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## **Level 2**

### **Money does not make children pass exams**

**8th October, 2014**

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1410/141008-exams-2.html>

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**Please try Levels 0 and 1 (easier) and the 26-page Level 3 (harder).**

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# THE READING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1410/141008-exams-2.html>

A new report says giving children money to pass exams does not help exam grades. Parents could be wasting their money by doing this. Researchers said the promise of a trip somewhere nice could get students to try harder and do better at school. Researchers in England and the USA looked at how promises of cash and days out affected studying and learning. They looked at the test scores of over 10,000 pupils throughout 2012. Many students tried harder in class and did more homework, but this did not help them get better test scores.

The lead researcher said the report looked at the wrong areas. He said it needed to look at the things that got students to work harder. He said: "Some pupils have a lot of [goals] and believe that education is a way of getting what they want out of life, but there are kids who think that working hard doesn't make a difference." He said these children think exam success is because of genes and family background. An education expert said good teachers were more important than money, especially for children from poorer families. He said good teaching makes a big difference.

Sources: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-29461681>  
<http://www.teachingpersonnel.com/news/2014/10/3/cash-incentives-fail-to-improve-exam-results/>  
<http://www.tes.co.uk/article.aspx?storyCode=6444924>

# MATCHING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1410/141008-exams-2.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                                   |                          |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. giving children money          | a. of over 10,000 pupils |
| 2. Parents could be wasting       | b. scores                |
| 3. the promise of a trip          | c. their money           |
| 4. try                            | d. at school             |
| 5. do better                      | e. somewhere nice        |
| 6. They looked at the test scores | f. did more homework     |
| 7. tried harder in class and      | g. to pass exams         |
| 8. help them get better test      | h. harder                |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                                |                         |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. lead                        | a. poorer families      |
| 2. things that got students    | b. is because of genes  |
| 3. getting what they want out  | c. a big difference     |
| 4. children think exam success | d. background           |
| 5. family                      | e. researcher           |
| 6. good teachers were more     | f. of life              |
| 7. children from               | g. to work harder       |
| 8. good teaching makes         | h. important than money |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1410/141008-exams-2.html>

A new report says giving children money  
(1) \_\_\_\_\_ not help exam grades. Parents could  
(2) \_\_\_\_\_ money by doing this. Researchers said  
the promise of a trip somewhere nice could get students to  
(3) \_\_\_\_\_ better at school. Researchers in  
England and the USA looked at how promises  
(4) \_\_\_\_\_ out affected studying and learning.  
They looked at the test scores (5) \_\_\_\_\_ pupils  
throughout 2012. Many students tried harder in class and did more  
homework, (6) \_\_\_\_\_ help them get better test  
scores.

The lead researcher said the report (7) \_\_\_\_\_  
areas. He said it needed to look at the things that got students to  
work harder. He said: "Some pupils have  
(8) \_\_\_\_\_ and believe that education  
(9) \_\_\_\_\_ what they (10) \_\_\_\_\_,  
but there are kids who think that working hard doesn't make a  
difference." He said these children think exam success is because  
(11) \_\_\_\_\_ family background. An education  
expert said good teachers were more important than money,  
especially for children from poorer families. He said good teaching  
(12) \_\_\_\_\_ difference.

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1410/141008-exams-2.html>

A new report says giving children money to pass exams does not help exam grades. Parents could be wasting their money by doing this. Researcher said the promise of a trip somewhere nice could get students to try harder and do better at school. Researchers in England and the USA looked at how promises of cash and days out affected studying and learning. They looked at the test scores of over 10,000 pupils throughout 2012. Many students tried harder in class and did more homework, but this did not help them get better test scores. The lead researcher said the report looked at the wrong areas. He said it needed to look at the things that got students to work harder. He said: "Some pupils have a lot of [goals] and believe that education is a way of getting what they want out of life, but there are kids who think that working hard doesn't make a difference." He said these children think exam success is because of genes and family background. An education expert said good teachers were more important than money, especially for children from poorer families. He said good teaching makes a big difference.

## WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student A: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a)

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b)

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c)

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d)

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e)

---

f)

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g)

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h)

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*Money does not make children pass exams – 8th October, 2014*  
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## WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student B: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a)

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b)

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c)

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d)

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e)

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f)

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g)

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h)

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# WRITING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1410/141008-exams-2.html>

Write about **exams** for 10 minutes. Comment on your partner's paper.

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