ['bɜːn ðə mɪdnɑːt 'ɔɪl] phr – to stay up very late to study or work

**cram** [kræm] v – to learn as much as possible in a short time just before taking a test

**embarrassed** [ɪm'bærəst] adj – feeling awkward or ashamed about something

**involved** [ɪn'vɒlvd] adj – to take a part in or be connected with

**rapport** [ræp'ɔː(r)] n – good relationship of understanding one another, bond

**unconsciously** [ʌn'kɒnʃəsli] adv – without being aware of something