

3

SCHOOL EDUCATION SYSTEM



READING

Before You Read

- a) *Three of the following are the commonly debated topics in the US. Work with a partner and discuss what they are.*
1. Whether students should learn about sex.
 2. Whether teachers should be taxed.
 3. Whether teachers should be allowed to say prayers.
 4. Whether students should be forced to learn their mother tongue.
 5. Whether students should have a say in the hire of teachers.
 6. Whether it is right to hit students as a punishment.
- b) *What do you think are the commonly debated topics in Viet Nam? Make additions of your own, if necessary.*

Reading Text

Now read through the passage and do the tasks that follow.

PASCAGOULA HIGH SCHOOL



Finally, it is important to note that some of the discipline problems teachers face in their classroom have their origin in the home. Living in a fast-paced

and mobile society has created family stresses that could not have been imagined by our grandparents. Their life while growing up was not any easier than today's life. In fact, it is assuredly different, particularly regarding the intensity and rapidity with which children today experience various developmental stages. According to some social studies, boys and girls are reportedly maturing five years earlier than they did 50 years ago. This means that they are coming under the influence of emotions relating to sex, aggression, competitiveness, and so on, far earlier than their mothers and fathers did.

The average seventh- or eighth-grade teacher is no longer even surprised by the depth of understanding and ability of young students to imitate the attractive images of adult behavior and lifestyles so often found in today's media. These generational differences are sometimes even more difficult for parents to accept than for you, the teacher. This often leads to serious conflicts at home that appear in your classroom as seemingly minor but repeated misbehavior. There is little influence you can have over home conflicts, except to understand that they originate in the home and not in your classroom. There will be times when no amount of reward or punishment will work, because the source of the problem is within the home and may be far more serious than you suppose. These are not unimportant for students, especially when combined with the social and academic demands of school, the uncertainties of a future job or education, and the tension that school-age children always feel between youth and adulthood.

a) Match each of the following words in A with its definition or equivalent in B.

A	B
1. fast-paced	a. becoming an adult
2. mobile	b. feelings such as happiness, love, fear, anger, etc.
3. assuredly	c. with a fast speed
4. maturing	d. states of doubt about the future or about what is the right thing to do
5. emotions	e. moving easily from one job, home, or social class to another
6. average	f. typical, normal
7. misbehaviors	g. behaviors that are not acceptable to others
8. uncertainties	h. definitely

b) Based on the information in the passage, check whether the following statements are true (**T**) or false (**F**).

- | | T | F |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Most discipline problems caused by students start from their families. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Society is changing more rapidly, constantly, and intensively than it was in the past. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Children in secondary schools are taller and bigger than they were half a century ago. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Teenage students are affected by TV, newspapers, the Internet, etc. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. It is easier for the teacher to sympathize with generational differences than for parents. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. As a result, the teacher is in the best position to solve students' conflicts at home. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7. Educators should understand that disciplinary actions do not always work with students. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8. Students' difficulties may be worsened by problems concerning their development and worries. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

c) Give short answers to the following questions.

1. What has caused family stresses for young people?
2. Why isn't it easy for parents and grandparents to understand their children and grandchildren?
3. According to the studies quoted, did the parents come under the influence of emotions as the boys and girls do today? Is there any difference between the two generations?
4. Do most secondary school teachers find it shocking when their students understand adult behavior and lifestyles very well?
5. What is the warning possibly implied by the advice that teachers should understand that students' misbehaviors in the classroom may originate from their families and not in the classroom?

d) Discuss these questions with a partner.

1. Have you ever been disciplined at school?
2. What punishment was it? Looking back, do you think it was fair?
3. What would you like it to have been?



LISTENING

a) Match the words and phrases provided with the correct pictures. MORE THAN ONE WORD OR PHRASE may be used for one picture. Use a dictionary to check the difference.



- | | | |
|-----------------|----------------------|------------------|
| 1. college | 2. elementary school | 3. middle school |
| 4. kindergarten | 5. primary school | 6. high school |
| | | 7. university |

Unit 3. School Education System

- b) Work with a partner. Fill in the spaces with the appropriate words and phrases provided above. MORE THAN ONE WORD OR PHRASE may be used for one space. The first one has been done as an example.

	School
Primary education	_____
Secondary education	middle school

Higher education	_____

- c) Now listen to the talk and choose the correct answers.

- Why does the girl sound so excited?
 - Because summer is coming soon.
 - Because her high school is giving a big celebration soon.
 - Because she is starting a new and significant grade soon.
- When will the boy start his high school?
 - Next year.
 - The year after next.
 - The time is unknown.
- How many grades does the girl say there are in American high schools?
 - Two.
 - Three.
 - Four.
- How many grades are there in American middle schools?
 - Two.
 - Three.
 - Four.
- How many grades are there in Vietnamese lower secondary schools?
 - Two.
 - Three.
 - Four.
- How many grades are there in Vietnamese upper secondary schools?
 - Two.
 - Three.
 - Four.

7. Regarding students in American high schools, put the numbers in the right box.

- | | | |
|-------------|--------------------------|---------------|
| 1. Grade 9 | <input type="checkbox"/> | A. freshmen |
| 2. Grade 10 | <input type="checkbox"/> | B. juniors |
| 3. Grade 11 | <input type="checkbox"/> | C. sophomores |
| 4. Grade 12 | <input type="checkbox"/> | D. seniors |

8. Which of these terms causes confusion between the two speakers?

- A. High school.
- B. Secondary school.
- C. Secondary education.

d) *Discuss these questions with a partner.*

- 1. Why shouldn't high school students be allowed to ride motorcycles of 70 cc or above?
- 2. Should sex education be introduced into the high school curriculum?



SPEAKING

Talking About Vietnamese Studies

a) *Work in pairs. Read the following brochure of the Vietnamese Studies Program at the University of Social Sciences & Humanities (USSH) and check the best answers.*

This is an interdisciplinary program leading to a bachelor's degree. The flexible curriculum encourages students to pick up the subjects of various disciplines depending on their needs: language study, literature, history, sociology, political science, economics, philosophy, and education. In particular, with our collaboration with regional universities, the "Transnational Study" course is a gateway for those who are also interested in exchange courses with Southeast Asian and Chinese institutions.

Also, there are "All-You-May-Need" courses to equip those from multinationals, diplomatic missions, non-profit and for-profit organizations with the basics of Viet Nam and its language and people, hopefully ensuring their successful and enjoyable assignments.

Besides, our cultural discovery tours to scenic and historic spots around Viet Nam bilingually guided by volunteers from the Faculty of English Linguistics & Literature will make your study quite an experience.

1. The Vietnamese Studies program is flexible because _____.
 - A. it allows students to select the subjects that suit their needs
 - B. its students can choose the schedules of their classes
 - C. no particular commitment is required of students
2. Which of the following is unlikely to be a course offered by the program?
 - A. The Open-Door Policy's Impact on Viet Nam's Economy.
 - B. Foreign Influence on Viet Nam's Development.
 - C. Women's Liberation in Viet Nam.
3. The survival courses aim at the following target learners: (*more than one check*)
 - A. Employees from international organizations.
 - B. Employees from international missions.
 - C. Employees from multinationals' representative offices.
 - D. International tourists to Viet Nam.
4. Which of the following might be the destinations of cultural discovery tours? (*more than one check*)
 - A. Cu Chi Tunnels.
 - B. Floating Markets in the Mekong Delta.
 - C. The Museum of Revolution.
 - D. Diamond Plaza Mall.

- b) Work in pairs. Imagine that one is an international student asking about Vietnamese language and Vietnamese Studies courses and the other is a study adviser giving information. The prompts in the table will help you. Feel free to make appropriate additions.

Language Courses	Notes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – <i>Survival Vietnamese</i>: basic Vietnamese for everyday conversations – <i>Spoken Vietnamese Practice</i>: intensive practice of listening & speaking skills – <i>Written Vietnamese</i>: intensive practice of reading & writing skills plus grammar review – <i>Vietnamese Language Study</i>: in-depth study of the Vietnamese language 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Daytime & evening classes – Crash courses available upon request – Language of instruction: Vietnamese and English, Japanese, Korean, or Chinese
Vietnamese Studies	Notes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – <i>Introduction to Vietnamese History</i>: an outline of the country's 4,000-year history – <i>Introduction to Vietnamese Geography</i>: a sketch of Viet Nam's geographical features & their impact on the national development & people – <i>A Contemporary History of Viet Nam</i>: recent events shaping the nation – <i>Sailing into the New Millennium: Viet Nam's Promises and Perils</i>: an overview of the country's challenges and opportunities – <i>Vietnamese Ethnic Minorities</i>: studies of the ethnic peoples 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – May earn credits for the program leading to a bachelor's degree – Language of instruction: Vietnamese – Learning support: English-speaking teaching assistants (TA's) available

Support Facilities	Notes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Home-stay: hands-on experience of Vietnamese life – Excursions: visits to scenic and historic spots – Vietnamese speaking club: practice of everyday Vietnamese – <i>Viet Forum</i>: on-line discussion of various issues of interest 	Surcharges apply.

 Example

Mary: I'd like to have an overview of Vietnamese history. What course do you think will be best for me?

You: "Introduction to Vietnamese History" is perhaps an excellent choice. It will give you an outline of the country's 4,000-year history. You'll learn about key events throughout the nation's history.

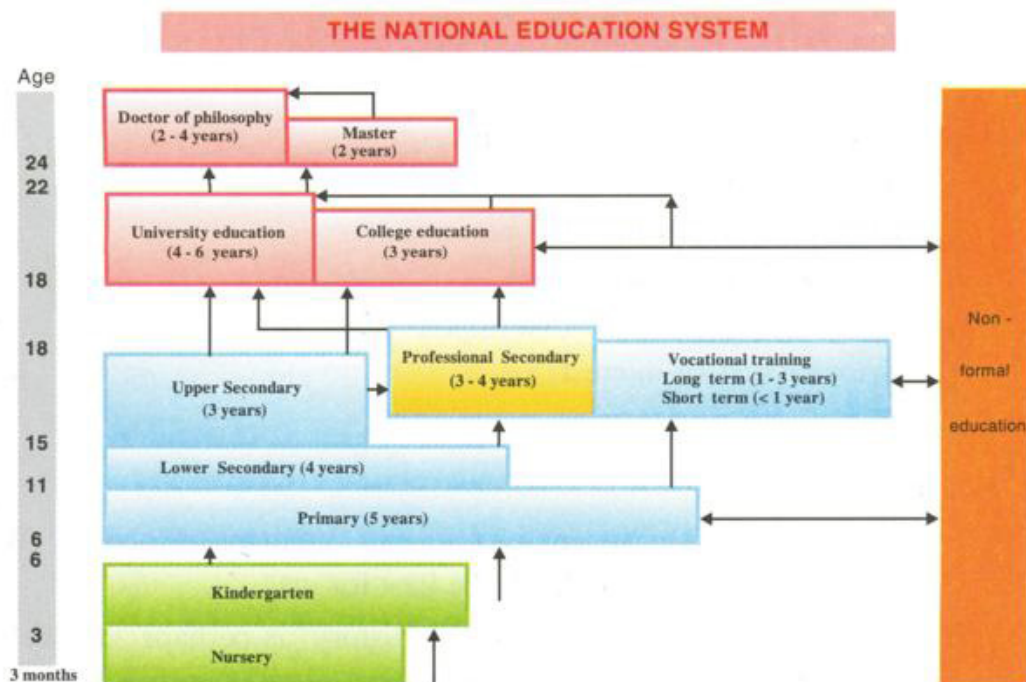
Mary: Do the professors speak English or Vietnamese?

You: Vietnamese. There are English-speaking TA's just in case, though.

Useful Expressions	
Questions	Answers
– I'd like to have an overview of ... What course do you think will be best for me?	– ... is perhaps an excellent choice. It will give you an outline of ... You will have an idea of ...
– I'm interested in studying about ... Could you recommend relevant , programs?	– Sure. How / What about ...? They will offer you opportunities to learn about ...
– My study objectives are ... What do you think?	– If I were you, I'd take ...



WRITING



- a) Work in pairs to ask and answer about the average lengths of levels of education in Viet Nam as shown in the flow chart. Each pair should make at least three exchanges.



Example

Q: How long does it take to complete primary education?

A: It takes five years.

- b) Check the correct answers.

- There are two types of education in Viet Nam: *formal* and _____.
 A. *vocational*
 B. *informal*
 C. *non-formal*
- A child of _____ is old enough to go to nursery school.
 A. three months old
 B. three years old
 C. any age

3. It takes altogether seven years to finish _____ education, which is composed of lower and upper secondary classes.
A. primary
B. secondary
C. post-secondary
 4. Professional education may last _____ year(s) longer than upper secondary education.
A. one
B. three
C. four
 5. An average person should be at least _____ years old to start his or her university or college study.
A. 12 B. 18 C. 22
 6. The mainstream path to college or university study is _____.
A. primary education → lower secondary education → upper secondary education → college / university education
B. primary education → lower secondary education → professional secondary education → college / university education
C. primary education → vocational training → professional secondary education → college / university education
D. primary education → non-formal education → college / university education
- c) Write a personal statement of 130-170 words describing your educational path since you started the first grade. Do not forget to include your achievements or your problems.

Suggested outline

- Your primary education + your achievements / problems
- Your lower secondary education + your achievements / problems
- Your upper secondary education + your achievements / problems



LANGUAGE FOCUS

Word Study

Adverbs Ending with -edly



Examples

In fact, it is *assuredly* different ...

... boys and girls are *reportedly* maturing five years earlier ...

- a) Write the corresponding adverbs ending with -edly in the right column. The first one has been provided as an example.

Verb	Adverb
admit	<u>admittedly</u>
allege	_____
decide	_____
expect	_____
mark	_____
repeat	_____

- b) Fill in the blanks of the rewritten sentences with appropriate adverbs just made. The underlined words or phrases in the original sentences can be used as hints.

1. By general admission education is a subject that the whole society cares about deeply.

→ Education is _____ a subject that the whole society cares about deeply.

2. The educational quality is obviously improved.

→ The educational quality is _____ improved.

3. Given the strong determination of the new principal, it is expected that cheating will be stopped.

→ Given the strong determination of the new principal, cheating will _____ be stopped.

4. It is necessary to note that the organizations of British and American education systems are noticeably different.
→ It is necessary to note that the organizations of British and American education systems are _____ different.
5. The parents had been warned again and again about their son's misbehavior.
→ The parents had been _____ warned about their son's misbehavior.
6. The ideas, which are alleged to be plagiarized, are now being reconsidered.
→ The ideas, _____ plagiarized, are now being reconsidered.

Grammar

Passive Voice



Examples

The depth of understanding and ability of young students ... no longer even surprises the average seventh- or eighth-grade teacher.

→ The average seventh- or eighth-grade teacher *is* no longer even *surprised* by the depth of understanding and ability of young students ...

... family stresses that our grandparents could not have imagined.

→ ... family stresses that *could not have been imagined* by our grandparents.

Rewrite the following sentences using the passive voice for the underlined verbs.

1. The Ministry of Education and Training (MOET) will require all prospective teachers to meet general standards before recruitment.
→ All prospective teachers _____ by MOET to meet general standards before recruitment.
→ It _____ by MOET that all prospective teachers meet general standards before recruitment.

2. Although many Americans attend nursery school from an early age, people usually consider formal education to begin at the age of five, when children go to kindergarten, the first step in K-12 education.
→ Although many Americans attend nursery school from an early age, formal education _____ to begin at the age of five, when children go to kindergarten, the first step in K-12 education.
3. In states like California where there are many people whose first language is not English, there is debate over what languages they must teach in schools.
→ In states like California where there are many people whose first language is not English, there is debate over what languages _____ in schools.
4. People ended corporal punishment like caning many years ago.
→ Corporal punishment like caning _____ many years ago.
5. In Britain, there has been criticism that schools should have paid more attention to the three R's (reading, writing, and arithmetic).
→ In Britain, there have been demands that more attention _____ to the three R's (reading, writing, and arithmetic).
6. More colleges and universities have recently helped students prepare for having a job.
→ Students _____ prepare for having a job by more colleges and universities.
7. Surprisingly, surveys report that 4%, or about 8 million, of American adults are illiterate.
→ Surprisingly, it _____ by surveys that 4%, or about 8 million, of American adults are illiterate.
8. The Parent-Teacher Association had closely watched the observation of regulations for a long time until the Principal resigned.
→ The observation of regulations _____ by the Parent-Teacher Association until the Principal resigned.