**Reading an Academic Text:**

You are going to read the article below;

Wu, Qi (2015) Re-examining the ‘Chinese learner’: a case study of mainland Chinese students' learning experiences at British Universities, *Higher Education*, Vol. 70, No. 4, pp. 753-766.

**Task 1: The Title**

**First, read the title of the article.**

* Highlight the key words.
* Why do you think the author has used quotation marks for the ***“****Chinese learner****”***?
* What does the word “re-examining” tell us about the purpose of the article?

Would the article be relevant for these Research Projects?

For which Projects would the article be most and least relevant?

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| * **Project A** – An investigation of the main reasons why Chinese students choose to study in the UK. |
| * **Project B** – A case-study of how international students adapt to British culture and society. |
| * **Project C** – A discussion of the main difficulties faced by Chinese students at British universities. |
| * **Project D** – A comparative study of international students’ views and experiences of different learning styles whilst studying in the UK. |

**Task 2: The Abstract**

**Now, skim read the abstract. Read the first and last sentence.**

* What problem does the researcher identify?
* What suggestion do they make to Academic staff?

Which word tells us that the first sentence talks about a problem? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Which word tells us that the last sentence is making a suggestion? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Think of what the words & phrases in the box might indicate.

**Scan the abstract for these words.**

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| *“The results…” “…therefore, examines…” “The results show…”*  *“Moreover…” “…namely…” “Further…” “It is essential…”* |

Match them to these other important terms;

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|  | “a complex phenomenon” |
|  | “local environments” |
|  | “the ‘Chinese learner’” |
| ***e.g. “The results…”*** | “generate a distorted understanding” |
|  | “sociohistorical, cultural, and academic contexts” |
|  | “evolve” |

Connect these key terms and ideas. Use these to discuss the main themes of the article.

**Task 3: Reading for Purpose**

Put these sections of the article in the correct order. Scan the text to check.

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| **Intercultural learning experiences: challenges and strategies** | **Conclusion** | **Background** | **Research Methods** | **References** | **Introduction** |
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Where could you find the following information?

Skim the text to check. (there can be more than 1 answer!).

* The main thesis. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_***e.g. Introduction***
* The main argument & general findings. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Problems with / gaps in existing literature. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Research questions. \_\_\_\_\_\_
* Discussion & definitions of key vocabulary. \_\_\_\_\_\_
* Crucial evidence / data. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Practical suggestions / recommendations. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Information about the participants in the research. \_\_\_\_\_\_
* A discussion of influential source material. \_\_\_\_\_\_
* Previous work by the author. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Task 4: Reading Intensively & Paraphrasing 1**

Which section of the article contains the following information?

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| “Grounded theory” and the way the interviews were analysed. |  |
| Assumptions of the differences between “Eastern” and “Western” learning styles. | ***e.g. Background*** |
| The recognition that students are likely to adapt to different learning styles during their studies in the UK. |  |
| Participant views on Group Learning |  |
| A recommendation for students (& academic staff) to reflect on how their own cultural experiences affects their own teaching style. |  |
| The main aim of the article – to question “common assumptions” of Chinese students. |  |
| The ways participants adapted and responded to academic challenges. |  |
| The types of UK universities which the participants attended. |  |
| Key references which emphasise the independence and agency of students as “active learners” |  |
| References suggesting that Chinese learners are not so different to “Western” students. |  |
| Participants’ views on exams. |  |

**Paraphrasing**

**Select 2 ideas.**

* Scan the text for the key information in the relevant section.
* Re-read & highlight key phrases & information.
* Now try to write this again, in your own words.
* Remember to include a reference!

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**Task 5: Signposting Vocabulary & Paraphrasing 2**

What do the words in the box have in common?

What do they tell you about the information they introduce?

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| *“Thus”*    *“This study aims…” It also appeared”*  *“To some degree…” “As a result,” “In short…”*  *“Again” “Due to…” “Taken further”*  *“The above view…” “Clearly…” Rather than”*  *“In line with…” “In contrast…”*  *“It is worth noticing…”* |

**Scan the text for the words above. Complete these sentences from the text.**

1. This study aims to challenge the common assumptions about Chinese students in Western institutions by examining a range of learning behaviors (p. 754)
2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, this study better reflects the impact of a changing learning climate on Chinese overseas students' learning compared to previous work. (p. 754).
3. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, students from East Asia in general have been broadly defined as coming under the umbrella of "the Chinese Learner.” (p. 754)
4. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, the inaccuracy of the term "Chinese Learner” is unhelpful. (p. 755).
5. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, a constructivist view point argues that students modify their learning strategies in accordance with their learning environment […]. (p. 755).
6. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the diverse prior experiences and motivations of individuals engaging in education abroad […], caution needs to be exercised in making generalizations. (p. 755).
7. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, in contrast to multiculturalism, "interculturalism" evokes the idea of interaction between cultures. (p. 755).
8. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ simply emphasizing the existence of other cultures, intercultural pedagogy highlights the interactive nature of intercultural learning, which consciously values and integrates complexity and diversity. (p. 755.)
9. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ supports those of Durkin (2011), who concluded that the lack of participation in discussion is at least partly due to the Chinese teaching and learning environment […]. (p. 758).
10. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ a range of research evidence, many Chinese students' silence seems to link with their insufficient English language skills. (p. 758).
11. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, this unexpected dramatic shift of authority from teaching to the individual student's learning is truly confusing for many newcomers to the student-oriented educational context. (p. 761).
12. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, students acknowledged that it was essential to adjust their approaches to learning in response to feedback relatively soon. (p. 763).

**Paraphrasing: Now choose 3 example sentences.**

* Highlight the keywords.
* Try to rewrite the idea in your own words.
* Remember to include a reference!

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