

TASK 2: TOEFL INDEPENDENT WRITING TEST

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

Cut

Paste

Undo

Test

Section

Time

Quit

Exit

Time

?

Help

Write at least 300 words.

Word Count: 501

Large varieties of [Multifarious] examinations are taken by students at each [every] semester. Giving grades is considered as the most common [prevailing] method to evaluate the learning performance of students. [Examinations [Examination] grades have always been one of the topics [broadly] discussed the most in students' campus lives, because [owing to the fact that] the mark is closely related with many things including emotions and [scholarship[s]]. Competing for good grades will add a huge amount of pressure on some students, who think examinations should not be marked. [However [Be that as it may], as far as I am concerned, pursuing high grades is indeed an essential stimulus [catalyst] for students to [concentrate [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 [examination] marks. Most students want to achieve the top score in tests, and no one wishes to fall behind. Thus [On that account], once [the grades [academic] competition starts among these classmates [schoolmates], their study efficiency will increase [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 pay more attention to study [double their efforts] to erase past mistakes and continue the fight [struggle] for the higher scores next time. For instance [To demonstrate], my best friend Jason is a good student and always gets perfect [marks [scores] in different tests. To safeguard his superior position in the grade system, he has to exert himself tirelessly on the study [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.

Commented [F1]: Use less common words to achieve a higher lexical score.

Commented [F2]: No double 's' for a compound noun.

Commented [F3]: Use articulate expressions.

Commented [F4]: Observe parallel structure, as you are also referring to a multitude of students.

Commented [F5]: Apply less common transitions.

Commented [F6]: One transition, to introduce a new idea, is enough.

Commented [F7]: Use a more less-common term.

Commented [F8]: Focus is a more appropriate word to use.

Commented [F9]: Students can obtain grades not just through exams but also through graded recitation, et al.

Commented [F10]: No 'the' for indefinite nouns.

Commented [F11]: Academic pertains to school activities.

Commented [F12]: All together they are schoolmates.

Commented [F13]: Use a clearer interpretation.

Commented [F14]: You have mentioned marks a couple of times, use score this time.

Commented [F15]: Be clear with your ideas.

In addition [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 knowledge hierarchy [hierarchy of his weaknesses] on some [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 on their studying [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.

Commented [F16]: Avoid confusing ideas.

Commented [F17]: Hierarchy would include all the subjects.

Nevertheless, the exam grade will certainly increase students' some mental and body [bodily] pressure, because part of them [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 exercise [workout] time to complete coursework, which may in turn cause young students some ill health. Thus [Accordingly], in view of these side effect[s] [that] resulted from examination grades [scores], the advantages of giving grades should not be excessively exaggerated. [THIS IS A REPETITIVE IDEA, AS YOU HAVE ALREADY MENTIONED IT.]

Commented [F18]: Body is a noun. Use its adjective form.

Commented [F19]: Part of them could refer to parts of the body by the way your sentence goes. Organise ideas and arrange words in proper order in forming a sentence.

Commented [F20]: Use another transition as you have used thus a couple of times.

Commented [F21]: These requires a plural noun.

Commented [F22]: These pertains to many.

All in all, although grades have minor disadvantage on students' study [studying], grades bring [render] students more benefits, including hard [effective] learning and revealing [discovering] shortcomings in [their] studies.

Commented [F23]: Use a gerund or the -ing form of the verb to form a noun.

Commented [F24]: Use alternate words since you have mentioned hard learning a number of times.

Commented [F25]: Discovering is on the part of the students while revealing is on the teachers' part.

Commented [F26]: Use a possessive pronoun to complete the thought of the sentence.

SCORE INDEX:

TOEFL ACADEMIC TASK 2		
SCORE INDEX		
CRITERIA (BAND DESCRIPTORS)	RATER'S COMMENTS	SCORE

<p>TASK RESPONSE</p> <p>To do well in this area, you will need to be very specific in your body paragraphs as you use examples to explain your ideas. You will need to draw on your personal experience, but, if you come up empty, then you will need to be creative. Indeed, that means you will have to imagine some details that you can use to explain these ideas.</p>	<p>(STRONG POINT) Compelling arguments were presented by the candidate. He/she was able to support it with explanations, details and examples.</p> <p>(WEAK POINT) Some parts of the essay are unclear. Some ideas are rather repetitive.</p>	4.5
<p>ORGANIZATION AND DEVELOPMENT</p> <p>If you want to hit an ideal score, you should consider all important parts of an essay, as well as the integral parts of each paragraph</p>	<p>(STRONG POINT) There is a good organization of ideas. The arguments were developed further.</p> <p>(WEAK POINT) Sometimes, for one argument, the explanation tends to be very long that's why other arguments have not been covered.</p>	4.5
<p>UNITY, COHERENCE, AND COHESION</p> <p>To further help you develop native-like writer proficiency, you must show coherence or the overall connectedness of your writing, which can be achieved by doing three things: Tell the reader what you want to say. Say it to the reader and tell the reader what you just said.</p>	<p>(STRONG POINT) There is an overall unity in the ideas. Every idea connects to another. Cohesive devices were applied.</p> <p>(WEAK POINT) Less common transitional devices are not evident.</p>	4.0
<p>LANGUAGE USE</p> <p>If you have consistent facility in the use of language, it will be easy for you to construct your sentences.</p>	<p>(STRONG POINT) His/her grammar displays a good range of both simple and complex sentence structures.</p> <p>(WEAK POINT) There are some error with</p> <p>Word choice: revealing [discovering] ; concentrate [focus]; word formation: body [bodily]; collocation: <u>himself tirelessly on the study</u> [more effort in studying]. ; forming the plural form: effect[s] ; <u>weakness</u> [weaknesses]</p>	4.0
<p>SCALE SCORE: 4.25 = 4.0</p> <p>CONVERTED SCORE: 24</p> <p>RATING: GOOD</p>		

