

Money does not make children pass exams

8th October, 2014



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A new report says promising children money to pass exams does not help exam grades. The report says parents could be wasting their

money by using cash to get their kids to study more. However, the promise of a trip somewhere nice could encourage students to try harder and do better at school. Researchers from the University of Bristol (in England) and the University of Chicago (in the USA) looked at how promises of cash and tickets to events affected students' studying and learning. Over 10,000 pupils in took part in the research throughout the year 2012. There was an improvement in classwork and homework, but this did not result in better test scores.

Lead researcher Dr Simon Burgess suggested the research looked at the wrong areas. He said it had not looked at the things that really got students to increase their effort. He added that: "Clearly, 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 "all in your genes" because of their family background. Education expert Dr Kevan Collins said good teachers were better than promises of rewards to get children to study, especially for children from low-income families. He wrote: "What really makes the difference is how students are taught."

Sources: BBC / Teaching Personnel / tes.co.uk

Writing

Students would be more successful if they got cash for passing exams. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

report / promising money / exam grades / try harder / studying / pupils / homework / research / effort / education / make a difference / family background / good teachers

True / False

- A report says exam scores go down if kids are offered cash to pass. T / F
- The report says the promise of a trip could get students to study more. T / F
- Researchers looked at over 10,000 students for a one-year period. T / F
- An improvement in classwork and homework led to higher test scores. T / F
- A researcher said the research looked at the wrong things. T / F
- The research said very few kids these days have goals in life. T / F
- The report said some children believe exam success is genetic. T / F
- The report said good teachers were important for richer children. T / F

Synonym Match

- | | |
|---------------|-----------------|
| 1. pass | a. lead to |
| 2. wasting | b. particularly |
| 3. trip | c. misusing |
| 4. affected | d. specialist |
| 5. result in | e. get through |
| 6. suggested | f. truly |
| 7. pupils | g. influenced |
| 8. expert | h. day out |
| 9. especially | i. students |
| 10. really | j. indicated |

Discussion – Student A

- Are you good at passing exams?
- What things made you study hard?
- Do you have any regrets about exams?
- What's the most important thing to do to pass exams?
- What do you do the night before an exam?
- How have exams helped you in your life?
- Would money help you get a better exam score?
- What's the saddest you've felt about an exam?

BreakingNewsEnglish - The Mini Lesson

Phrase Match

1. promising children
 2. parents could be wasting
 3. encourage students
 4. Over 10,000 pupils took part
 5. this did not result
 6. things that really got students to
 7. a way of getting what they want out
 8. working hard doesn't
 9. exam success is all in
 10. especially for children from
- a. to try harder
 - b. in the research
 - c. in better test scores
 - d. low-income families
 - e. of life
 - f. make a difference
 - g. money to pass exams
 - h. your genes
 - i. their money
 - j. increase their effort

Discussion – Student B

- a) Do children understand how important exams are?
- b) Is there a better way to test children without exams?
- c) What exam scores that you got would you like to change?
- d) Does education help you get what you want out of life?
- e) Does a person's genes help with exam success?
- f) Who was the best teacher you ever had?
- g) What makes a great teacher a great teacher?
- h) What questions would you like to ask the head researcher?

Spelling

1. gpsrimion children money
2. parents could be naiwtsg their money
3. gaenrocue students to try harder
4. events aecffted students' studying
5. hotuohgrut the year 2012
6. There was an ntipeovemrm
7. increase their ftfeor
8. doesn't make a cdeferenfi
9. exam ssecucs is "all in your genes"
10. Education ertpex Dr Kevan Collins
11. promises of adsrerw
12. low-onmeic families

Answers – Synonym Match

1. e	2. c	3. h	4. g	5. a
6. j	7. i	8. d	9. b	10. f

Role Play

Role A – Money

You think money is the best way to get students to pass exams. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things won't work. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): practice tests, afternoon exams or parents.

Role B – Practice tests

You think practice tests are the best way to get students to pass exams. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things won't work. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): money, afternoon exams or parents.

Role C – Afternoon exams

You think afternoon exams are the best way to get students to pass exams. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things won't work. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): practice tests, money or parents.

Role D – Parents

You think parents are the best way to get students to pass exams. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things won't work. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): practice tests, afternoon exams or money.

Speaking – Success

Rank these with your partner. Put the things that lead to exam success at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- practice tests
- afternoon exams
- job offers
- parents' pride
- money
- homework
- promise of university
- teacher

Answers – True False

a	F	b	T	c	T	d	F	e	T	f	F	g	T	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.