

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

## My Secondary Schooldays

I began secondary school at thirteen. It was a boys' school. The Patrician Brothers owned and controlled this school. I was in a class with strange faces, and I was a little nervous at the beginning because all the boys were bigger and tougher than me. However, I soon made new friends. I also started playing football on the same team as 4 of my classmates and we became great friends.

In secondary school, we had a different teacher for each subject. This was very strange at the beginning. For the Junior Certificate we studied English, Irish, Maths, History, Geography, Commerce, Science, Latin and French. My favourite teacher was Mr Flanders, who was our History and Geography teacher. We also studied Religion, but there was no exam in this subject at that time. Not many students liked Maths in my class, we thought it was very hard.

At that time some of the teachers in secondary school hit the students, but this is illegal now. I was a good student, so normally I was OK. Some students left school when they were 15 or 16.

At sixteen, I started the Leaving Certificate Course. I studied English, Irish, Maths, Economics, Chemistry, French and History. I studied Art at home by myself because it was my favourite hobby and I did it in the big exam. I took my Leaving Certificate Exam at 18 and my school days were over.

### Now answer the following questions:

1. How old was the writer of the article when he started secondary school?
2. Did the writer of the article go to a lay school?
3. Was it a mixed (co-ed) school?
4. Why was the writer nervous at the beginning?
5. Did he make new friends in secondary school?
6. Did the students like Maths class? Why? / Why not?
7. Who was his favourite teacher in secondary school?
8. Did the teachers in secondary school hit the pupils?
9. How many subjects did he do in the Leaving Certificate?
10. How old was he when he left secondary school?

**Now complete the following sentences *without looking at the text*:**

1. I \_\_\_\_\_ secondary school when I \_\_\_\_\_ 13.
2. My \_\_\_\_\_ teacher \_\_\_\_\_ Mr Flanders.
3. I \_\_\_\_\_ a little \_\_\_\_\_ at first because all the \_\_\_\_\_ were bigger and stronger \_\_\_\_\_ me.
4. In \_\_\_\_\_ school, we \_\_\_\_\_ a different teacher for each \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Not many students \_\_\_\_\_ Latin, we \_\_\_\_\_ it was very \_\_\_\_\_.
6. My \_\_\_\_\_ teacher was Mr Flanders, who \_\_\_\_\_ our History and Geography \_\_\_\_\_.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ of the teachers in \_\_\_\_\_ school \_\_\_\_\_ the students.
8. I \_\_\_\_\_ Art at home \_\_\_\_\_ it was my \_\_\_\_\_ hobby.
9. At sixteen, I \_\_\_\_\_ the Leaving \_\_\_\_\_ Course.
10. I \_\_\_\_\_ my Leaving Certificate Exam at 18, and my school days were \_\_\_\_\_.

**Now complete the following sentences about yourself:**

1. I \_\_\_\_\_ secondary school when I \_\_\_\_\_.
2. It \_\_\_\_\_ a state / private school.
3. My secondary school \_\_\_\_\_ single sex / mixed.
4. My favourite teacher \_\_\_\_\_.
5. My favourite subject(s) \_\_\_\_\_ (and) \_\_\_\_\_.
6. We studied \_\_\_\_\_ in secondary school.
7. The teachers hit / didn't hit us when we \_\_\_\_\_ bold.
8. The teachers \_\_\_\_\_ male / female / male or female.
9. I liked / didn't like \_\_\_\_\_ school.
10. I \_\_\_\_\_ secondary school when \_\_\_\_\_.