Maturita Card 18: Education

Do you like going to school?

Yes, I like it because... my friends are there / the teachers are nice / I learn a lot / it gives me something to do. No, I don't like it because... it's boring / the classes are hard / I don't learn anything. I like my classes / the teachers but I don't like that I have to get up so early / that I have to take / do tests.

• What subjects do students study at secondary schools?

There are basic / core subjects such as maths / Czech / foreign languages. Students also have humanities, which include history / civics / history of art, and science which consists of physics / chemistry / biology / geography. Usually students have to attend physical education / PE classes. More specialized schools may offer accounting / typing / technical drawing.

What's your favourite subject?

I like maths because it is challenging / different. I like English because... it helps me listen to music / I want to travel. I like history because... I like to learn about the past / I am interested in how things happened. I like art because... I can be creative / it is different from my other classes. I like biology because it studies life / how nature works.

What's a typical school day like for you?

I arrive at school early / late / at 9 am. I have classes / I go to three classes / I have English and history then it is time for lunch / lunchtime. In the afternoon / After the break / After lunch I have more classes / I go home / I study and do my homework.

Tell me about your study habits...

I study a lot because... my subjects are hard / I want to do well / I have a lot of homework. I like to study / I usually study in the evenings / at school / at the weekends and need to be... alone / at school/ in the library / with friends. I hate studying because... it's boring / I'd rather be with my friends / I don't like my school subjects. I spend three hours a day studying / Every day I study for three hours.

How do you learn best?

I learn best in class / at school because I need / like the teacher to explain things / to be with others learning / to talk to my classmates about the subject. I learn best alone / on my own because... I can study what I want / I learn a lot from books / reading / the internet. Usually I remember more of what I've learned when I've read about it / heard someone talk about it / written an essay / report about it / taken a test on it. I have to memorize things / learn by heart.

What do you think about exams?

I think exams are important / useful because they show how much you've learned / tell you what you need to work on / you need them to graduate. Exams are stupid / a waste of time because we spend too much time studying for them / we could use the time to learn more / different things. I think exams are useful / helpful but they can be stressful / difficult for some students and don't help / give a true picture of how a student is doing / learning.

• What do you think about the issue of uniforms in school?

I think uniforms are wrong because no one should tell you what to wear / students can't be themselves / they are ugly / boring. I think uniforms are a good idea / good thing because then everyone is the same / if someone doesn't have nice clothes they don't have to feel ashamed / embarrassed / it makes school about learning, not fashion.

• What do you think could be improved at your school?

I think my school should have more computers / teachers / study space / books. There are not enough classes / resources for all the students. Lunches / classrooms could also be improved at my school because they are bad / old. I also think the school day should be shorter / longer because we need more time / less time to study / see our teachers / to learn.

Do you think education is important and why or why not?

Yes, education is very important because you need it to get a job / be successful / earn money. Education gives you things to talk about / something interesting to do / the chance to do different things. I don't think / believe education is important because it's better to learn in the real world / I don't need it for work / it costs too much / it takes too long / it's a waste of time.

Will you continue your education after graduation?

Yes, I want to go to university and study English / history / computers because I want to find a good job / I like to learn / meet a lot of interesting people. No, I won't continue my education because I don't need it / I already have a job / it's expensive / I'd rather spend my time working.