



Conquesta 2019

(International Multiple Choice Primary School Olympiads – Est. 1998)
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English 1 (Home Language) – Grade 9

Welcome to your Conquesta Olympiad. When you have decided which of the answers is correct, scratch out the letter in the matching square on your answer sheet. Example:- If the answer to question 4 is c, then scratch out the letter c in the square containing c next to the number 4 (see example 1 below). If you've made a mistake and b should have been the answer, neatly cross out the mistake and then scratch out b (see example 2 below).

Example 1:-

4.	a	b	c	d
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Example 2:-

4.	a	b	c	d
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- Read the extract on the right for questions 1 – 13.
- Why has Finland become one of the world's richest countries?**
 - The country has invested in education and in creating a highly skilled workforce.
 - Finland has spent a great deal of money on its education system.
 - The population has a great desire to learn.
 - Finland has healthy trade relations with its neighbouring countries.
 - Which word best describes Finnish society?**
 - Materialistic (*possessions are important*).
 - Competitive.
 - Egalitarian (*equal opportunities*).
 - Elitist (*snobbish*).
 - What part of speech is the word 'skilful'?**
 - A noun.
 - An adjective.
 - A conjunction.
 - A preposition.
 - What is the function of the dashes in the underlined sentence?**
 - They mark brief pauses in the sentence.
 - They join parts of a sentence together.
 - They separate the various elements of a list.
 - They separate additional information from the rest of the sentence.
 - Which of the following punctuation markings can substitute (be used in place of) the dashes in the underlined sentence?**
 - Colon.
 - Brackets.
 - Hyphen.
 - Ellipses (*three dots*).
 - The word 'fluctuations' in context, means**
 - rising and falling.
 - unreliability.
 - unpredictability.
 - inconsistency.
 - The function of the apostrophe in 'master's' is to**
 - show that a letter has been left out.
 - indicate a plural.
 - show possession.
 - show that the writer is addressing someone who is not present.
 - Why is there no apostrophe in the word 'its'?**
 - People would confuse this with 'it's'.
 - This word shows possession.
 - There is a deliberate typing error.
 - This word is singular.
 - Which of the following is the antonym of 'flood'?**
 - overflow
 - torrent
 - deluge
 - trickle
 - Which word describes the attitude of the writer?**
 - Disbelieving.
 - Envious.
 - Admiring.
 - Fascinated.



'Education is security for a small nation.'
 -V. Snellman (1806-1881), a philosopher, scholar, journalist and politician, commenting on the education system in Finland.

NOTE: Finland is a Scandinavian country.

In the modern world, a well-educated, skilful population forms the key to a country's success. The rise of Finnish society to the ranks of the world's richest countries, has stemmed largely from the population's demand for public education and the country's investment in it.

As early as the 1800s, Finland decided on education for the entire nation. In this way, the country avoided social inequality between an educated élite and an uneducated lower class. The population's desire to learn has also contributed to a general faith in education. Finland expects its people to stay informed about a wide range of issues and societal concerns.

Finding solutions to the challenges that society faces – climate change, global economic fluctuations, an ageing population, risks connected with modern technology, pandemics and mass migration – calls for lifestyle changes and new kinds of activism. In Finland and everywhere else in the world, a growing **flood** of information and movement of people are now creating new challenges for traditional education. No matter how strong an education system is, it needs constant development to maintain its success. But what makes Finland's education system so special?

One of the Finnish education system's major strengths is its ability to guarantee the same educational opportunities for everyone, regardless of social or economic background.

Teachers are valued and highly trained. Teaching at all levels of education requires a master's degree.

A teacher, quoted in Smithsonian magazine, summed up the Finnish education system as follows: "We prepare children to learn how to learn, not how to take a test. We know much more about the children than tests can tell us."

The narrative of Finns rising from rags to riches speaks to many African countries still combatting poverty. Many of the countries in Africa need to find a way to deliver effective, efficient and high-quality higher education systems.

The Finnish outlook not only highlights the importance and possibility of spending less and still receiving a quality education; it provides a model that every country should learn to emulate.

