Selectividad 2015

Option B: Money does not make children pass exams

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 took part in the research throughout the year 2012. There was an improvement in class work 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."

I* COMPREHENSION (This section combines True/False and/or Multiple Choice questions) (3 p)

CHOOSE AND WRITE THE CORRECT OPTION (A, B, C or D) (0,5 points each)

1. **The students that took part in the research were ...** a) more than 10,000 c) just under 10,000 b) exactly 10,000 d) 10,000 university students

2. **Which students really need good teachers?** a) elite students c) high school students b) poorer students d) English students

ARE THESE STETEMENTS TRUE OR FALSE? JUSTIFY YOUR ANSWERS WITH THE PRECISE WORDS OR PHRASES FROM THE TEXT (0.5 points each)

3. **The report says the promise of a trip could get students to study more.**
4. **The report says some children believe exam success is genetic.**
5. **The research said very few kids these days have goals in life.**
6. **Researchers looked at over 10,000 students for a one-year period.**

II* USE OF ENGLISH (4 points; questions 7-12, 0,25 points each; 13-17, 0,5 each)

7. GIVE A VERB WITH THE SAME ROOT AS "**success**" (noun)
8. WHICH WORD DOES NOT HAVE THE SAME MEANING? aim goal objective device
9. FIND IN THE TEXT THE WORD THAT HAS THE FOLLOWING DEFINITION: **"unit inside a cell which control a particular quality in a living thing that has been passed on from its parents"**
10. FIND IN THE TEXT ONE OPPOSITE FOR "**reduce**" (verb)
11. FIND IN THE TEXT A SYNONYM FOR "**prizes**" (noun)
12. WHICH WORD IS NOT AN ADJECTIVE? happier thinner plumber clever
13. TURN THE FOLLOWING SENTENCE INTO REPORTED SPEECH:
    Dr Burgess said: "There are kids who think that working hard doesn't make a difference"
14. COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONAL SENTENCE: ***If students worked harder, ...***
15. GIVE A QUESTION FOR THE UNDERLINED WORDS: **Over 10,000 pupils took part in the research.**
16. REWRITE THE SENTENCE CORRECTLY: **"We couldn't go nowhere".**
17. REWRITE THE SENTENCE WITHOUT CHANGING ITS MEANING. BEGIN AS INDICATED:
    There was an improvement in classwork and homework, but this did not result in better test scores.
    ALTHOUGH ...

III * PRODUCTION (3 points)

18. WRITE A COMPOSITION OF APPROXIMATELY 120 WORDS ABOUT THE TOPIC PROPOSED. YOU MUST FOCUS STRICTLY ON IT: **Is there a better way to test students without exams?**