

WRITING A REPORT

Read the question below.

An International research group is investigating attitudes to education in different parts of the world. You have been asked to write a report on education in your country.

Your report should address the following questions:

- What are the strengths and weaknesses of education in your country?
- What educational developments would you like to see in your country in the future?

Planning your report.

The question gives you a logical structure for organizing your report, namely:

- Introduction (purpose of the report)
 - Strengths (broad-based curriculum, continuity of teachers)
 - Weaknesses (teacher motivation, no recognition of merit)
 - Recommendations (more autonomy for individual schools)
- ✓ The question will require a formal or neutral style, so you should avoid contractions and idiomatic forms.

Markers of comparison and contrast

X is very/quite/ rather like Y in terms of quantity, size, etc

X and Y are very similar with respect to.../ with regard to...

X is expensive to buy. Similarly/likewise/moreover/furthermore/In addition, it is expensive to maintain...

S is unlike Y with respect to/ with regard to/ in terms of.....

X differs from Y.../ X is different from Y / X contrasts with...

X has four Zs, whereas/while/but/yet/ although Y has three.

Here is an example answer for the question above, from a teacher's point of view 😊

The Education System in Italy

The purpose of this report is to give a brief overview of the current education system in Italy, its strengths and weaknesses, and to make some recommendations for the future.

Strengths

All state schools in Italy work to a broad-based curriculum, in which students study a wide range of subjects until the final year of compulsory education. This gives students a more balanced education than is the case in countries where pupils are obliged to specialize in fewer subjects at an earlier age. In addition, emphasis is placed on continuity of teaching, so that teachers may often work with the same class for several years.

Weaknesses

Teachers in Italy are recruited on the basis of national lists, rather than by individual schools. This often means that a teacher from one part of Italy may be forced to accept a job in another region, or lose their place on the waiting list. As a result, teachers often have little personal loyalty to their colleagues or their superiors. In addition, teachers are paid according to a national scale rather than on merit, and once in place are practically impossible to remove. This means that teachers have little motivation to do more than the bare minimum required or develop professionally. Many teachers, indeed, have second jobs which they perform after school hours.

Recommendations

In the future I would like to see more autonomy given to individual schools over recruitment. In this way, a head teacher would be able to select the teachers according to the real needs of the institution. They should also have the power to sanction and ultimately remove unsatisfactory teachers and reward merit.