



BBC RADIO 4 NEWS
Tuesday, 31st January 2012
10.00am

ELEMENTARY: CORRECT THE MISTAKE IN EACH SENTENCE

1. The first story is about 'vacational qualifications'.
2. These qualifications count towards a school's performance in league tables in the UK.
3. At the moment more than 300 courses are worth GCSEs.
4. The Government wants to cut this figure to 125 from 2040.
5. Ministers think these qualifications 'leak academic rigour'.
6. Christopher McShane is a history teacher at Winton School.
7. Winton School is in Ampshire.
8. He says students should be encouraged to get 'the most appreciative qualifications'.
9. Mr McShane said 'I think that we're in danger of undermining some very, very able qualifications.'
10. He said students should be allowed to find 'a pathway through where they can suck seed and move on'.
11. Winton School has offered vocational qualifications since the summer of 2009.

12. The Syrian government says it's eliminated resistance in the centre of the capital, Damascus.
13. The suburbs had been held by Arab defectors.
14. Activists say up to 100 people were killed in Damascus yesterday.

15. A leading group of economists has questioned whether the changes to public sector pensions will save money in the short term.
16. They work with The Institute of Fiscal Studies.
17. The Government wants to make people on higher incomes better off.

18. Robert Benyon is the environment minister.
19. He's been talking about blood protection.
20. Insurance companies have said up to 20,000 households will soon be unable to take out insurance policies against flood damage in England.
21. Mr Benyon said more than £2 million was being spent on schemes to help people in high-risk areas.

22. The floor-covering retailer Eat Carp Right has issued a fresh profits warning.
23. The company has 500 stores in London.
24. It said its annual savings were likely to be lower than forecast.



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ELEMENTARY: ANSWERS

1. The first story is about 'vacational qualifications'. **vocational qualifications**
2. These qualifications count towards a school's performance in league tables in the UK. **in England**
3. At the moment more than 300 courses are worth GCSEs. **more than 3,000**
4. The Government wants to cut this figure to 125 from 2040. **from 2014**
5. Ministers think these qualifications 'lack academic rigour'. **'lack academic rigour'**
6. Christopher McShane is a history teacher at Winton School. **He's the headteacher of Winton School.**
7. Winton School is in Ampshire. **Hampshire**
8. He says students should be encouraged to get 'the most appreciative qualifications'. **'the most appropriate qualifications'**
9. Mr McShane said 'I think that we're in danger of undermining some very, very able qualifications.' **'some very, very valuable qualifications'**
10. He said students should be allowed to find 'a pathway through where they can suck seed and move on'. **'where they can succeed and move on'**
11. Winton School has offered vocational qualifications since the summer of 2009. **'over the last 4½ years' i.e. since the summer of 2007**

12. The Syrian government says it's eliminated resistance in the centre of the capital, Damascus. **in the suburbs of the capital, Damascus**
13. The suburbs had been held by Arab defectors. **by army defectors**
14. Activists say up to 100 people were killed in Damascus yesterday. **across the country**

15. A leading group of economists has questioned whether the changes to public sector pensions will save money in the short term. **in the long term**
16. They work with The Institute of Fiscal Studies. **The Institute for Fiscal Studies**
17. The Government wants to make people on higher incomes better off. **people on lower incomes**

18. Robert Benyon is the environment minister. **Richard Benyon**
19. He's been talking about blood protection. **flood protection**
20. Insurance companies have said up to 20,000 households will soon be unable to take out insurance policies against flood damage in England. **up to 200,000**
21. Mr Benyon said more than £2 million was being spent on schemes to help people in high-risk areas. **more than £2 billion**

22. The floor-covering retailer Eat Carp Right has issued a fresh profits warning. **Carpetright**
23. The company has 500 stores in London. **in the UK**
24. It said its annual savings were likely to be lower than forecast. **its annual profits**



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INTERMEDIATE: GAP-FILL

1. The Government is _____ the number of vocational qualifications that _____ towards a school's performance in league _____ in England.
2. Currently over 3,000 courses are _____ GCSEs.
3. However, from _____ only _____ courses will be seen as equivalent _____ a GCSE.
4. Ministers say a lot of schools are _____ their league table performance with _____ that 'lack academic rigour'.
5. However, the _____ at Winton School in Hampshire says students _____ be encouraged to get the _____ appropriate qualifications.
6. Mr McShane said 'I think that _____ in danger of undermining some very, very _____ qualifications.'
7. He says students should be allowed to find a _____ through school where they can succeed and move on.
8. Mr McShane's school has been running vocational courses over the past _____ years.
9. Mr McShane said the curriculum should be _____ and should engage students.

10. The Syrian government says it's eliminated resistance in the _____ of the Syrian _____, Damascus.
11. These areas had been _____ by _____ defectors.
12. Activists say up to _____ people were killed yesterday _____ the country.

13. A leading _____ of economists has questioned whether the changes to public sector policy will _____ in the _____ term.
14. The Institute _____ Fiscal Studies says savings from raising the pension _____ will be cancelled _____ by other reforms.
15. These measures are designed to make people on _____ incomes _____.

16. The environment minister Richard Benyon has defended the Government's record on flood _____.
17. Insurance companies have said up to _____ households in England and _____ will soon be unable to get insurance protection against floods.
18. The minister said more than £2 billion _____ on schemes to help people in _____-risk areas.

19. The _____-covering retailer Carpetright has issued a fresh _____ warning.
20. The company has _____ stores in the _____.
21. It said trading conditions remained '_____'.
22. It also said _____ annual profits were likely to be _____ than previously _____.



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INTERMEDIATE: ANSWERS

1. The Government is cutting the number of vocational qualifications that count towards a school's performance in league tables in England.
2. Currently over 3,000 courses are worth GCSEs.
3. However, from 2014 only 125 courses will be seen as equivalent to a GCSE.
4. Ministers say a lot of schools are boosting their league table performance with subjects that 'lack academic rigour'.
5. However, the headteacher at Winton School in Hampshire says students should be encouraged to get the most appropriate qualifications.
6. Mr McShane said 'I think that we're in danger of undermining some very, very valuable qualifications.'
7. He says students should be allowed to find a pathway through school where they can succeed and move on.
8. Mr McShane's school has been running vocational courses over the past 4½ years.
9. Mr McShane said the curriculum should be appropriate and should engage students.

10. The Syrian government says it's eliminated resistance in the suburbs of the Syrian capital, Damascus.
11. These areas had been held by army defectors.
12. Activists say up to 100 people were killed yesterday across the country.

13. A leading group of economists has questioned whether the changes to public sector policy will save money in the long term.
14. The Institute for Fiscal Studies says savings from raising the pension age will be cancelled out by other reforms.
15. These measures are designed to make people on lower incomes better off.

16. The environment minister Richard Benyon has defended the Government's record on flood protection.
17. Insurance companies have said up to 200,000 households in England and Wales will soon be unable to get insurance protection against floods.
18. The minister said more than £2 billion was being spent on schemes to help people in high-risk areas.

19. The floor-covering retailer Carpetright has issued a fresh profits warning.
20. The company has 500 stores in the UK.
21. It said trading conditions remained 'challenging'.
22. It also said its annual profits were likely to be lower than previously forecast.



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ADVANCED: QUESTIONS

1. What type of qualifications are work-related rather than academic?
 2. What do these qualifications currently count towards in England?
 3. What are more than 3,000 courses currently worth?
 4. What will the figure be from 2014?
 5. What do these subjects lack, according to ministers?
 6. What is Christopher McShane's position at Winton School?
 7. In which county is Winton School?
 8. What should students be encouraged to get, according to Mr McShane?
 9. What are we in danger of doing, according to Mr McShane?
 10. What do students need to find quickly, according to Mr McShane?
 11. When did Winton School begin offering vocational qualifications to its students?
 12. Which word do you hear in front of 'curriculum'?
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13. Where does the Syrian government say it's eliminated resistance?
 14. Who had been holding these areas?
 15. What do activists say?
-
16. What is the Government making changes to in the public sector?
 17. What has a group of economists questioned?
 18. What may savings from raising the pension age be cancelled out by?
-
19. Who is Richard Benyon?
 20. What has he defended?
 21. How many households in England and Wales will soon be unable to get insurance against flood damage soon?
 22. How much is the Government spending on schemes to help people in high-risk areas, according to Mr Benyon?
-
23. What type of retailer is Carpetright?
 24. What has it issued?
 25. What does the company operate in the UK?
 26. Which word did it use to describe trading conditions?
 27. What are likely to be lower than the previous forecast?



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ADVANCED: ANSWERS

1. What type of qualifications are work-related rather than academic? **vocational qualifications**
2. What do these qualifications currently count towards in England? **a school's position in league tables**
3. What are more than 3,000 courses currently worth? **GCSEs**
4. What will the figure be from 2014? **125**
5. What do these subjects lack, according to ministers? **academic rigour**
6. What is Christopher McShane's position at Winton School? **headteacher**
7. In which county is Winton School? **Hampshire**
8. What should students be encouraged to get, according to Mr McShane? **appropriate qualifications**
9. What are we in danger of doing, according to Mr McShane? **'undermining some very, very valuable qualifications'**
10. What do students need to find quickly, according to Mr McShane? **A pathway through [school] where they can succeed and move on.**
11. When did Winton School begin offering vocational qualifications to its students? **In the summer of 2007 ('Over the last 4½ years')**
12. Which word do you hear in front of 'curriculum'? **'appropriate'**

13. Where does the Syrian government say it's eliminated resistance? **in the suburbs of the capital, Damascus**
14. Who had been holding these areas? **army defectors**
15. What do activists say? **That up to 100 people were killed yesterday across the country.**

16. What is the Government making changes to in the public sector? **pensions**
17. What has a group of economists questioned? **Whether the changes will save money in the long term.**
18. What may savings from raising the pension age be cancelled out by? **Other reforms designed to make people on lower incomes better off.**

19. Who is Richard Benyon? **He's the environment minister.**
20. What has he defended? **the Government's record on flood protection**
21. How many households in England and Wales will soon be unable to get insurance against flood damage soon? **up to 200,000**
22. How much is the Government spending on schemes to help people in high-risk areas, according to Mr Benyon? **more than £2 billion**

23. What type of retailer is Carpetright? **It's a floor-covering retailer.**
24. What has it issued? **a fresh profits warning**
25. What does the company operate in the UK? **500 stores**
26. Which word did it use to describe trading conditions? **'challenging'**
27. What are likely to be lower than the previous forecast? **its annual profits**