

Reading Part (12 pts.)

Read the following passage carefully. Then work out the activities set on it.

What Is Good Education?

1. Among the important issues that have always worried societies is the question of education. As people are, more or less, the outcome of the education they have received, schools and universities undertake a great responsibility in preparing future generations. Yet, the worrying question has always been, "What is the proper education to be given to a learner?" The answer to this question has been changing, along with the social, political and economic changes, which have always conveyed different values and concepts.
2. In the past, the educated man was the one prepared well for life. An essay written by JJH. Newman in the 19th century probably expresses best the concept of good education of that time. According to Newman, education should raise the intellectual tone of society, cultivate the public mind, and purify the national taste. Education, Newman adds, helps man to develop his opinions and judgments and enables him to express them well. It also teaches him to take what is right and discard what is irrelevant. In a word, a good education prepares man to be qualified for a job and to master any subject with facility. Newman concludes that education is "a gift which serves man in his work and supports him in his retirement." So, at that time, there was a deep belief in what they called "thorough education", which would enable man to deal with any subject no matter what his job is.
3. In the 1960s, lifestyles and values started to change, and the call for a dramatic change in educational curricula began to persist, asking for a more practical and free education. The students demanded an education that would make them better prepared for the world of business. It was work they were after, thus came their opposition to study the subjects that wouldn't serve that goal. They would argue that they could be successful doctors, engineers, or businessmen, with no need to receive courses in literature, psychology, or any other subject they weren't interested in. They considered such courses a waste of time and money. As a matter of fact, universities started to give their students more and more freedom to choose the subjects that would get along with their taste.
4. Yet, the debate about the best education to give hasn't stopped. The supporters of the traditional education are very worried. They argue that narrow education that concentrates on certain scientific subject matters ignoring humanities will produce robots and not educated people.
5. Still, the fact that can't be ignored is that governments and concerned institutions have been obliged, many times, to reconsider their educational systems in an attempt to meet the demands of this age. That explains the Lebanese government's continuous efforts to set the objective for a new curriculum that emphasizes the creation of a proficient citizen in order to promote openness and interaction with other cultures and prepare learners to cope with the future in the most efficient way.

A. Identify the subjects of the underlined verbs in the passage. (0.75 pt.)

1. is (paragraph 1)
2. are (paragraph 4)
3. will produce (paragraph 4)

B. Copy the following chart in your answer booklet, and then fill it out with reference to the passage. (1.5 pts.)

Role of Education at the Personal Level	Role of Education at the Social Level
1.	1.
2.	2.
3.	3.

C. In 2-3 sentences, answer each of the following questions about the reading passage. (3.5 pts.)

1. “What Is Good Education?” has been suggested as a title for the passage. Do you think this is a suitable title? Explain.
2. According to the passage, why does education differ from one nation or place to another?
3. What are two reasons that make students dislike studying some courses that are not related to their areas of study?
4. What does the writer mean by saying, “...narrow education that concentrates on certain scientific subject matters ignoring humanities will produce robots and not educated people”?

D. The following statements are false because they misinterpret what the passage says or implies. Rewrite them correctly. (1 pt.)

1. Students are not allowed to express their opinions about the subjects they are studying nowadays.
2. Books have been changed in Lebanon because the previous ones have become very old.

E. Fill in the blanks below with words from the second and third paragraphs of the reading passage. Make any necessary changes. (2 pts.)

1. My professor asked me to all the old computer programs, for they have become inefficient.
2. He became a keen Math teacher after he from politics.
3. Computers have brought about changes into the workplaces; they have greatly improved workers’ performance.
4. Today’s modern liberal education ensures more students’ involvement in to traditional education.

F. Write the number of the paragraph(s) that correspond(s) to each of the headings stated. The same heading can be used for more than one paragraph. (0.75 pt.)

Headings	Paragraph Number(s)
1. Role of Education	
2. Purposes of Educational Change	

G. Rewrite the following sentences, starting each as indicated, without changing the meaning. (1.5 pts.)

- Some subjects serve no practical goals at all.
Rarely
- “Why did the Lebanese government change the curricula last year?”
The students asked
- The facts pertaining to educational change can’t be ignored in Lebanon.
People

H. Find the ONE grammatical error in each sentence below and correct it. (1 pt.)

- Neither the supervisors nor the principal agree with the governmental educational policy.
- If two educational trends will contradict one another in Lebanon, the government has to interfere.
- The teacher asked what job could I get.
- The Lebanese educators are fearing the effects of the Educational American invasion.

Writing Part (8 pts.)

"Learning another language is power." In 150- 200 word essay, discuss at least three benefits of learning a foreign language like English, supporting your ideas with examples from real life.

First, outline your ideas. Then develop those ideas into an essay, provided with a suitable title.

Score: 2 pts. for the outline
3 pts. for content
3 pts. for organization, grammar, mechanics, ...

Best Wishes

Subject: Answer Key of the Second Common English Exam
School Year: 2009-2010
Grade: 9

A.

1. is (paragraph 1): the question of education
2. are (paragraph 4): supporters of the traditional education
3. will produce (paragraph 4): narrow education

Score: 0.25 pt. for each correct item

B.

Role of Education at the Personal Level	Role of Education at the Social Level
1. It prepares man to be qualified for a job.	1. It raises the intellectual tone of the society.
2. It develops one's opinions and judgments.	2. It cultivates the public mind.
3. It helps one express himself well.	3. It purifies the national taste.

Score: 0.25 pt. for each correct item

C.

1. "What is Good Education? is a suitable title, for it reflects the content of the passage. The passage at hands presents different opinions held about the real goals which education should aim at.

Score: 0.5 pt. for proper explanation

0.25 pt. for the sentence structure

2. The question of education is still a controversial one, and it differs from one nation to another because it is affected by the social, political, and economic changes which convey different values and concepts.

Score: 0.75 pt. for proper explanation

0.25 pt. for the sentence structure

3. Students believe that the courses that are not directly related to their areas of study are not practical and related to the world of business on one hand and a waste of time and money on the other hand.

Score: 0.5 pt. for the two reasons

0.25 pt. for the sentence structure

4. Explanations may vary. Accept reasonable ones.

Score: 0.75 pt. for reasonable explanation

0.25 pt. for the sentence structure

D.

1. Some universities are giving students more freedom to choose the subjects which would get along with their taste.
2. Books have been changed in Lebanon so that they meet the demands of this age, create a proficient citizen, and cope with the future efficiently.

Score: 0.5 pt. for correcting each statement

E.

1. discard
2. retired
3. dramatic
4. opposition

Score: 0.5 pt. for each correct item; there must be no mistakes at all in the student's answer – spelling, part of speech ...

F.

Headings	Paragraph Number(s)
1. Role of Education	2
2. Causes of Educational Change	3 & 5

Score: 0.25 pt. for each correct paragraph number

G.

1. Rarely do some subjects serve practical goals.

Score: 0.5 pt. for rewriting the sentence properly; there must no mistakes at all in the student's answer

2. The students asked why the Lebanese government had changed the curricula the year before.

Score: 0.5 pt. for the two underlined parts

3. People can't ignore the facts pertaining to educational change.

Score: 0.5 pt. for rewriting the sentence properly

H.

1. nor the principal agree: nor the principal agrees
2. will contradict: contradict
3. could I get: I could get
4. are fearing: fear

Score: 0.25 pt. for correcting each error

In the Name of God

School Year: 2009 – 2010

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