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THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES FOR LEARNING ENGLISH IN INSTITUTIONS OF GENERAL SECONDARY EDUCATION

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Teaching foreign languages through extracurricular activities is essential to the educational process. It is closely related to classroom activities but does not replace them, although it solves the same educational tasks and, in this respect, is a continuation of class work.

The research aims to analyze the opportunities for extracurricular activities for learning English in institutions of general secondary education.

According to the International Institute for Educational Planning (UNESCO), extracurricular activities are “activities organized outside the regular school day, curriculum or course intended to meet learners’ interests. These activities can help learners become more involved in their school or community. They can help them to develop social and soft skills and to promote wellbeing” (UNESCO IIEP Learning Portal, n.d.).

Based on the UNESCO report “Developing a Monitoring Instrument to Measure Extracurricular and Non-formal Activities Which Promote Global

Citizenship Education and Education for Sustainable Development”, extracurricular activities and non-formal education have the following opportunities:

- to provide opportunities for youth to develop competencies in cultural diversity, non-violence, and gender equality;
- to foster active citizenship, intercultural cooperation, and understanding of global issues; promote values and practices of sustainable living and environmental awareness;
- to enhance personal growth and self-esteem;
- to encourage reflexive, and critical thinking skills to empower youth effectively (Akar, 2016).

The analysis of recent international studies has shown that extracurricular activities are essential for teachers as they provide a valuable pedagogical tool to diversify teaching techniques, create a positive learning environment, and motivate students to work harder. Teachers use these activities to engage students, avoid disruptive behaviour, and help students discover and improve their competencies more interactively and engagingly (Marouane, 2019).

Additionally, national research has confirmed that extracurricular activities are crucial in teaching primary school pupils English as a foreign language by enhancing language learning, providing practical application of language skills, and fostering a more engaging and interactive learning environment. These activities can help students develop their language proficiency, cultural awareness, and communication skills outside the traditional classroom setting, making learning more enjoyable and effective (Hapon, 2023). Overall, incorporating extracurricular activities in language education can contribute significantly to primary school students’ language acquisition and academic development.

The data obtained represent the objectives of extracurricular work: to consolidate, enrich, and deepen the students’ knowledge acquired during school study and apply it into practice. Extracurricular work provides an opportunity to develop children’s interests, abilities, and needs, independently learn about the world around them, and improve relationships between people. It ensures that schoolchildren spend interesting and valuable free time. Moreover, there are enough opportunities for students’ creative self-expression in extracurricular work.

In summary, extracurricular activities in learning a foreign language have significant educational and developmental importance for students. This work

deepens the knowledge of foreign languages, promotes students' creativity, and increases their motivation to study the language and culture of another country. Since extracurricular work is a logical continuation of class work, it allows students to use knowledge of foreign languages to communicate. Exciting forms of extracurricular activities (meetings with people from English-speaking countries, watching films, making cartoons, role-playing, quests, quizzes etc.) help to create a solid basis for learning English and become a significant means of achieving learning goals.

Keywords: extracurricular activities, institutions of general secondary education, learning English, non-formal education.

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INNOVATIVE APPROACHES TO TEACHING ENGLISH FOR STUDENTS IN THE CONTEXT OF WAR AND RECONSTRUCTION

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In the conditions of martial law, it is especially important to ensure the rights of students, to give them the opportunity to continue