

UNIT 7: EDUCATION OPTIONS FOR SCHOOL-LEAVERS

A. MULTIPLE CHOICE

Mark the letter A, B, C, or D to indicate the word whose underlined part differs from the other three in pronunciation in each of the following questions.

1. A. manage B. practical C. apprentice D. graduation
2. A. apprentice B. psychology C. appointment D. professional

Mark the letter A, B, C, or D to indicate the word that differs from the other three in the position of primary stress in each of the following questions.

3. A. manage B. admit C. brochure D. formal
4. A. professional B. vocational C. education D. apprenticeship

Mark the letter A, B, C or D to indicate the sentence that best completes each of the following exchanges.

5. We've talked to _____ experts about what young people should do after leaving school.
A. educate B. education C. educational D. educator
6. _____ is a period of time working for and learning from a skilled person.
A. Apprenticeship B. Apprentice C. Apprentices D. Apprenticeships
7. Higher education gives students the opportunity to study a subject _____ depth.
A. with B. in C. to D. over
8. Trang is very proud _____ having won the first prize in the competition.
A. to B. with C. from D. of
9. She is a _____ because she just left school.
A. graduate B. school-leaver C. doctorate D. educator
10. He didn't get the job he wanted because he didn't have the right _____.
A. knowledge B. qualifications C. relationship D. fame
11. _____ education is a popular option for school-leavers who don't go to university.
A. Vocational B. Academic C. Secondary D. Formal
12. _____ only three hours, I can hardly focus on my work.
A. Having slept B. was slept C. slept D. sleeping
13. Tom was accused _____ some top secret document.
A. to steal B. of having stolen C. for stealing D. to have stolen
14. _____ for years, he died because of lung cancer.
A. Having been smoking B. Having smoked C. Have smoked D. Being smoked
15. Having _____ the important lesson, she couldn't finish her test.
A. missed B. passed C. gone D. taken
16. Even when arrested, he denied _____ cut down that tree.
A. has B. having C. have D. have had
17. The public praised the local farmers for _____ millions of trees on the surrounding hills.
A. plant B. being planted C. being planting D. having planted
18. Mary said, "I regret _____ him earlier in my life."
A. To meet B. not having met C. to have met D. at meeting
19. _____ from the horseback, he was taken to hospital and had an operation.
A. When falling B. As he was fallen C. After having fallen D. To fall

Read the following announcements and mark the letter A, B, C or D on your answer sheet to indicate the correct option that best fits each of the numbered blanks from 20 to 25.

VOCATIONAL TRAINING MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER

Vocational Education and Training (VET) opens (20) _____ career paths across a wide range of industries. With (21) _____ skill shortages across the aged care, agriculture and hospitality sectors, to name just a few, it's (22) _____ excellent choice for school leavers, and one we need to start showcasing better to students in our schools.

- Question 20:** A. up B. to C. for D. with
Question 21: A. international B. nation C. national D. nationality
Question 22: A. a B. an C. the D. no article

SCHOOL STUDENTS

Whatever you're interested in, TAFE NSW has a pathway to help you get the job you want. Get a head start on a career by (23) _____ a TAFE NSW vocational education course, either at school or online, or earn while you learn with a school-based apprenticeship or traineeship. You (24) _____ also do your post-school studies and choose from a diploma, degree or other pathway to university. This means you (25) _____ by expert teachers with strong industry connections, as well as have access to mentorships, internships and work placements in a real world environment, giving you invaluable experience and a great head start on your career.

- Question 23.** A. achieving B. concluding **C. completing** D. doing
Question 24. A. can B. had C. were D. should
Question 25. A. will be taught B. were taught C. have taught D. be taught

Mark the letter A, B, C, or D on your answer sheet to indicate the correct arrangement of the sentences to make a meaningful paragraph/letter in each of the following questions.

Question 26.

- a. It focuses on theoretical concepts, critical thinking, and research skills, preparing students for a wide range of professions.
- b. After graduating from school, individuals have two primary options for further education: attending university or enrolling in a vocational school.
- c. The choice between university and vocational school depends on an individual's career goals, interests, and learning style.
- d. On the other hand, vocational schools offer specialized training in specific trades or professions, such as automotive repair, culinary arts, or nursing. They provide hands-on experience and practical skills necessary for immediate employment in a specific field.
- e. University offers a broad and comprehensive education, providing in-depth knowledge in various academic disciplines.

- A. b - e - a - d - c** B. b-d-c-a-e C. e- a-b-c-d D. b- e -a-c-d

Question 27.

- a. I would also like to have more information about the starting date, course duration, teachers' experience, fees and course certificate.
- b. In general, I can read articles and write some basic topics in English. However, I can't speak English fluently. I want to improve my pronunciation, and hope to be able to practise my English with native speakers.
- c. I look forward to hearing from you soon.
- d. Dear Ms Smith,
- e. Best regards,
Hai Linh
- f. I saw your advertisement about the language courses on your website. I am interested in learning English, and I am writing to enquire about the English courses at your center.

- A. d - f - b - a - c - e** B. b - d - c - a - e - f
C. a - b - c - d - f - e D. e - f - b - a - c - d

Mark the letter A, B, C, or D on your answer sheet to indicate the correct option that best fits each of the numbered blanks.

One way of training for your future occupation in Germany is by pursuing a dual vocational training programme. Such programmes offer plenty of opportunity for on-the-job training and work experience. Programmes usually last between two and three and a half years and (28) _____. You will spend one or two days a week, or several weeks at once, at a vocational school (29) _____ that you will need in your future occupation. The rest of the time will be spent at a company. There you get to apply your newly acquired knowledge in practice, for example by (30) _____. You will get to know what (31) _____ does, learn how it operates and find out if you can see yourself working there after completing your training.

(32) _____: by the time you have completed your training, you will not only have the required technical knowledge, but you will also have hands-on experience in your job. There are around 350 officially recognised training programmes in Germany, so chances are good that one of them will suit your interests and talents. You can find out which one that might be by visiting one of the jobs and vocational training fairs which are organised in (33) _____.

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Employment prospects for students who have completed a dual vocational training programme are very good. This is one of the reasons why this kind of training is very popular with young Germans: around two thirds of all students leaving school go on to start a vocational training programme.

Question 28.

- A. we are comprised theoretical as well as practical elements
- B. to comprise theoretical as well as practical elements
- C. theoretical as well as practical elements is comprised
- D. comprise theoretical as well as practical elements**

Question 29.

- A. where you will acquire the theoretical knowledge**
- B. to acquire the theoretical knowledge
- C. acquire the theoretical knowledge
- D. having acquired the theoretical knowledge

Question 30.

- A. learning to operate machinery**
- B. to learn to operate machinery
- C. learning machinery to operate
- D. to learn machinery to operate

Question 31.

- A. its company
- B. this company
- C. your company**
- D. our company

Question 32.

- A. This combination of theory and practice gives you a real head start into your job**
- B. It gives you a real head start into your job
- C. Which combination of theory and practice gives you a real head start into your job
- D. Giving you a real head start into your job

Question 33.

- A. many German cities in the year at different times
- B. many at different times in the year German cities
- C. at different times in the year many German cities
- D. many German cities at different times in the year**

Read the following passage and mark the letter A, B, C, or D to indicate the correct word or phrase that best fits each of the numbered blanks from 34 to 38.

The General Certificate of Secondary Education (34) _____ the GCSE examinations for short are the standard school-leaver (35) _____ taken by virtually all UK students in the May and June following their 16th birthday. If you come to a UK independent school before you (36) _____ the age of 16, you will study towards GCSE examinations in up to 12 subjects. Some subjects are compulsory, including English and mathematics, and you can select (37) _____ such as music, drama, geography and history from a series of options. GCSEs provide a good all-round education (38) _____ you can build on at college and eventually at university.

- 34. **A. or** B. nor C. so D. either
- 35. A. apprenticeships B. educations C. graduations **D. qualifications**
- 36. A. arrive B. achieve **C. reach** D. come
- 37. A. other B. each other C. another **D. others**
- 38. A. what **B. that** C. where D. whose

Read the following passage and mark the letter A, B, C, or D to indicate the correct answer to each of the questions.

One option for school leavers is to pursue vocational education and training (VET) programs. VET offers practical and skill-based training that prepares individuals for specific careers or industries. These programs provide hands-on experience and often lead to recognized qualifications or certifications.

By choosing VET, school-leavers will have the opportunity to gain valuable skills and knowledge that are directly applicable to the workforce. **They** can learn practical trades such as plumbing, carpentry, or automotive mechanics, or specialize in areas like hospitality, healthcare, or information technology. VET programs focus on building practical skills, problem-solving abilities, and industry-specific knowledge, making graduates highly employable in their chosen fields.

Another advantage of VET programs is the flexibility they offer. Many VET courses are available at different levels, from certificates to diplomas, allowing school-leavers to choose a program that suits their interests and career goals. Furthermore, VET programs often incorporate work placements or internships, providing students with real-world experience and networking opportunities within their chosen industry.

Choosing VET as an option after finishing school can be a **conducive** pathway for those who prefer a more hands-on and practical approach to learning. It offers a direct route to acquiring specific skills, increasing employability, and opening doors to various career opportunities. Whether someone wants to enter the workforce immediately or pursue further education in the future, VET can provide a solid foundation for success. (*Adapted from The Washington Post*)

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39. Which of the following can be the best title for the passage?

- A. Explaining Why Many Students Leave Their School
- B. Exploring Career Pathways through Vocational Education and Training
- C. Enhancing Employability with Vocational Education and Training
- D. Exploring a Potential Option for School-Leavers**

40. According to paragraph 1, what does VET offer?

- A. training based on general knowledge
- B. training based on elementary knowledge
- C. training based on experience and skills**
- D. training based on practical professional experience

41. The word "they" in paragraph 2 refers to _____.

- A. knowledge
- B. school-leavers**
- C. the workforce
- D. valuable skills

42. The word "conducive" in paragraph 4 is closest in meaning to _____.

- A. favourable**
- B. instrumental
- C. convenient
- D. opportune

43. Which of the following is not true according to the passage?

- A. VET programs offer practical and skill-based training.
- B. VET programs focus on building problem-solving abilities.
- C. VET programs do not provide any recognized qualifications or certifications.**
- D. VET programs offer flexibility with various course levels to choose from.

Read the following passage and mark the letter A, B, C, or D to indicate the correct answer to each of the questions from 44 to 50

When it comes to education options for school-leavers, there are several paths to consider. One common option is pursuing higher education at a university or college. This path typically involves obtaining a bachelor's degree in a chosen field of study, which can provide a solid foundation for various career opportunities. Universities and colleges offer a wide range of academic programs, allowing school-leavers to explore their interests and specialize in areas that **align with** their career aspirations.

Another option for school-leavers is vocational education and training (VET) programs. VET **emphasizes** providing practical skills and knowledge that directly apply to specific industries or trades. These programs offer hands-on training, preparing individuals for careers in fields such as healthcare, information technology, construction, hospitality, and automotive industries. VET programs often include apprenticeships or internships, allowing students to gain valuable work experience while studying.

For those who prefer a more experiential approach, apprenticeships can be a valuable education option. Apprenticeships combine on-the-job training with classroom instruction, allowing school-leavers to earn while they learn. They provide a unique opportunity to gain practical skills and industry-specific knowledge directly from professionals in the field. Apprenticeships are available in a variety of industries, such as construction, culinary arts, electrical work, and healthcare.

Ultimately, the choice of education option for school-leavers depends on individual interests, goals, and learning preferences. Whether it's pursuing higher education at a university, enrolling in a vocational program, or embarking on an apprenticeship, each path offers distinct advantages and can lead to rewarding career paths. It's important for school-leavers to explore and evaluate these options carefully to make an informed decision that aligns with their aspirations and sets **them** on a path to success. (*Adapted from Education Week*)

44. Which of the following can be the best title for the passage?

- A. Exploring Various Education Options for School-Leavers
- B. Navigating Pathways after School: Education Options for Postgraduate
- C. Making Informed Decisions: How to Choose the Right Education Path for School-Leavers**
- D. Mapping Future Careers: Exploring Opportunities for School-Leavers

45. According to the passage, the common path after leaving school for students is _____.

- A. tertiary education**
- B. VET programs
- C. apprenticeship
- D. internship

46. The word "**align with**" in paragraph 1 is closest in meaning to _____.

- A. come up with
- B. deal with
- C. go with
- D. match with**

47. The word "**emphasize**" in paragraph 2 is closest in meaning to _____.

- A. understate
- B. highlight**
- C. strengthen
- D. italicize

48. The word "**them**" in the last paragraph refers to _____.

- A. aspirations
- B. options
- C. school-leavers**
- D. decisions

49. Which of the following is NOT true according to the passage?

- A. Pursuing higher education at a university or college typically involves obtaining a bachelor's degree.
- B. Vocational education and training (VET) programs focus on providing practical skills and knowledge for specific industries or trades.**

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C. Apprenticeships do not offer any classroom instruction and are solely based on on-the-job training.

D. School-leavers have the opportunity to specialize in areas aligned with their career aspirations through university or college education.

50. It can be inferred from the passage that _____.

A. Apprenticeships provide a more practical learning experience compared to higher education.

B. Vocational education and training (VET) programs are more beneficial for school-leavers than pursuing a university degree.

C. School-leavers should prioritize earning potential when choosing an education option.

D. Considering individual interests and career aspirations when choosing an education option for school-leavers is important.

B. SPEAKING:

Talk about your plans after leaving secondary school. Use the ideas below to help you.

- Type of educational institution you want to go to
- Reasons why you have chosen it
- What you can do after you finish your studies there
- What you need to do to achieve your plans

Taking a year off after graduation from high school is a great idea for me. During this time, I can do something useful that I may not have an opportunity to do again. I love doing voluntary jobs because it will provide me with some great life skills like learning to take care of myself and living on a tight budget! I plan to work at a homeless shelter this summer, right after graduation. I will serve food and help clean up for homeless people. Helping others makes me feel good, and I think I will gain so much from doing this job.

C. LISTENING

Task 1: Listen and decide if each statement is true (T) or false (F)

1. For many students, going to college is the most obvious next step on the career journey **T**
2. Students need to research the courses fully before putting them down on their CAO application form. **T**
3. Students need to check the entry requirements, course content and subjects taught on the courses that they are interested in. **T**
4. Most students know exactly what they want to do and will choose a specialised course in a certain area. **F**

Task 2: Listen and choose the best answers.

1. _____ students are not sure where further study might take them in terms of a career.
A. Other B. Others C. Another D. The others
2. What is the most important factor in selecting a course?
A. the student's interest B. the entry requirements
C. course content D. subjects taught on the courses
3. When will the C.A.O. application system close?
A. on 1st July **B.** on 1st Feb C. on 5th May D. on 1st Feb
4. _____ will then re-open again for Change of Mind facility on 5th May
A. a specialised course B. a degree
C. C.A.O. application system D. a career

***Tapescript**

For many students, going to college is the most obvious next step on the career journey. There are a huge variety of courses available at level 6, level 7 and level 8. Students need to research the courses fully before putting them down on their CAO application form. They need to check the entry requirements, course content and subjects taught on the courses to make sure it is something they are interested in. Some students know exactly what they want to do and will choose a specialised course in a certain area, for example, Nursing. Other students might have an interest in a subject area but are not sure where further study might take them in terms of a career. As a result, they might study a more open degree, such as General Science and specialize in 3rd or 4th year of the degree. The most important factor in selecting a course is the student's interest. It must be something that the student is interested in as this will lead to greater satisfaction and fulfilment in future years. C.A.O. application system is now open online through www.cao.ie and will close on the 1st Feb. It will then re-open again for Change of Mind facility on 5th May at 12.00 noon and close on 1st July at 5.15pm.

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D. WRITING:

I. WORD FORM:

1. There are a lot of educational opportunities for school-leavers today. (EDUCATE)
2. His promotion has not yet been formally announced. (FORMAL)
3. My lawyer manages all my legal affairs/money. (MANAGE)
4. After graduation, they would return to their home counties to teach students. (GRADUATE)
5. St Andrews and Cambridge universities are internationally respected institutions. (INSTITUTION)

II. Rewrite the sentences, using perfect participles.

1. After I watched the documentary about wildlife, I made a donation to an environmental society.
→ *Having watched the documentary about the wildlife, I made a donation to an environmental society.*
2. She didn't get up early and then she got to school late.
→ *Not having gotten up early, she got to school late.*
3. I had not prepared well for the presentation, so I didn't get a good mark on it.
→ *Not having prepared well for the presentation, I didn't get a good mark on it.*
4. After I finished all my homework, I watched my favourite film on TV.
→ *Having finished all my homework, I watched my favourite film on TV.*
5. After Jack had sent the CV online, he realized that he had forgotten to fill in his phone number.
→ *Having sent the CV online, Jack realized that he had forgotten to fill in his phone number.*

Combine the sentences, using perfect gerunds.

6. He said that he would take responsibility for the project. But then he denied that.
→ *He denied having said that he would take responsibility for the project.*
7. He didn't keep his promise. He apologised for that.
→ *He apologised for not having kept his promise.*
8. Trang won the first prize in the competition. She is very proud of this.
→ *Trang is very proud of having won the first prize in the competition.*
9. I have advised you on how to cut down your energy use. I remember that.
→ *I remember having advised you on how to cut down your energy use.*
10. My mother didn't go to university. She regretted it
→ *My mother regretted not having gone to university.*

III. Writing a letter.

Write a letter (140-170 words) to request information about the course in the advertisement below. Use the suggested ideas in the box to help you or your own ideas.



The advertisement is for the 'Success Language Centre'. It features a red header with the center's name. Below this, there is a section titled 'Want to learn foreign languages?' with two bullet points: 'Are you interested in learning foreign languages?' and 'We provide all kinds of courses in many languages.' At the bottom, there is a 'Contact information' section with the email 'languagecentre@web.mail' and the address '50 Peace Street, Green City'.

- German courses?
- Length of a course for beginners?
- How often are classes?
- Courses fees? Any discount?
- Are there native teachers?

Possible Answer

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing to ask for some information about the language courses at your language centre. I am now in grade 11, and I want to learn another foreign language, which I hope to use after leaving school.

First, could you please let me know whether there are German courses at your language centre? I would also like to know how long the course for beginners lasts and how often classes take place. This information would help me organise my schoolwork and see how much time I have left for your course.

Next, I would be grateful if you could tell me the course fees. Do you also offer any discount on fees?

Finally, would you mind telling me if there are native German-speaking teachers at your language centre? I would prefer native teachers as they speak naturally and tell interesting stories about the place they come from.

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It would be great if you could send your school brochure to my address.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours faithfully,

Mai Anh.