

C 5.2 A WEEK IN MY LIFE



C 5.2.3.

We explore and discuss the basic right to Education which all the children of the world should enjoy.

A. Read what these characters are saying, then answer the questions.

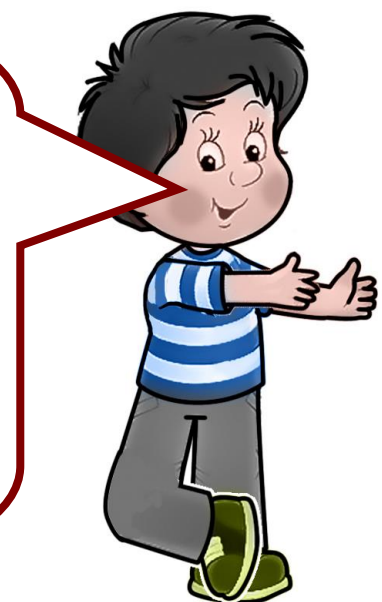


My name is Marija. I am 8 years old. I used to live in Malta 200 years ago. I look after my 5 siblings who are all younger than me. My mother goes to help my father work the fields. As you can imagine, I am very busy all day long. My siblings do not give me a break. They need something all the time.

My friends told me that close to Rabat, there are some boys who instead of working the fields, are going to learn how to read books. I don't know, but it would never occur to me, that I could read books!

My name is Bertu. I am Maltese, I was born in 2006. I already learnt how to read and write in Maltese and in English. I am very happy at school, especially this year with Ms Zerafa.

Even though, to put it fairly, Ms Zerafa teaches us a lot, but I wish that she would take us down to play in the yard more often. She always finds an excuse, either because we did not finish our Maltese, or because we had an activity. I really love playing with my friends!



Answer by ticking the right answer.

1. Who used to learn to read and write in the past?
 - a) All the boys.
 - b) The girls only.
 - c) Only a few children.
2. Nowadays, if you are often absent from school
 - a) Nothing happens to you.
 - b) Parents are fined.
 - c) It is better for you.
3. Many girls in the past:
 - a) Used to attend kindergarten.
 - b) Used to learn to read and write from an early age.
 - c) Used to look after their younger siblings.
4. Many boys in the past:
 - a) Used to help their father at work.
 - b) Used to play only.
 - c) Used to attend lessons for 10 hours per day.
5. Nowadays primary education in state schools is free of charge
 - a) For boys only.
 - b) For girls only.
 - c) For all boys and girls.
6. In the past, they used to know how to read and write:
 - a) Everyone.
 - b) Only a few people.
 - c) All the women.



B. Read what this personality is saying, and then reply.

I am Sir Patrick Keenan. Presently I am in Malta. I was sent here by the Queen of England to check why the Maltese and the Gozitans are still so backward. Malta belongs to England, and therefore we want to bring progress to the country.

But how can we improve it, if I am finding that no one knows how to read and write? And when I say no one, I mean nearly no one you know! From every 10 Maltese people, 9 cannot read! Disaster. Disaster! Then there is another thing. The few who can read, are fixated on Italian. Malta belongs to England, and very few Maltese know how to read, and they are only interested in Italian. Disaster! Disaster!



Mark the right answers.

1. The majority of Maltese at the time of Sir Patrick Keenan were
 - a) Illiterate.
 - b) Very good at school.
 - c) Learned only Mathematics.

2. Nowadays, the majority of Maltese know how to read and write because
 - a) They watch television.
 - b) They attended school.
 - c) They learn on their own.

3. Today, education is
 - a) A basic right for everyone.
 - b) Only for the elderly.
 - c) Only for Catholics and Muslims.

4. Sir Patrick Keenan was sent to Malta to find out the level of education
- a) By the President of Malta.
 - b) By the Prime Minister of Malta.
 - c) By the Queen of England.
5. When a country gives importance to the education of its citizens, the country
- a) Definitely makes progress.
 - b) Regresses.
 - c) Spends a lot of money for nothing.

C. Write YES or NO after each sentence.

- 1. All children have the right to an adequate education. _____
- 2. Parents are duty bound to send their children to school. _____
- 3. Children who are negligent in school would be wasting money collected through taxes. _____
- 4. Children are duty bound to study only and never to play. _____
- 5. Teachers have the duty to give a lot of homework so that children do not even have time to sleep. _____
- 6. Students have a duty to pay attention during lessons. _____
- 7. Students have the right to play ball during lessons. _____
- 8. Students have the right to learn without anyone distracting them. _____

D. Discuss. Think about these points.

Look well at this photograph and after discuss together these points:

HOW DOES EDUCATION HELP US?

- 1) It helps us improve our behaviour
- 2) It helps us build our character
- 3) It helps us acquire skills in reading, in writing and in mathematics
- 4) It introduces us to Maltese culture and to that of other countries
- 5) It helps us apply science and technological inventions so that we improve our quality of life
- 6) It helps us to learn better how to rationalise

