

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Grades (marks) encourage students to learn.

Test Section Time

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*Multifarious examinations are taken by students every semester. Giving grades is considered as the most prevailing method to evaluate the learning performance of students. Examination grades have always been one of the topics broadly discussed in students' campus lives, owing to the fact that the mark is closely related with many things including emotions and scholarships. Competing for good grades will add a huge amount of pressure on some students, who think examinations should not be marked. Be that as it may, pursuing high grades is indeed an essential catalyst for students to focus on their textbooks. It is admitted that marks really encourage students to learn, but their performance should not be vastly exaggerated.*

*To begin with, giving grades urges students to study hard to obtain satisfactory marks. Most students want to achieve the top score in tests, and no one wishes to fall behind. On that account, once academic competition starts among these schoolmates, their study efficiency will be enhanced and the academic performance will be on the upgrade. Those who have already won will make greater efforts to hold on to their superior position in examinations, whereas those who lost in the previous competitions will double their efforts to study to erase past mistakes and continue the struggle for higher scores next time. To demonstrate, my best friend Jason is a good student and always gets perfect scores in different tests. To safeguard his superior position in the grade system, he has to exert more effort in studying. As soon as he starts to slack off, other classmates will surpass him. The pursuit of good grades encourages him to learn.*

*What is more, grades can help reveal students' shortcomings in studies. When a new round of assessments is completed and final grades are announced, students will have the opportunity to discover the weakness of the hierarchy of his weaknesses on different subjects, according to the loss of marks. They may go all out to find the reasons for these losses. After reviewing test papers, it is natural for them to notice what has been neglected previously and obtain an objective attitude in studying. From then on, their attention might be focused on these drawbacks, and in the following examinations, they are likely to overcome these shortcomings and achieve better grades.*

*Nevertheless, the exam grade will certainly increase students' mental and bodily pressure, because in some of the exams, they may not achieve satisfactory scores. Once getting low scores, students will lose confidence in themselves and even be harshly scolded by their parents and teachers. Apart from additional mental pressure, to achieve perfect marks, some students may sacrifice their physical workout time to complete coursework, which may in turn cause young students some ill health. Accordingly, in view of these side effects that resulted from examination scores, the advantages of giving grades should not be excessively exaggerated.*

*All in all, although grades have minor disadvantage on students' studying, grades render students more benefits, including hard learning and discovering shortcomings in their studies.*