3.E. **High flyers** (p.32)

*School of the Air*

*School of Air* is a generic term used in Australia to refer to a correspondence system that caters to the primary and early secondary education. Initially, all the classes were conducted by radio but internet technology has had a positive impact on this system.

*School of the Air* was started in 1950 by Adelaide Miethke. Her idea was to use the radio network to broadcast lessons to school children. The trial was a success with the first lessons broadcast taking place in Alice Springs in 1951.

The technology used for the lesson is a program known as Centra. It’s more of an interactive whiteboard with a ‘text chat’ function. Students can simply write on the board or just put up their hand and get to see and hear their teacher. Sometimes the sound may lag, so the teachers prefer to use teleconferencing together with Centra. The telephone comes with a ‘press to talk switch’ function to reduce the background noise picked up by the telephone microphone. It’s also a way to reduce distractions to increase student’s concentration and participation.

Extra lessons can be broadcasted with teleconferencing and another program called Moddle where students can access any posted work, or get it on textbooks. Some SOTA students also use Skype to access educational services. SOTA system also allows students to do the work at their own pace which means they can spend less time doing schoolwork.

For more information,

visit: https://www.australian-children.com/school-of-the-air

* Ex.2,3,4/p.32

Parts of the school: canteen, classroom, computer room, corridor, gym, hall, library, playing field, staff room, stairs.

* Ex.5/p.33