

BBC 6-minute comprehension questions

Aim: to develop the students' ability to listen to a six-minute talk, to take notes and then use those notes to answer a range of open comprehension questions.

Lesson Time: Approximately 30 minutes + critical thinking.

Link:

http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/general/sixminute/2010/09/100923_6min_top_university_page.shtml

Lesson Plan

Lead in

- Ask Students to discuss the 'title' and predict the content of the lecture.
- Ask students to write down key terms / language from the discussion.
- Feed in / check key vocabulary from the webpage.

Three types of lesson

Lesson#1: [hard]

1. Students listen once and take notes.
2. Give 2-3 minutes to tidy notes.
3. Students listen again and add to their notes (use a different colour pen).
4. Give out the questions. Set 10 minutes to answer the questions from their notes.
5. Feedback: distribute or project answers.
6. Critical thinking discussion.

Lesson #2: [medium]

1. Students listen once and take notes.
2. Give out the questions: Set 5-10 minutes to answer the questions from their notes.
3. Students listen again and answer the remaining questions as they listen.
4. Give an extra 3 minutes to consolidate answers.
5. Feedback: distribute or project answers.
6. Critical thinking discussion.

Lesson #3: [easy]

1. Give out questions. Students have up to 3-5 minutes to look at the questions.
2. Students listen and answer the questions.
3. Give 3 minutes to tidy their answers.
4. Students listen again. They check their answers and answer the questions they missed.
5. Set 3 minutes to tidy their answers.
6. Feedback: distribute or project answers.
7. Critical thinking discussion.

Copyright: These materials are photocopiable but please leave all logos and web addresses on handouts. Please don't post these materials onto the web. Thank you

Top International Universities

Explain what you understand

1. What is the programme about?
2. Who did the research and what are the criteria for the research based on?
3. Who is the professor and what do they say about funding being important? What is the example of GDP?
4. How many British institutes are on the list?
5. Who is the reporter and what do they say 'non-anglophone' means?
6. What's significant about Swiss Federal Institute of technology and Ecole Polytechnique?
7. How many Chinese Universities are on the list? Any African universities?
8. Is reputation important?
9. What's number 1 and where are Cambridge and Oxford?

Critical thinking? What university would you like to go to and why? Is reputation important? Will you get a better job if you go to a more reputable university? Should GDP be invested into education? Why do you think that the English speaking Universities dominate the list? Which would you choose Cambridge/Oxford or Harvard/Stanford? What do you think?

Link:

http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/general/sixminute/2010/09/100923_6min_top_universities_page.shtml

Top Universities ANSWERS

1. What is the programme about?

*University around the world – new top 200 universities
Funding? ‘Is a university more successful if it gets more funding??’*

2. Who did the research and what are the criteria for the research based on?

*Research done by London Times Higher Education List
On a number of factors (quality of teaching / influence of research / income for research)
Higher factor = Higher ranking*

*Yes, Prof Steve Smith (president of Universities UK)
US > 2.5x GDP than UK = U.S 2.5 more Uni’s in top 100
All about investment the country puts in to educational system*

3. How many British institutes are on the list?

*14 British unis are on the list (Oxford/Cambridge)
Interesting – dominate top of list = English speaking*

4. Who is the reporter and what do they say ‘non-anglophone’ means?

Johnny Hogg (BBC reporter) Non-Anglophone means non English speaking

5. What’s significant about Swiss Federal Institute of technology and Ecole Polytechnique?

English speaking uni on top – 15 Swiss Federal Institute of technology / France – Ecole Polytechnique = 39

6. How many Chinese Universities are on the list? Any African universities?

*Mainland China has 6 unis in top 100
Asia has done well Hong Kong / Japan / South Korea / China = top 40
Only 2 African institutions Cape Town (south Africa), Uni of Alexandria (Egypt)*

7. Is reputation important?

Authors say not as important as it used to be?

8. What’s number 1 and where are Cambridge and Oxford?

*Harvard = no 1
Oxford & Cambridge = no 6 (need to look at the list on 6 minute English)*