

Young Britons shy away from learning languages

Two out of three teenagers in Britain are keen to work abroad but most of them don't speak foreign languages. Government figures show that 58% of 11-18 year olds in the UK have no foreign language skills, which has a negative effect on the economy.

1. The interviewed man says that...

- a. ...it's not necessary to learn a foreign language.
- b. ...nobody needs to speak English.
- c. ...not everyone speaks a foreign language.

2. The interviewed woman...

- a. ...thinks you should speak English when you are abroad.
- b. ...blames foreigners for the bad foreign language skills of Britons.
- c. ...explains that it's easy to communicate in English-speaking countries.

3. How many British teenagers do not speak a foreign language?

- a. Two thirds.
- b. More than half.
- c. Between 11% and 18%.

4. What does the majority of British teenagers plan to do in the future?

- a. Taking holidays abroad.
- b. Learning another language when their older.
- c. Working in a foreign country.

5. Which is NOT mentioned as a country, where many Britons would like to work?

- a. Germany
- b. France
- c. Italy

6. According to the British government ...

- a. ...not enough schools offer language courses.
- b. ...many people stop learning languages after school.
- c. ... language classes in British schools are insufficient.

7. What does the representative of the *National Centre of Languages* say?

- a. Britain is very competitive on the global market.
- b. It's important to speak foreign languages to contact customers abroad.
- c. Britain exports more and more goods to foreign countries.

8. Most young British people are convinced that...

- a. ...the authorities in London must change.
- b. ...everybody should have to learn English
- c. ...they will be understood in foreign countries.

ANSWER KEY:

1a 2b 3b 4c 5a 6b 7b 8c