1. Teachers should not be allowed to use red pens to correct exercises as this is psychologically harmful to students. DISAGREE: Students must have feedback, of course this does not mean it has to be harmful and, indeed, red pens are just the same as other pens.
2. Schoolchildren ought not to be given grades on tests, only general comments, so that they can’t compare themselves with other children. AGREE: Schoolchildren are more likely to compare themselves with others than teenagers or university students. It would be better to get rid of grades and use general comments.
3. Secondary school teachers should never be made to teach more than four hours a day. AGREE: Too many teaching hours are unproductive for both students and teachers.
4. Children don’t need to be ‘streamed’ at school. Stronger pupils can learn as much in class with weaker pupils as they would with those of their own level. HALF-AGREE: There is no need to create separate classes for stronger students as this would lead to an overly competitive environment. Classes should include all kinds of students, however the ones who are not very good should possibly be streamed in order to give them as much help as possible.
5. Handwriting should no longer be taught at school, as it is irrelevant for children in the 21st century. DISAGREE: Typing on computer and mobile phones cannot replace handwriting, losing the ability to write with a pen would mean becoming almost illiterate
6. Competitive sport should be banned in schools, so that children’s self-esteem is not affected by losing. HALF-AGREE: Children must be encouraged to do better, this does not mean that if they fail in something, they are losers
7. Science teachers should be paid more than arts teachers as it is much harder to recruit them. DISAGREE: I completely disagree, each subject has its worth and its difficulties.
8. Online learning and coursework can never totally replace traditional learning methods. AGREE: Immediate feedback can only happen in reality and not through screens
9. The people who decide on new education laws should be teachers, not politicians. HALF-AGREE: New education laws should be arranged by politicians and teachers who can find a compromise together. The latter know students better than the former, who, on the contrary know how politics works.
10. Parents ought to reward their children for passing exams, for example with a cash payment. DISAGREE: It is up to the child to understand that education is invaluable. There is no need to reward children for doing something that they should normally do for their own growth.
11. Children shouldn’t have to memorise facts like multiplication tables and important historical dates, as the information is now instantly available on the internet. DISAGREE: Memory should be trained, and if some day internet is no longer available, our knowledge will be the only thing we have.
12. A university course is supposed to be enjoyable, not just a route to a better job. AGREE: It should stimulate students’ interests and not just be a list of information.