

Source 1

Literacy is the ability to read and write. Research has shown that literacy has a significant impact on a person's life. However, at least 758 million young people and adults are not able to read and write; nearly two-thirds of these are female. According to the United Nations, 250 million children worldwide do not have basic literacy skills.

Source 2: The benefits of literacy

Being able to read and write allows us to learn more effectively. This can improve our understanding of the world and ourselves. For example, learning how the body works helps us to be healthy.

Literacy enables people to share information and ideas across distance and time. People can learn from the past and understand what is going on in other parts of their country.

Literacy also helps to reduce poverty as a better education improves job prospects.

Many of the latest technological advances, such as computers and social media, require literacy skills. The world is changing very fast and these skills are becoming more important.

Extract from an educational magazine

Source 3: Learning outside the classroom

My role in education in your city is very important. I have worked here for 10 years but before that I was a teacher in a small village school. I have read many scientific magazines and listened to teachers in schools in the city.

Most teachers do not take their students outside the classroom but there are many benefits of learning outside of the classroom.

For example, if teachers take their students to talk to local people in their villages, they will learn communication skills more effectively. The students could also help to make crafts using traditional skills. This would teach them about working life in their community.

We should all work together to increase learning outside the classroom. If you do not agree, you obviously do not have as much experience as I do so you cannot be right.

Extract from a newspaper article by a local education expert

Source 4: A radio debate about education**Tuaco**

Well I disagree with all of you in this debate so far. How can we learn if we are not given lessons in school? Where do you get ideas like this from?

I will be going to university in two years and I know I will be successful because I have good qualifications from school. My father owns a local business. He does not believe in training people if they cannot read or write. They should have learnt these skills in school and tried harder instead of playing games.

Our taxes should be spent on quality books and good teachers rather than sending students to have fun in the local community.

Abina

I believe we should experience our local environment and culture if we are to improve our education.

I have been to villages where they do not have clean water or where you can see the effects on the countryside of pollution from cars. My understanding of the climate and pollution has been improved as I can see for myself the damage which has been caused. I am now really interested in science and enjoy these lessons in school more.

I have learnt more about history from talking to my grandparents than I ever learnt in school. They talked to me about our culture and what life was like in the community when they were younger. This is important for our heritage.

It is important to communicate with your family. Not just because they have looked after you but also because they have important life experience you can learn from.

BLANK PAGE

Permission to reproduce items where third-party owned material protected by copyright is included has been sought and cleared where possible. Every reasonable effort has been made by the publisher (UCLES) to trace copyright holders, but if any items requiring clearance have unwittingly been included, the publisher will be pleased to make amends at the earliest possible opportunity.

To avoid the issue of disclosure of answer-related information to candidates, all copyright acknowledgements are reproduced online in the Cambridge Assessment International Education Copyright Acknowledgements Booklet. This is produced for each series of examinations and is freely available to download at www.cambridgeinternational.org after the live examination series.

Cambridge Assessment International Education is part of the Cambridge Assessment Group. Cambridge Assessment is the brand name of the University of Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate (UCLES), which itself is a department of the University of Cambridge.