English for PS, Sek I and Sek II

**Cultural Phenomena**

Laughing – crying (22)

14:15 minutes

1. **For what reasons do people scream?**

For many reasons! People scream in fury, protest, despair, despera-tion and pain. They scream in the face of injustice and when things get on top of them. They scream in fear and for joy, to spur someone on, to defend themselves, to underline their authority, to intimidate other people, to vent their feelings, to draw attention to themselves and when they feel misunderstood.

1. **When is screaming positive and when is it negative?**

Screaming is good when it allows feelings to be expressed that would otherwise be buried. Screaming is bad when people do it to vent their spleen without consideration for the person they are talking to or when it is abused in order to alarm people, like a weapon.

1. **Note down examples of screaming from various cultures.**

In the Alpine region, the «Betruf» or prayer call developed in the early 16th century and evolved into the yodel. This allowed herds-men and farmers to communicate across vast distances. The muezzin’s call to prayer from the minaret of the mosque is an expression of Islamic faith and a call to believers for prayer. In many oriental countries, women’s trilling screams or ululations, are part of every-day life. The zaghareet, as it is known, is always an expression of strong emotion. The members of a Finnish men’s choir scream their «songs» in concert.

1. **What happens if we scream too long?**

If somebody screams loudly over a long period at a party or a sport-ing event, for example, they may get earache or become hoarse and temporarily lose their voice. However, they soon recover.

1. **What consequences can cancer of the larynx have?**

When patients suffer from cancer of the larynx, it may be necessary to remove their larynx. They lose their voice and have to learn to use a replacement.

1. **What does «deaf-mute» mean?**

Deaf-mute people are not really mute. They simply never learn to talk properly because they cannot hear.

1. **Note down what 14-year-old Jessica does at the school for the deaf in Zurich and what she thinks.**

Jessica and her fellow students learn sign language and also, as far as possible, spoken language. Jessica has been deaf since birth, which is why she cannot speak properly. Jessica prefers the com-pany of deaf people, as she finds contacts with the wider community complicated. She doesn’t know what to talk about with people who can hear and worries that she might get in the way.

1. **What does the convent of Fahr have to do with the topic of «keeping silent»?**

The nuns at the convent of Fahr at Unterengstringen choose to keep silent. While working, they talk only when necessary. They do not indulge in small talk. They even pray silently.

1. **When is it better to keep silent, and when not?**

We should keep secrets to ourselves. We don’t talk to just anybody about very personal matters. Depending on where we come from, the topics of sexuality or death, for example, may be taboo. But it is wrong to keep quiet about bad, incriminating secrets such as sexual abuse. It is often more honest to speak your mind than always to keep silent. If you are furious and there is a danger of overreacting, it can be better to keep silent at first.

1. **What do you think about the custom of a moment of silence?**

(Individual answers)