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**English B – Standard level – Paper 2 – Reading comprehension**  
**Anglais B – Niveau moyen – Épreuve 2 – Compréhension écrite**  
**Inglés B – Nivel Medio – Prueba 2 – Comprensión de lectura**

Tuesday 10 November 2020 (morning)  
Mardi 10 novembre 2020 (matin)  
Martes 10 de noviembre de 2020 (mañana)

1 h

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**Text booklet – Instructions to candidates**

- Do not open this booklet until instructed to do so.
- This booklet accompanies paper 2 reading comprehension.

**Livret de textes – Instructions destinées aux candidats**

- N'ouvrez pas ce livret avant d'y être autorisé(e).
- Ce livret accompagne la partie de l'épreuve 2 portant sur la compréhension écrite.

**Cuadernillo de textos – Instrucciones para los alumnos**

- No abra este cuadernillo hasta que se lo autoricen.
- Este cuadernillo acompaña a la parte de comprensión de lectura de la prueba 2.

Text A

# A student talks about her experience of homeschooling

Elena Kervitsky, Contributor  
Student in Maryland, USA

I left school in the third grade<sup>1</sup> because it is difficult to learn when there are 30 or more kids in each class. Most students don't get the  
5 attention they need for a proper education.

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With homeschooling, you can learn as slow or as fast as you want. You must learn the required topics but you can choose what you learn on top of that. Your choice is not limited to the five or less options you get as extra classes if you are in school.

10 Someone who is in a school has a very restricting schedule — you have an exact amount of sick days or snow days<sup>2</sup> and holidays. A benefit of homeschooling is that you can work when you want so you can take a trip at any time of the year. I have been all over the world thanks to my choice of education.

15 In most schools, you learn with a textbook, but homeschoolers also learn with hands-on learning. It is difficult to have this type of learning in a classroom because of the number of students, but for homeschoolers it's an effective and exciting way to learn.

Some people think that homeschoolers have no social life. However, most homeschoolers take classes with other kids — sports or arts classes usually. In fact, I have met some of my best friends at classes like those. With homeschooling, you meet some really cool people, and you learn a lot  
20 from people who are different from you.

Homeschooling requires a lot of discipline. Once a year, all homeschoolers meet with a teacher who reviews the work they have done that year. You either pass or get a warning. If you get a warning, you have not done enough work and they will expect you to do a lot more of it the next year. If you don't pass the next year, you will be sent back to school, and no one who has enjoyed  
25 homeschooling wants that. Homeschooling has its ups and downs, but it is an amazing experience altogether.

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<sup>1</sup> third grade: the third school year of primary school. Students are usually 8–9 years old

<sup>2</sup> snow days: days when schools close because of snow

Text B

# Britain's gender pay gap starts with pocket money

By Magdalena Mis

... The gender pay gap ... between women and men's earnings starts in childhood in Britain with girls receiving 20 percent less pocket money than boys, according to a [recent online] survey ... [of 2000 children in the UK undertaken by the market research agency Childwise].



Boys aged five to 16 receive an average allowance of 10.70 pounds ... per week, while girls [of] the same age get just 8.50 pounds ... , according to ... [the] report. ...

10 The pay gap grows to 30 percent as children get older, with boys aged 11 to 16 receiving 17.80 pounds ... each week, while girls receive almost a third less with an average of 12.50 pounds, ... the report said.

[There are] “an early gender imbalance in the way parents educate their children about money matters and financial independence,” said Jenny Ehren, Childwise research manager.

15 “The challenge for parents is to avoid inadvertently perpetuating these gender divisions themselves, and to help children learn the skills needed to be a confident and independent adult,” she said in a statement.

Girls seemed to ... [receive less money] than boys and were more likely to have things bought for them. ... [This approach] helped to bridge the pay gap but also ... [partially explained it], the report said.

20 Parents were more likely to hand out cash to the boys while managing money on [the] girls' behalf.

British boys were more likely than girls to receive some kind of regular income while girls were more likely to receive no cash at all, the report said.

25 Sam Smethers of The Fawcett Society, a campaign group promoting women's ... [employment] rights, ... said [the] gender pay gap between boys and girls reflected the situation they face in adult life.

“These figures reveal that we undervalue girls from a very early age. What chance do they have at work?”

30 According to [The] Fawcett [Society], ... women in Britain were paid 13.9 percent less than men. [The group has calculated that] at the current rate, it will take another 62 years before women's work is valued as much as that of men. ...

**Text C**

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**References:**

**Text A** Kervitsky, E., 2012. *The True Story of Homeschooling*. Available at:  
[https://www.huffingtonpost.com/elena-kervitsky/the-true-story-of-homesch\\_b\\_1689629.html](https://www.huffingtonpost.com/elena-kervitsky/the-true-story-of-homesch_b_1689629.html). Source adapted.

**Text B** Mis, M., 2017. Britain's gender pay gap starts with pocket money – survey. Available at:  
<http://uk.reuters.com/article/uk-britain-children-money-idUKKBN1581FN?il=0>. Source adapted.  
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