



Theo: Yes ... I liked school ... it was an ordinary **state school** ... nothing special ... **a single-sex school** ... which I'm not sure I liked ... but the teachers were great ... I had lots of friends and I never **played truant** like some pupils there ...

### Part 2-style task

Describe a time during your education that you really enjoyed. You should say:

- when this period was
- where you were
- what you were studying at the time

and say why you were so happy.

Caroline: I'd like to tell you about my time at university ... I was **a mature student** ... I didn't go to university until I was 25 ... and it was my first time away from my parents so it was very exciting ... I was doing **a Bachelors Degree** and it was a bit of a challenge ... some people **take a year out** but I'd been away from education for 8 years ... plus I had **to work my way through uni** so I was very busy ... and **sitting exams** at the end of each year was a new experience for me as well but I really enjoyed **higher education** learning about a subject I loved ... history ... and the social life was great as well ... I don't think I've ever had so many friends ... I had my **graduation ceremony** last year in the local cathedral and I know my parents were really proud ... so yes ... that was a really happy time ... I'm thinking of doing a **Masters Degree** soon ... though that might be through **distance learning** as I have a full-time job now ...

### Part 3-style questions

Examiner: What qualities do you think a good teacher has?

Anna: They should be patient ... they should be **subject specialists** and be able to explain the subject clearly ... they should **give feedback** quickly ... for example not hang on to essay for ages like some of my teachers ...

Examiner: What are the advantages of studying on a distance learning course?

Florrie: It's a more flexible way of studying especially if you have a job ... **tuition fees** are usually cheaper ... but you have to be very motivated ... and I would imagine more people **fall behind with their studies** compared to **face-to-face classes** ...

Examiner: Do all children get equal opportunities in education?

Julie: In my country I think it is quite equal but in the UK I've heard that most people who go to the top universities have studied at **public schools** ... you have to be very rich to study in a school like that ... they're usually **boarding schools** as well so the fees are enormous ...

## Definitions

- **to attend classes**: to go to classes
- **bachelors degree**: an undergraduate course which usually lasts 3-4 years
- **boarding school**: a school where pupils live during term time
- **distance learning**: a way of studying where tuition is carried out over the Internet or by post
- **face-to-face classes**: as opposed to distance learning the traditional way of studying in a classroom with colleagues and a teacher
- **to fall behind with your studies**: to progress less quickly than others
- **to give feedback**: to offer guidance on a student's work
- **a graduation ceremony**: an event where a successful student receives his or her academic degree
- **higher education**: education, usually in a college or university, that is followed after high school or secondary school
- **an intensive course**: a course that offers lots of training in order to reach a goal in as short a time as possible
- **to keep up with your studies**: to not fall behind
- **to learn something by heart**: to memorize it
- **a mature student**: a student who is older than average and who has usually returned to education after a period at work

- **masters degree:** a period of study which often follows the completion of a bachelors degree or is undertaken by someone regarded as capable of a higher-level academic course
- **to meet a deadline:** to finish a job or task in the time allowed or agreed
- **to play truant:** to stay away from classes without permission
- **private language school:** an independent school run as a business concern
- **public schools:** exclusive independent schools in the UK
- **a single-sex school:** a school where only boys or girls attend (as opposed to a mixed-sex school)
- **to sit an exam:** to take an exam
- **state school:** a school paid for by public funds and available to the general public
- **subject specialist:** a teacher who has a great deal of knowledge about the subject they teach.
- **to take a year out:** to spend a year working or travelling before starting university
- **tuition fees:** the money paid for a course of study
- **to work your way through university:** to have a paid job whilst studying to support yourself financially