

## PART-A

## Warm Up



Watch the video and answer the Questions 1-4



1. What do you think makes a good education system?
2. Why do you think Finland's education system is considered one of the best in the world?
3. Would you prefer an education system with fewer exams and more creativity? Why or why not?
4. How is Finland's education system different from the education system in your country?



### LEARN THESE WORDS

shining example – holistic development — critical thinking – well-balanced lifestyle – works wonders – top-notch – respected profession – rigorous training – autonomy – cater to – overworked – underpaid – work-life balance – job satisfaction – fundamental right – socio-economic background – level playing field – widening gap – cramming – intense competition – lifelong learning – real-world challenges – high-stakes competition – foster

**PART-B**

Match the synonyms and antonyms with the words and phrases below.



overloaded  
lenient  
healthy routine  
unfair advantage

dissatisfaction  
increasing divide  
low-paid  
role model

intense studying  
increasing divide  
friendly cooperation  
unfair advantage

Word/Phrase	Synonym	Antonym
shining example		ordinary case
rigorous	thorough	
overworked		well-rested
underpaid		well-compensated
work-life balance		burnout
job satisfaction	happiness at work	
cramming		relaxed studying
intense competition	fierce rivalry	
level playing field	equal opportunities	
widening gap		decreasing inequality

**PART-C****Fill in the Blanks with the Correct Word or Phrase****Questions 1-10**

C. Match the words (1-10) with their correct definitions (A-J).

Word	Definition	
1. holistic development	—	A. A job that is highly valued in society.
2. critical thinking	—	B. Produces great or positive results.
3. well-balanced lifestyle	—	C. The ability to analyze and evaluate information logically.
4. works wonders	—	D. A way of living that maintains physical, mental, and emotional health.
5. top-notch	—	E. The ability to make independent decisions.
6. respected profession	—	F. To encourage or support the development of something.
7. autonomy	—	G. To provide what is needed or wanted by a specific group.
8. cater to	—	H. Growth that focuses on all aspects of a person, not just academics.
9. fundamental right	—	I. Of the highest quality or standard.
10. foster	—	J. A basic human entitlement, such as education.

**PART-D****Fill in the Blanks with the Correct Word or Phrase****Questions 1-10**

D. Complete the sentences below with the correct word from the box.

**WORD BANK**

Top-notch  
Foster  
Works wonders  
Autonomy

Respected profession  
Fundamental right  
Holistic development  
Cater to

Well-balanced lifestyle  
Critical thinking

1. Teachers should \_\_\_\_\_ creativity and curiosity in their students.
2. Maintaining a \_\_\_\_\_ helps individuals stay physically and mentally healthy.
3. Finnish schools provide \_\_\_\_\_ education that is among the best in the world.
4. Taking breaks while studying \_\_\_\_\_ and improves concentration.
5. A \_\_\_\_\_ approach to education ensures that students grow academically, socially, and emotionally.
6. Education is a \_\_\_\_\_ that should be available to all children.
7. Students should develop \_\_\_\_\_ skills to analyze problems from different perspectives.
8. Teaching is a \_\_\_\_\_ in Finland, and teachers are highly valued.
9. Schools must \_\_\_\_\_ students' individual learning needs to help them succeed.
10. Teachers in Finland have \_\_\_\_\_ in designing their lessons and choosing their teaching methods.

## PART-E

How Finland Became the Best  
Country for Education

## Questions 1 – 6

Choose ONE WORD OR TWO WORDS from the passage for each answer.

When it comes to education, Finland is often held up as a shining example. For years, it has consistently ranked among the top countries in global education assessments. Many people wonder: what is the secret behind Finland's success? Unlike many other nations, where education is often a rat race to achieve the highest scores, Finland has taken a completely different approach—one that focuses on holistic development, equality, and student well-being.

### A Student-Centered Approach

One of the biggest reasons for Finland's success is its student-centered approach. Instead of putting pressure on students with endless exams and heavy workloads, Finnish schools prioritize critical thinking, creativity, and problem-solving skills. In fact, students in Finland have far fewer standardized tests compared to other countries. Teachers assess students' progress through projects, presentations, and discussions rather than just written exams. Moreover, Finnish students enjoy shorter school hours and longer breaks, which help them stay focused and motivated. Studies have shown that burning the midnight oil—studying late into the night—does not necessarily lead to better academic performance. Instead, having a well-balanced lifestyle with enough rest and recreational activities works wonders for students' learning abilities.

### Highly Qualified Teachers

Another key factor in Finland's success is its top-notch teachers. Teaching is one of the most respected professions in the country, and becoming a teacher is no easy task. All teachers must have at least a master's degree and undergo rigorous training. They are given a great deal of autonomy in designing their lessons, which allows them to cater to the needs of different students.

Unlike in many countries where teachers are often overworked and underpaid, Finnish teachers enjoy a healthy work-life balance and are well-compensated. This leads to a high level of job satisfaction, which in turn positively impacts students.

## PART-E

How Finland Became the Best  
Country for Education

### Equality in Education

Finland strongly believes that education is a fundamental right rather than a privilege. The country ensures that all children, regardless of their socio-economic background, receive the same high-quality education. There are no private schools in Finland, and education is completely free, including university. Even textbooks, school meals, and transportation are provided at no cost to students.

This emphasis on equality creates a level playing field, ensuring that every child has the opportunity to succeed. In contrast, many other countries struggle with a widening gap between students from wealthy families and those from disadvantaged backgrounds. Less Pressure, More Success

Perhaps the most surprising aspect of Finland's education system is that students experience far less stress than their peers in other countries, yet they still achieve outstanding academic results. There is no culture of cramming or intense competition. Instead, students are encouraged to learn at their own pace in a supportive environment.

Rather than focusing only on academic subjects, Finnish schools emphasize lifelong learning, social skills, and practical knowledge. This prepares students not only for exams but also for real-world challenges.

### Can Other Countries Follow Finland's Model?

While Finland's education system is widely admired, some experts argue that it is easier said than done to implement similar policies in other countries. Factors such as population size, economic conditions, and cultural attitudes toward education play a crucial role in shaping an education system. However, one thing is clear: Finland's approach shows that education does not have to be a high-stakes competition to be effective. Instead, fostering a love for learning, treating students as individuals, and valuing teachers' expertise can go a long way in improving education worldwide.

## PART-E

How Finland Became the Best  
Country for Education

## Questions 1-6

Choose ONE WORD OR TWO WORDS from the passage for each answer.

Whereas education is considered as 1 ..... in numerous countries, Finland emphasizes students' overall growth and quality of life.

Finnish schools focus on 2 ....., creativity, and problem-solving instead of memorization.

Students undergo considerably fewer 3 ..... tests than in other nations, with their progress being measured through projects and discussions.

Teachers have significant 4 ..... in lesson planning, enabling them to effectively address students' needs.

Finland offers free education to all children, creating a 5 ..... playing field opportunity for students from diverse backgrounds.

Instead of solely prioritizing exams, Finland's education system equips students for 6 ..... situations by developing their social and practical skills.

## Questions 1-6

Do the following statements agree with the information given in the passage?

Write:

**TRUE** if the statement agrees with the information

**FALSE** if the statement contradicts the information

**NOT GIVEN** if there is no information on this

1. Finnish students spend fewer hours at school compared to their counterparts in many other countries.
2. Teachers in Finland have to follow a strict curriculum with little flexibility in their teaching methods.
3. Finland's approach to education discourages excessive academic pressure and promotes student well-being.
4. The availability of free meals and learning materials in Finnish schools helps bridge socio-economic differences among students.
5. Private schools in Finland outperform public schools in academic results due to higher teaching standards.
6. Some experts believe that implementing Finland's education model in other countries may not be straightforward.

**PART-F****Discussion****F. Discussion Questions with Model Answers****1. Should other countries adopt Finland's education model? Why or why not?**

Model Answer:

Yes, because Finland's system promotes holistic development and reduces student stress.

However, some countries may struggle due to economic constraints and cultural differences in education.

**2. How does Finland's approach to exams affect student learning?**

Model Answer:

Since Finland has fewer standardized tests, students focus on critical thinking and problem-solving rather than memorization. This makes learning more meaningful and enjoyable.

**3. What are the benefits of giving teachers more autonomy?**

Model Answer:

When teachers have autonomy, they can adapt lessons to students' needs, making learning more effective. It also improves job satisfaction, leading to better teaching quality.

**4. Why do you think Finland values a work-life balance in education?**

Model Answer:

Finland believes that a well-balanced lifestyle improves mental health and academic performance. Shorter school hours and longer breaks help students stay motivated and engaged.

**5. Do you think education should be free for everyone? Why or why not?**

Model Answer:

Yes, because education is a fundamental right and creates a level playing field for all students.

However, governments need strong financial resources to make this possible.

## PART-A

## Vocabulary Table



Word	Definition	Sample Sentence	Synonym	Antonym
<b>Shining example</b>	A person or thing that is an outstanding model of something.	The teacher was a <b>shining example</b> of patience and dedication.	Role model	Ordinary case
<b>Holistic development</b>	Growth that focuses on all aspects of a person, not just academics.	The school aims to provide <b>holistic development</b> by including arts and sports in the curriculum.	Comprehensive growth	Narrow focus
<b>Critical Thinking</b>	The ability to analyze and evaluate information logically.	<b>Critical thinking</b> is essential for solving real-world problems effectively.	Analytical reasoning	Blind acceptance
<b>Well-balanced lifestyle</b>	A way of living that maintains physical, mental, and emotional health.	Maintaining a <b>well-balanced lifestyle</b> can improve productivity and overall happiness.	Healthy routine	Unhealthy lifestyle
<b>Works wonders</b>	Produces great or positive results.	A good night's sleep <b>works wonders</b> for your concentration.	Has a great effect	Makes no difference
<b>Top-notch</b>	Of the highest quality or standard.	The university is known for its <b>top-notch</b> research programs.	Excellent	Inferior

## PART-A

## Vocabulary Table



Word	Definition	Sample Sentence	Synonym	Antonym
Respected profession	A job that is highly valued in society.	In many cultures, medicine is, considered a <b>respected profession</b> .	Esteemed career	Low-status job
Rigorous training	Intense and thorough preparation or instruction.	Becoming a doctor requires years of <b>rigorous training</b> .	Intensive preparation	Easy-going instruction
Autonomy	The ability to make independent decisions.	Teachers in Finland have <b>autonomy</b> over their lesson planning.	Independence	Restriction
Cater to	To provide what is needed or wanted by a specific group.	The new library section <b>caters to</b> students interested in science fiction.	Serve	Neglect
Overworked	Having too much work to do.	Many employees feel <b>overworked</b> due to long hours and tight deadlines.	Exhausted	Well-rested
Underpaid	Earning less money than what is fair for the job.	Nurses are often <b>underpaid</b> despite their important roles.	Low-paid	Well-compensated

## PART-A

## Vocabulary Table



Word	Definition	Sample Sentence	Synonym	Antonym
Work-life balance	The balance between work responsibilities and personal life.	Achieving <b>work-life balance</b> is crucial for mental health.	Healthy routine	Workaholism
Job satisfaction	A sense of fulfillment and happiness in one's work.	Employees with job satisfaction tend to be more productive.	Career fulfillment	Work dissatisfaction
Fundamental right	A basic human entitlement, such as education.	Access to clean water is a <b>fundamental right</b> for all people.	Basic entitlement	Privilege
Socio-economic background	The social and financial situation in which someone is raised.	A student's <b>socio-economic background</b> can affect their access to education.	Financial status	Individual circumstance
Level playing field	A fair situation where everyone has equal opportunities.	Scholarships help create a <b>level playing field</b> for students from different backgrounds.	Equal opportunities	Unfair advantage
Widening gap	An increasing difference between two groups.	<b>The widening gap</b> between the rich and the poor is a global issue.	Increasing divide	Narrowing gap

## PART-A

## Vocabulary Table



Word	Definition	Sample Sentence	Synonym	Antonym
Cramming	Studying intensely in a short period, usually before an exam.	Cramming the night before a test often leads to poor retention.	Intense studying	Relaxed studying
Intense competition	A highly challenging and rivalrous environment.	The corporate world is known for its intense competition.	Fierce rivalry	Friendly cooperation
Lifelong learning	Continuous education throughout life.	In a fast-changing world, lifelong learning is essential.	Ongoing education	Ignorance
Real-world challenges	Practical problems encountered in daily life or work.	Schools should prepare students for real-world challenges.	Practical difficulties	Theoretical concepts
High-stakes competition	A contest where the outcome has significant consequences.	College entrance exams in some countries are a high-stakes competition.	Intense rivalry	Low-pressure situation
Foster	To encourage or support the development of something.	Schools should foster creativity among students.	Nurture	Suppress

**PART-A****Warm-up Answers****1. What do you think makes a good education system?**

A good education system promotes **holistic development, critical thinking, and equal opportunities**. It should focus on **practical skills**, have **qualified teachers**, and ensure a **work-life balance** for students and educators.

**2. Why do you think Finland's education system is considered one of the best in the world?**

Finland's system prioritizes **student well-being, creativity, and lifelong learning**. It has **highly trained teachers, fewer exams**, and provides **free education**, ensuring a **level playing field** for all students.

**3. Would you prefer an education system with fewer exams and more creativity? Why or why not?**

Yes, because fewer exams reduce stress and encourage **deep learning**. A creative approach fosters **critical thinking, problem-solving, and real-world skills**, making education more effective and enjoyable.

**4. How is Finland's education system different from the education system in your country?**

Finland's system has **shorter school hours, fewer standardized tests, and more teacher autonomy**. Unlike many systems, it focuses on **practical learning, equal opportunities, and student well-being** rather than intense competition.

## PART-B

## Synonym-Antonym Answers

Word	Synonym	Antonym
1. shining example	B. role model	A. ordinary case
2. rigorous	C. strict, thorough	D. lenient
3. overworked	E. overloaded	F. well-rested
4. underpaid	G. low-paid	H. well-compensated
5. work-life balance	I. healthy routine	J. burnout
6. job satisfaction	K. fulfillment	L. dissatisfaction

**PART-C****Definition Match**

Word	Correct Definition
<b>1. Holistic development</b>	H. Growth that focuses on all aspects of a person, not just academics.
<b>2. Critical thinking</b>	C. The ability to analyze and evaluate information logically.
<b>3. Well-balanced lifestyle</b>	D. A way of living that maintains physical, mental, and emotional health.
<b>4. Works wonders</b>	B. Produces great or positive results.
<b>5. Top-notch</b>	I. Of the highest quality or standard.
<b>6. Respected profession</b>	A. A job that is highly valued in society.
<b>8. Cater to</b>	G. To provide what is needed or wanted by a specific group.
<b>9. Fundamental right</b>	J. A basic human entitlement, such as education.
<b>10. Foster</b>	F. To encourage or support the development of something.

**PART-D****Fill in the Blanks Answers**

Fill in the blanks with the correct word or phrase from the word bank.

1. foster
2. Well-balanced lifestyle
3. Top-notch
4. Works wonders
5. Holistic development
6. Fundamental right
7. Critical thinking
8. Respected profession
9. Cater to
10. Autonomy

**PART-E****Reading Answers****Note Completion**

1. rate race
2. Critical thinking
3. standardized
4. autonomy
5. level
6. real-world

**True/False/Not Given**

7. TRUE
8. FALSE
9. TRUE
10. TRUE
11. FALSE
12. TRUE