SITUATIONS FOR IMPROVISATION

/. *Make up monologues on the suggested situations:*

1. You are an educational official of GB. You are eager to speak on the advantages of the British education system.

The British education system is one of the best systems in Europe and in the world. It has been developed for centuries and has a number of advantages. Firstly, you have a choice between state schools and private schools for your children. In state schools education is absolutely free and available for everyone. Also, books and supplies are provided. If you prefer, you can choose one of several private schools. Secondly, there is also a choice between co-education and schools for boys or girls only. The second option is more traditional and has a lot of benefits. However there are more and more schools where boys and girls study together. In terms of higher education, on big advantage is the British diplomas and certificates are recognized by universities and employers everywhere in the world. Universities and colleges in the UK have a great reputation and are known for extraordinary quality. That is why a lot of students from all parts of the world come to study here. What is more, it takes only three years on average to get a degree in the university whereas in most countries it takes four years. Overall, our system has a lot of advantages and we set an example for other countries in EU and around the world.

2. Give all the pros and cons of British state educational establishments and private ones.

There are several pros of British state educational establishments. Firstly, it is free and available for everyone. Secondly, apart from education public schools may provide many activities for children including clubs, sports and arts. Finally, teachers in public schools must have certain credentials due to state funding. However, public school system has its cons. Firstly, the classes are sometimes overcrowded and pupils do not get enough personal attention. Secondly, the system tries to work for everyone and it does not let the most talented students develop according to their needs. On top of that, state-funded schools sometimes face cost-savings which results in decreasing of extracurricular activities and a number of teachers.

Private schools also have quite a few pros. Firstly, the class size is smaller and children get more individual attention from the teacher. Secondly, this system is more suitable from talented children with special abilities to learn and develop. Thirdly, such schools tend to give better quality education since they are really focused on it. On the other hand, private schools have certain cons too. Firstly, they may cost quite a lot. What is more, it can be difficult to enter the school as one has to pass the interview or a test. Secondly, extracurricular activities, like sports and arts, may be limited. Finally, being in a private school may be quite awkward for a child since the majority of children and friends go to state schools.

3. You are an anxious mother who is not quite pleased with the progress of her son at school.

I have been so anxious about my son lately. For the last couple of months his grades have become really bad. The principal called yesterday and asked to me see him about this. I do not know exactly what the reason for such bad performance is. I see my son studying a lot every evening. He does not go out with his friends as often as usually. He works really hard but still gets bad grades. Especially in Math and Physics. I tried to talk to him and he said that these subjects are really hard for him. I advised him to talk to the teacher but he said that the teacher does not have time for him. There are too many pupils in the class. My son tried to come after the class with his questions but the teacher was busy with paperwork and could not help him. I am going to see the principal tomorrow and I will definitely complain about this. Something must be done with this situation. I know that other parents are not happy too.

//. *Make up dialogues on the suggested situations;*

1. One of you is a representative of the British educational authorities, the other is interviewing you on the British education system.

Interviewer: What is the main advantage of the British education system?

Representative: I believe that it is the fact that one has choice between public and private schools. And public education is quite good not only because it is free and available for everyone but because the quality of education is good.

Interviewer: Could you name one thing that should be changed in the system?

Representative: In my opinion, we should work to make classes smaller in public schools. Now they are really overcrowded. And pupils do not get enough attention from the teacher. We get a lot of complaints from parents about it.

Interviewer: What should we do to change it?

Representative: It is very hard to change, unfortunately. We would need more qualified teachers and more funding to open positions for them. The government is unlikely to increase funding enough for this purpose.

Interviewer: Let us speak about higher education. There are a lot of foreign students coming to British universities. Why do they like them?

Representative: Well, it is not a secret that British universities and colleges have a very good reputation worldwide. They give excellent education which is recognized everywhere.

Interviewer: Are you going to attract more foreign students in the future?

Representative: Yes, of course, we are interested in more students from around the world to come and study here. We are going to organize more exchange programs so that British students also go to study abroad.

Interviewer: Thank you.

Representative: My pleasure.

2. You are two British parents. You discuss what school to send your children to: private or state.

Mother: Yesterday I went to that private school I told you about. I think we should really consider it for our son.

Father: Why? I disagree with you. State schools are absolutely fine. My whole family studied in state schools and our education is not worse.

Mother: But this private school claims that 100% graduates end up in Oxford or Cambridge. They give very good education. They are really focused in Math and Physics.

Father: But this will put too much pressure on our son. He will not have time for anything but studying. Also, how much does it cost?

Mother: It costs 100 pound per week.

Father: Oh no! This is too much, don’t you think? We will have to cut down on all other expenses. Also for this money we will be able to send him to a good college.

Mother: But if we invest now, he will definitely get a scholarship for the college. Do you know that schools now are overcrowded? The pupils do not get any attention from the teachers.

Father: Yes, I heard that. But maybe we can find a cheaper private school?

Mother: OK, I’ll look for other options.

3. You are two British school children. You discuss what you are going to do after

Child A: Hey, have you thought what you are going to do when you graduate from school?

Child B: Yes, I would like to be an engineer.

Child A: Yes, you are so good at Math and Physics.

Child B: What about you?

Child A: I do not know. I really like sports. I don’t think I want to go to college. Maybe I’ll become a professional sportsman and then a coach.

Child B: I know that colleges have sports teams. And they are funded very well. Maybe you will find some college you like.

Child A: I am not sure. But what kind of engineer do you want to be?

Child B: I want to design cars.

Child A: This is very cool. I like it. Do you know which college teaches that?

Child B: I think I will go to Oxford. My father studied there.