

**PRUEBA DE ACCESO
A CICLOS FORMATIVOS DE GRADO SUPERIOR
SEPTIEMBRE 2011
Parte Común. Apartado A2
LENGUA EXTRANJERA (INGLÉS)**

Duración: 45 minutos

FINLAND: FIRST IN CLASS

Finland is recognised worldwide for its top ranking education model. Foreign delegations frequently visit the country to try and discover the secret of its success. Euronews spent a day at a school in the capital Helsinki to find out more about the philosophy behind the **Finnish** system.

Finland has the shortest formal teaching hours in Europe and the best educational results. Finnish children stay with the same class and the same teacher for at least six years –which makes school like an extension of home.

In Finland, competition to become a teacher is so **fierce** that all teachers have a Master's degree.

Heljä Misukka, the **Secretary of State** for Education, told Euronews: "What is also maybe quite special in Finland is that teachers are quite autonomous in what they do, so they can, for example, choose the materials they like or the pedagogy they use. They have a lot of freedom in their work."

The accent is on music, sport and the arts. Children learn by playing and experimenting in groups, like in the science class. Playtime is an important part of learning. There are lots of breaks and even in winter children are encouraged to play outdoors. The children are trusted.

However, Charles Leadbeater, a global education analyst told us: "We shouldn't think that it is the only model that we should follow; it's one very effective model in teaching, learning and **schooling**, but it's not necessarily the only, or in some cases the best, model to improve education."

(Adapted from www.euronews.net/learningworld 5/11/10)

Vocabulary:

Finnish: from Finland

Secretary of State: In Finland, highest official under each minister of the Government

fierce: intense

schooling: education given at school

Read the instructions for each question carefully before answering (Total score: 10 points)

1. Answer the following questions. Give complete answers. (1.0 points each = 2.0 points)

- a) Why is school considered in Finland an extension of home?
- b) What are two characteristics of the Finnish Education system?

2. Underline the best option (0.5 points each = 1.0 points)

- a) In Finland, becoming a teacher is...
 - 1. easy
 - 2. demanding
 - 3. autonomous
- b) In Finland, teachers have...
 - 1. the same students for a minimum of six years.
 - 2. autonomy in their professional activity.
 - 3. Both 1 and 2 are correct.

3. Are the following sentences true or false? Underline the correct option (0.5 points each = 1.0 points)

- a) Subjects like music, sport and arts are a priority in the Finnish education system. True False
- b) According to Charles Leadbeater, the Finnish education system is the best model to improve education in other countries. True False

4. Find a word in the text which means... (0.5 points each = 1.0 points)

- a) to get better: _____
- b) internationally: _____

5. Choose one of the following topics and write a text 50-70 words long (5.0 points)

- a) Write about your school days.
- b) What are, in your opinion, positive and negative aspects about the Spanish education system.

CRITERIOS DE EVALUACIÓN Y CALIFICACIÓN

- La calificación de esta Parte o Apartado se adaptará a lo establecido en la RESOLUCIÓN de 17 de marzo de 2011, de la Dirección General de Evaluación, Innovación y Calidad Educativa y de la Formación Profesional, por la que se convocan pruebas de acceso a los ciclos formativos de Formación Profesional. (DOCV 01.04.2011)