

1 School life

Preview

For many youngsters, university life means a new journey towards brilliant prospects. But being a college student is often demanding, for at a different life stage, a lot of different people, a lot of different relationships, many requirements, expectations, and procedures may be unfamiliar and challenging to them. Students may feel frustrated and confused in budgeting their money, adapting to dormitory life, or communicating effectively in academic situations. So, what's really going on on the campus nowadays? The six clips in this unit will pose some problems facing students. These include:

1. Healthy eating in school
2. Grants for school buildings
3. The increasing tuition fee
4. Graduates facing difficult time
5. Value of a degree
6. School disciplines





Healthy eating in school



Warm up your mind

Answer the questions.

1. Do you often eat at the school cafeteria?
2. How do you think of the food there?



Enlarge your vocabulary

an array of

一组；一群



Sharpen your ears



Listen for general understanding

1 Watch the clip and answer the following questions.

1. What issue does the clip talk about?

2. How do people respond to it?

Listen for detailed information

2 Watch the clip again and mark each statement true (T) or false (F).

- 1. The school is under obligation to promote healthy eating.
- 2. Children's parents should be firstly informed if there are changes in school lunch.
- 3. Children will like the changes of the school lunch.
- 4. Children may eat junk food occasionally, during holidays or after school.
- 5. Children should have sandwiches, chocolates, fruits at their school lunch and they should not have sweets, pasta, crisps, drinks, etc.



Loosen your tongue

Group work—role-play

1 Work together with your classmates and role-play the following parts. You are Student A, a reporter from the Student Union. Now you are interviewing different people about how to ensure and promote healthy eating at school.

Student A: a reporter from the Student Union

Student B: a student representative

Student C: a teacher

Student D: a student's parent

Student E: a member from the school authorities

Group work—discussion

2 Now, suppose the school cafeteria wants to know how students think about the meal, environment and service it provides, so a meeting is held among some student representatives to discuss these issues.

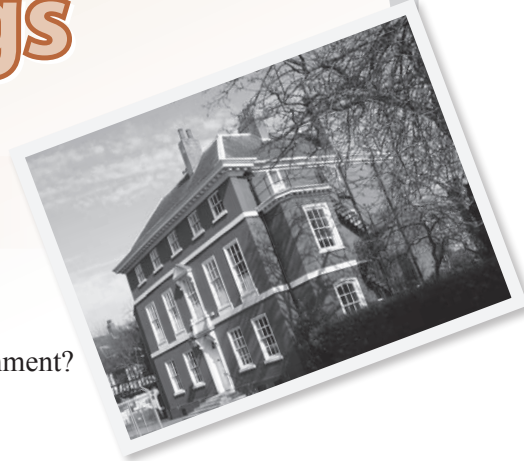
Step 1: Choose one of the following topics and discuss with your group members.

Step 2: Choose a spokesman and give an oral report on your discussion.

Meal		Environment		Service		Others	
Problem	Solution	Problem	Solution	Problem	Solution	Problem	Solution



Grants for school buildings



01

Warm up your mind

Answer the question.

Where do you think schools can get grants for its campus refurbishment?

02

Enlarge your vocabulary

YOUR TEXT

refurbishment	<i>n.</i>	整修
commit	<i>v.</i>	调配…供使用, 拨出
muffle	<i>v.</i>	包裹; 裹住
forensic	<i>adj.</i>	法庭的; 法医的
forensic science		法医学



03

Sharpen your ears



Listen for general understanding

1 Watch the clip and choose the best answer to the following question.

What does the clip mainly talk about?

- A. The new building project in South Thames College might stop because the school doesn't have enough money.

- B. The new building project has led to South Thames College’s increasing amounts of debt.
- C. The increasing enrollment in South Thames College makes the school start the new building project.
- D. South Thames College gives its old building a refurbishment because the building is dangerous.

Listen for detailed information

2 Watch the clip again and correct the errors in the following sentences.

1. The school is ready to start the third phase of refurbishment of the old building.
2. The new building project in the school has been under construction for one year.
3. The old building in the school is four storeys high.
4. Up to now, the construction has already cost the school six to eight million pounds.
5. There are about 12,000 students and adult learners in the school.



Loosen your tongue

Pair work

- 1 Suppose you are the president of your university. Now your university faces the same problem showed in the clip. How would you solve the financial crisis? Discuss the question with your partner and make a list of your solutions. Compare their advantages and disadvantages and choose the best one.

Solutions to financial crisis		
Solutions	Advantage	Disadvantage
No. 1:		
No. 2:		
No. 3:		
...		
The best one		

Group work

2 One way of covering expenditures is to reduce energy costs on campus. According to a recent survey, energy costs rise by 12% each year. As a college student, you have the responsibility to save energy for your school. How would you do it? Now, suppose you suggest your school start a campaign to increase people's awareness of cutting energy cost. What suggestions would you give? Work in groups and try to give as many suggestions as possible.

Expenditure saving campaign

Putting up posters showing how people can save energy;

Exposing to the public those who waste electricity;

Installing energy-saving devices;

Setting up awards to encourage people to save energy;

...





The increasing tuition fee

01

Warm up your mind

Answer the question.

The tuition for higher education is increasing year by year at home and abroad. As a college student, how do you think of the issue? If you come from a poor family, how would you cover the increasing tuition? Give some examples to illustrate your idea.

02

Enlarge your vocabulary

put sb. off		使扫兴
breathhtakingly	<i>adv.</i>	让人吃惊地
chancellor	<i>n.</i>	<英> 大学名誉校长
recession	<i>n.</i>	(经济的) 衰退; 衰退期
ivory tower		象牙塔 (指脱离实际生活的文学家或艺术家的小天地)
reckless	<i>adj.</i>	不计后果的
controversial	<i>adj.</i>	有争议的

YOUR TEXT

03

Sharpen your ears



Listen for general understanding

1 Watch the clip and choose the best answer to the following question.

Which topic does the clip NOT mention?

A. Somebody suggests university fees should be doubled.



- B. The increasing tuition fees will lead to burdening students with increasing amounts of debt.
- C. The increasing tuition fees will put young people off from applying to university.
- D. University authorities should have a clear understanding about economy and students' real situation before making the decision of increasing tuition fees.

Listen for detailed information

2 Watch the clip again and complete the sentences.

1. How much do students pay for their university education now and how about the increase?
University fees paid by these students are capped at 1) _____ pounds a year now. But someone suggests increasing fees to 2) _____ or even 3) _____ pounds a year.
2. Why do schools want to increase the tuition fees?
Firstly, they want to maintain the school's world-class 1) _____. Secondly, they think students expect a very 2) _____ higher education, which needs to be paid for.
3. What will be the result of the increasing tuition fees?
 - a. Now students leave university with debts of more than 1) _____ pounds on average. The increasing fees will increase their debts to more than 2) _____ pounds.
 - b. This increase may put young people off from applying to university. For example, the male student interviewed says he would 1) _____ his personal situation and think about the money. The female student interviewed says because she studies 2) _____ and she is unlike medical students who have lots of 3) _____ spent on them, she would 4) _____ about going to university and to which university.
4. What does the man say about the university authorities?
Well, I think it is breathtakingly 1) _____ of university vice chancellors to be talking about 2) _____ the level of tuition fees and the level of graduate debt in the middle of a(n) 3) _____. I think they need to get out of their 4) _____ to look at what is going on with the economy now. Students are in increasing 5) _____ already and leaving tens of thousands of people graduating with even bigger amounts of debts is 6) _____ and irresponsible.
5. Will the government implement the plan immediately?
Introducing tuition fees in the first place was 1) _____ and difficult so the government is unlikely to 2) _____ to increase them now.

U4

Loosen your tongue

Pair work

- 1 The increasing tuition fees have aroused heated debate among the public recently. University and school authorities who propose this suggestion say an increase in university tuition is in a bid to ensure education quality and make schools more competitive, while people who are against it hold the measure would fail many students from disadvantaged backgrounds and lead to burdening students with increasing amounts of debts. What is your viewpoint on this issue? Should the college tuition fees increase? Based on the clip, debate this issue with your partner. You may choose either of the two sides.

Party A: university authorities who are for it

Party B: people who are against it

Group work—role-play

- 2 How to cover the increasing tuition fees to help students go through their education? It is a responsibility not only for the students' families, but also for the whole society. Now, work with your classmates, role-play the following parts to find out the ways for students to finish their higher education.

Student A: a member from the university authorities

Student B: a member from government

Student C: a member from a famous company

Student D: a member from a social charity





Graduates facing difficult time

01

Warm up your mind

Look at the picture. It shows the job market in China nowadays. Now, describe the picture from the following two aspects.



1. What do you see in this picture?
2. What does the picture show about job-hunting situation in China nowadays?

02

Enlarge your vocabulary

YOUR TEXT

downturn	<i>n.</i>	(经济) 衰退
meltdown	<i>n.</i>	<美俚> 灾难
crunch	<i>n.</i>	艰难局面
savvy	<i>adj.</i>	聪慧的

03

Sharpen your ears



Listen for general understanding

1 Watch the clip and complete the following passage.

Because of the economic recession, graduate 1) _____ have fallen; the competition on campus has never been 2) _____. Graduates who were 3) _____ in the economic 4) _____ are now 5) _____ to find a job. Although it is harder to get

employment, there are still 6) _____ because employers are still 7) _____. If you are 8) _____ enough and know how to 9) _____ yourself to the realities, you can succeed in the 10) _____ time.

Listen for detailed information

2 Watch the clip again and answer the following questions.

1. What is the job-hunting situation nowadays?

2. Why does it become harder for students to find a job?

3. How can students find a job in such a tough time?

4. Has Diphian Serran already got a job? If not, why?

5. How does Will think about job hunting in such a difficult time?



04 Loosen your tongue

Pair work

1 Based on the clip, discuss the following questions with your partner.

- ★ What do you want to do for a living after graduation?
- ★ How would you prepare for your job-hunting programme from now on?

Group work—giving a report

- 2 To help students be more competitive in job hunting, your school authorities decide to modify its college curriculum, i.e., to add courses which are helpful for students to find jobs and to cut down those which are not helpful. Suppose you have shouldered the responsibility of modifying the current curriculum, what courses will you add and what courses will you cut down? Work together with your classmates and give a report on your new curriculum.



Value of a degree



01

Warm up your mind

Look at the picture and discuss the following questions.

1. What is the student holding?
2. How does he feel?
3. What do you think he is going to do?



02

Enlarge your vocabulary

YOUR TEXT	benchmark	<i>n.</i>	水平点; 基准
	indulgence	<i>n.</i>	纵容; 迁就
	deprive	<i>v.</i>	剥夺
	saddle	<i>v.</i>	使负担; 强加
	justify	<i>v.</i>	证明...是正当的
	flaw	<i>n.</i>	缺点
	reckon	<i>v.</i>	认为

03

Sharpen your ears



Listen for general understanding

1 Watch the clip and mark each statement true (T) or false (F).

- ___ 1. The benchmark for employment nowadays is one's ability.
- ___ 2. Students are unwise in choosing their majors.
- ___ 3. University's education meets the needs of modern society.

- ___ 4. The purpose of universities' increasing their number of degrees is to diversify students' choices.
- ___ 5. It is not worthwhile for students to spend a lot on degrees.
- ___ 6. Some students at the plumbing school in North London are graduates who retrain themselves to get a job.

Listen for detailed information

2 Watch the clip again and choose the best answer to the following questions.

- Why does the government want the students to go to university? Which of the following is NOT true?
 - The government wants the students to experience the joy of learning.
 - The government wants the students to get a degree which they dream of.
 - The government wants the students to experience the thrill of graduation.
 - The government wants the students to have promising future after graduation.
- What is the benchmark for a telesales position in the publishing firm?
 - Degree.
 - Ability.
 - Family background.
 - A-levels.
- Why does the publishing firm increase the benchmark for employment?
 - Because the job it offers is much more demanding.
 - Because the job it provides offers higher salary.
 - Because a lot of experienced candidates are competing for the job.
 - Because a lot of graduates are looking for jobs.
- Which major is the most unpopular though it has the lowest unemployment?
 - Design.
 - Engineer.
 - Computing.
 - Media advertising.
- Which one is true about the degree courses in Britain?
 - There are now 16,000 different degree courses in Britain.
 - Degrees about science and art increase fastest.
 - The increasing number of students contributes to universities' revenue.
 - Students have little economic pressure to obtain a degree.
- What does the man say about government's figures? Which one is NOT true?
 - There are two flaws in the government's figures.
 - The figures are based on the percentage of graduates going through higher education.
 - The figures show that there will be more students going through higher education.
 - The figures are based on an employment market where there was a job for life.



7. Which one is true about the plumbing school in North London?
- A. Twelve percent of the trainees of the school are graduates who want to enrich themselves.
 - B. Many trainees come from the backgrounds government wants to encourage into higher education.
 - C. One trainee interviewed thinks going to college is a valuable experience in one's life.
 - D. One trainee interviewed thinks the job as a plumber is profitable.

04

Loosen your tongue

Pair work

- 1 What is the value of a degree? Discuss this question with your partner and make a list of the benefits that a good educational background can bring to people.

Value of a degree

It is the benchmark of employment.

The higher your degree is, the more chances you will have.

...

Group work—debating

- 2 It is known that a company will not take in a person with low ability. But it may be a fact that many a company will unwillingly accept a candidate without any good educational background even if he has good ability. So, degree and ability, which one is more important? Based on the clip, debate this issue with your partner. You may choose either of the two sides.

Party A: Degree outweighs ability.

Party B: Ability outweighs degree.

