

外研社杯·国才杯·2018 年阅读大赛初赛第二场

Questions 1-3 (Suggested completion time: 3 minutes)

Directions: Read the following quotes. Match the quotes with the people. Please note there are two extra options you do not need.

A. Helen Keller	1. Try not to become a man of success,but rather try to become a man of value.
B. Mark Twain	2. The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched —they must be felt with the heart.
C. Albert Einstein	3. Happiness is a butterfly, which when pursued, is always beyond your grasp, but which, if you will sit down quietly, may alight upon you.
D. Abraham Lincoln	
E. Nathaniel Hawthorne	

Question 4 (Suggested completion time: 2 minutes)

Directions: *Read the text and answer the question according to the text.*

It takes time for you and your new mattress to get used to each other. That’ s why we give you 90 days to be sure you’ re compatible. If the chemistry isn’ t right, simply come back and choose another mattress. When you’ ve found your perfect match, you can sleep easy for years to come with our free 25-year guarantee.

4. Where is the text most probably taken from?

- A) A product instruction.
- C) A classified advertisement.
- B) A customer service manual.
- D) A shopping list.



Question 5 (Suggested completion time: 2 minutes)

Directions: *Read the text and answer the question according to the text.*

The expansion of universities is one marked feature of the social life in the present age. All countries have shared in this movement, but more especially America, which thereby occupies a position of honour. *It* is, however, possible to be overwhelmed even by the gifts of good fortune; and this growth of universities, in number of institutions, in size, and in internal complexity of organization, discloses some danger of destroying the very sources of their usefulness, in the absence of a widespread understanding of the primary functions which universities should perform in the service of a nation.

5. What does *It* most probably refer to?

- A) The expansion of universities. C) The social life in the present age. B) The position of honour. D) America in this movement.

Question 6 (Suggested completion time: 2 minutes)

Directions: *Read the text and answer the question according to the text.*

Swirling ocean-born storm clouds are not enough to qualify as a hurricane. The critical issue is wind speed.

As a storm strengthens, its circulating winds will become more powerful. As long as the winds' sustained speed does not exceed 61 kilometers (38 miles) per hour, this storm will be known as a *tropical depression*. If its winds continue to build, attaining 62 to 117 kilometers (39 to 73 miles) per hour, it will formally become a *tropical storm*. At this point, it will receive an official name—such as “Katrina” , “Nepartak” , “Roanu” or “Harvey” .

Finally, if conditions are right, the storm can intensify into a hurricane (or typhoon or cyclone, depending on its location). These intense circulating storms are rated category 1 to 5 on the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale. That rating reflects the maximum sustained wind speed (as measured over a 2-minute period).

6. Which of the following would be the best title for the text?

- A) From Storm to Hurricane C) Categories of Hurricanes

B) Factors in the Creation of Hurricane

D) Intensity of Storms and Hurricanes

Question 7 (Suggested completion time: 2 minutes)

Directions: *Read the text and answer the question according to the text.*

You arrive at the pharmacy counter, new prescription in hand—or already sent electronically to the drug store. Like most Americans, you have insurance that covers at least some of your drug costs. The pharmacy has your plan information. Now all that's left to determine is the amount of your drug copay—what you'll pay at the counter out of pocket to get your medication. As it happens, the copay for this drug seems high. But you're insured, and as patient advocates point out, it's commonly (and understandably) assumed that a copay must be less than what you'd spend to just buy the drug outright in cash.

As it turns out, however, that's not always the case.

7. What may be the main idea of the following paragraphs of the text?

A) It's sometimes cheaper to pay in cash for a prescription than to go through insurance. C) It's pretty well established that you should buy health insurance in America.

B) It's often worthwhile to pay your copay for a prescription if you have insurance. D) It's generally neither necessary nor helpful for Americans to buy health insurance.

Question 8 (Suggested completion time: 2 minutes)

Directions: *Read the text and answer the question according to the text.*

The outer ear is shaped a bit like a horn. It collects sound and funnels it through a series of structures to the inner ear. Ossicles—the three tiniest bones in the body—transmit sounds to a fluid-filled snail-shaped structure. It's called the cochlea. Inside are microscopic "hair" cells. They contain bundles of tiny hair-like strands that wave back and forth in response to sounds. Their movements send messages to the brain that will register the sound of various pitches.

These hair cells are very fragile. (1) So, as hair cells die off, people lose their ability to detect sounds. (2) Loud sounds can damage them—or kill them altogether. (3) Hair cells that respond to high-pitched sounds tend to die off first. (4) And they never grow back. So an early sign of noise-induced hearing loss can be an inability to hear high-pitched sounds

8. In the second paragraph, the underlined sentences are given in a wrong order. What should be the correct order?

A) 3 2 1 4 B) 2 3 1 4 C) 3 4 1 2 D) 2 4 1 3

Question 9 (Suggested completion time: 2 minutes)

Directions: Read the text and answer the question according to the text.

When people say they *are* “*philosophical*” *about what happens to them*, they are using the word as the Stoics would have done. The name “Stoic” came from “the Stoa” , which was a painted porch in Athens where these philosophers used to meet. One of the first was Zeno of Citium (334–262 BC). Early Greek Stoics had views on a wide range of philosophical problems about reality, logic and ethics. But they were most famous for their views on mental control. Their basic idea was that we should only worry about things we can change. We shouldn’ t get worked up about anything else. Like the Sceptics, they aimed for a calm state of mind. Even when facing tragic events, such as the death of a loved one, the Stoic should remain unmoved. Our *attitude* to what happens is within our control even though *what* happens often isn’ t.

9. What does *are* “*philosophical*” *about what happens to them* mean?

- A) to be mentally prepared for what happens

B) to show no concern about what happens
- C) to think deeply about disappointments

D) to keep calm in the face of disappointments

Question 10 (Suggested completion time: 5 minutes)

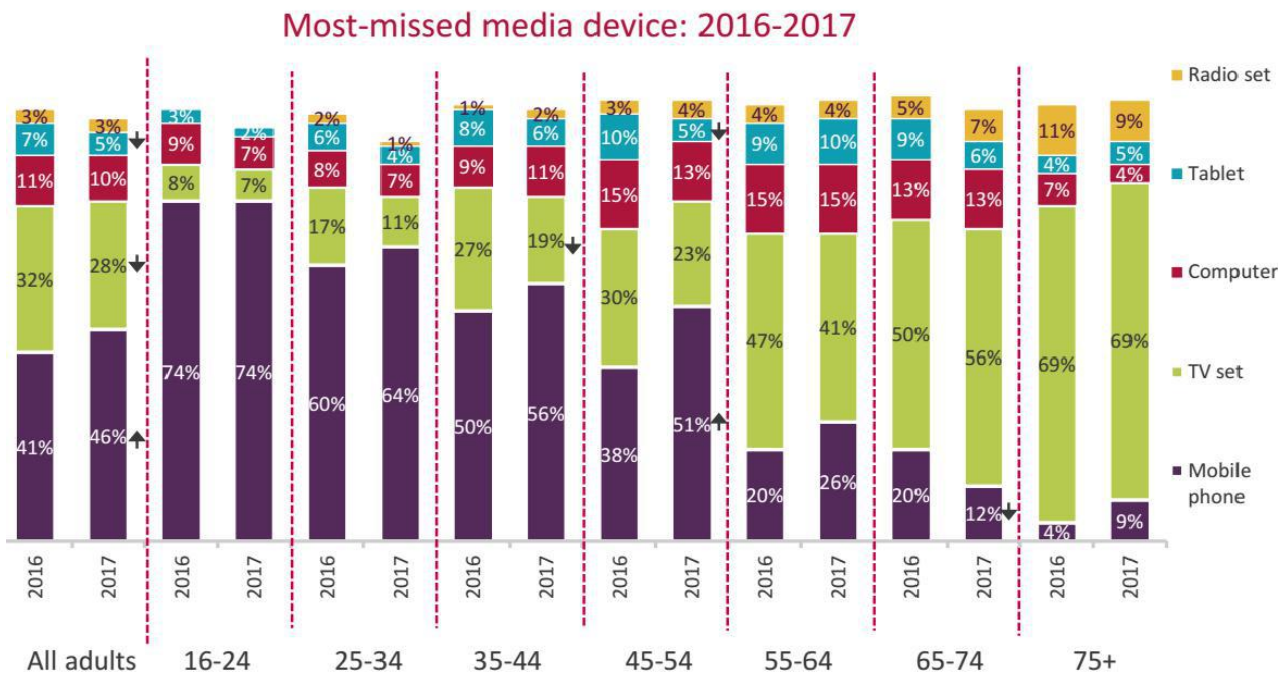
Directions: Answer the question according to the information in the figure.

Source: Ofcom Adult Media Literacy Tracker 2017

Which one of these things you use would you miss the most if it were taken away? (prompted responses, single coded)

Base: All adults aged 16+ (1846 in 2016, 1875 in 2017).

10. Which of the following is an INCORRECT description of the figure?



- A) Although TV is still the most-missed among over-54s, it is the second most-missed media device among adults aged 16-54.

C) Adults aged 55-64 are twice as likely as the average to say they would miss a tablet the most in 2017 while those aged 75+ are least likely to miss a computer.

B) Adults are more likely than in 2016 to say they would miss their mobile phone the D) Slightly more than a quarter of adults say they would miss a TV set the most and most; this is particularly the case for those aged 45-54. one in ten say they would miss a computer in 2017.

Questions 11-12 (Suggested completion time: 6 minutes)

11. Which two of the following statements are of the same logical fallacy?

- A. Let’ s not take Bill on our picnic. Every time we take him out with us, it rains.
- B. This morning I shot an elephant in my pajamas. How he got in my pajamas I don’ t know.
- C. All dogs are from the *canidae* family. Therefore, my Doberman is from the *canidae* family.
- D. The United States is the richest country in the world. Therefore, everyone in the United States must be rich and live well.
- E. Because each member of this baseball team is the best in the league for their position, then the team itself must also be the best in the league.
- F. With a laissez-faire capitalist economic system, each member of society must act in a way that will maximize his or her own economic interests. Thus, society as a whole will achieve the maximum economic advantages.

Questions 13-14 Reasoning (Suggested completion time: 10 minutes)

The Urban Institute, a research organization based in Washington, has released an interesting report that suggests **that the proliferation of iPods helps account for the nationwide rise in violent crime in 2005 and 2006.**

The report suggests that “the rise in violent offending and the explosion in the sales of iPods and other portable media devices is more than coincidental,” and asks, rather provocatively “Is There an iCrime Wave?”

The report notes that **nationally, violent crime fell every year from 1993 to 2004, before rising in 2005 and 2006, just as “America’ s streets filled with millions of people visibly wearing, and being distracted by, expensive electronic gear.”**

Of course, as any social scientist will tell you, correlation and causation are not the same thing.

13. In the argument above, two portions are in boldface. Which of the following roles do they play?

- A) The first provides context for a current state of affairs; the second is a prediction based on that state of affairs.
- B) The first is a phenomenon; the second is another phenomenon.
- C) The first is a statement of the conclusion; the second is supposed to support the conclusion.
- D) The first provides data to support the conclusion; the second verifies the validity of those data.

14.

Some critics claim that scientific progress has increased the polarization of society and alienated large segments of the population. But these critics are wrong because even a cursory glance at the past shows that society is always somewhat polarized and some groups are inevitably alienated.

Which of the following is the most obvious weakness of the above argument?

- A) It fails to give any reason for the judgment it reaches.
- B) It presupposes the truth of what it sets out to prove.
- C) It introduces information that actually contradicts the conclusion.
- D) It confuses the coincidence of two events with a causal relation.

Questions 15-18 (Suggested completion time: 9 minutes)

Directions: *Read the text about nerve cells. Answer the questions according to the text.*

When two nerve cells need to communicate, they can't just tap each other on the shoulder. These *neurons* pass information from one end of their "body" to the other as a tiny electrical signal. But one cell doesn't actually touch another, and the signals can't jump across the tiny spaces in between. To cross those tiny gaps, called *synapses*, they rely on chemical messengers.

These chemicals are known as *neurotransmitters*. And their role in cell talk is called *neurotransmission*.

When an electrical signal reaches the end of a neuron, it triggers the release of tiny sacs that had been inside the cells. Called *vesicles*, the sacs hold chemical messengers such as *dopamine* or *serotonin*.

As it moves through a nerve cell, an electrical signal will stimulate these sacs. Then, the vesicles move to—and merge with—their cell's outer membrane. From there, they spill their chemicals into the synapse.

Those freed *neurotransmitters* then float across the gap and over to a neighboring cell. That new cell has receptors pointing toward the synapse. These receptors contain pockets, where the neurotransmitter needs to fit.

A neurotransmitter docks into the proper receptor like a key into a lock. And as a messenger chemical moves in, the receptor's shape will change. This change can open a channel in the cell, allowing charged particles to enter or exit. The shape change can trigger other actions inside the cell as well.

If the chemical messenger binds to a certain type of receptor, electrical signals will flow down the length of its cell. This moves the signal along the neuron. But neurotransmitters also can bind to receptors that will block an electrical signal. That will stop a message, silencing it.

Signals for all of our sensations—including touch, sight and hearing—are relayed this way. So are the nerve signals that control movements, thoughts and emotions.

Each cell-to-cell relay in the brain takes less than a millionth of a second. And that relay will repeat for as far as a message needs to travel. But not all cells chat at the same speed. Some are relatively slow talkers. For instance, the slowest nerve cells (those in the heart that help regulate its beating) travel at about one meter (3.3 feet) per second. The fastest—cells that sense your muscles' position as you walk, run, type or do backflips—race along at around 100 meters per second! Give someone a high five, and the brain—about a meter away—will get the message just one-hundredth of a second later.

15. What is the text mainly about?

- A) How nerve cells pass messages from one cell to another via tiny chemicals.
- B) How chemical messengers travel across the space between two cells.
- C) The different functions of electrical signals released by the nerve cells.
- D) The different speeds at which nerve cells communicate with each other.

16. According to the text, which of the following is an INCORRECT description?

- A) Synapses are tiny spaces between cells and cannot be jumped across.
- B) Vesicles exist in the cells and can react to an electrical signal during the neurotransmission.
- C) An electrical signal can get into and out of a cell and transmit messages between cells.
- D) A neurotransmitter's shape resembles the key and can get into a new cell's pocket.

17-18. Decide whether the statements are True or False according to the text.

17. Prior to the arrival of the messenger chemical, the receptor will change its shape to allow charged particles enter or exit.

- A) True
- B) False

18. Whether the electrical signal will be transmitted or stopped depends on the type of receptor the chemical messenger binds to.

- A) True
- B) False

Questions 19-21 (Suggested completion time: 8 minutes)

Directions: *Read the text about privacy collection. Answer the questions according to the text.*

Is Apple the shining knight when it comes to privacy collection, as it wants us to believe?

A different business model than Facebook and Google gives it some ground to claim a tighter fortress around your data. But that's not the whole story, and some changes are coming.

In the wake of the disclosure that nearly 90 million Facebook users' information was passed on to political ad targeting firm Cambridge Analytica without their consent, tech companies are on the defensive. Consumers and lawmakers want to know how much their favorite apps have collected of their choices and movements and what they do with this personal information.

Apple has made a point of trying to differentiate its approach to consumers' information. On its website, it notes that it collects less data about us than the other big tech companies and then bumps up the security by ***scrambling*** it so it doesn't identify who it comes from. Additionally, it says it keeps most of the data on our devices, as opposed to Apple servers, and it's encrypted on those devices and only accessible via your passcode.

And it says it will make it easier to track the information the company collects about us, and to download or delete it, later this year. Currently, getting the data back from Apple is cumbersome and slow.

The new tools are to comply with new privacy rules, called General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), that go into effect in the European Union in late May, 2018. In a nutshell, the rules look to give the user more controls over how their data is used.

The major tech companies are all beefing up their privacy stance to deal with these new rules and consumer blowout over the Facebook data scandal.

19. What is the text mainly about?

- | | |
|---|--|
| A) Apple's new privacy rules went into effect recently. | C) Apple provides safer protection against data theft. |
| B) Apple's data collection system is actually doubtful. | D) Apple servers are able to track consumers' choices. |

20. The word ***scrambling*** in paragraph 4 most probably means _____.

- | | | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| A) analyzing carefully | B) putting randomly | C) manipulating effectively | D) achieving easily |
|------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|

21. What put(s) the major tech companies on the defensive?

- | | |
|--|---|
| A) Their different approaches to consumers' information. | C) The enforcement of the General Data Protection Regulation. |
|--|---|

B) Much different business models from each other.

D) The privacy information disclosure of Facebook users.

Questions 22-24 (Suggested completion time: 7 minutes)

Directions: *Read the following terms of condition. Decide whether the following statements are True or False.*

I have read and agree to the Terms and Conditions of BikeToursDirect, LLC (doing business as BikeTours.com) including but not limited to:

There is a US\$30 per person non-refundable booking fee for all travelers age 18 or older, charged upon confirmation.

BikeTours.com does not operate any tours but represents tour companies as agent only.

This booking request is a binding agreement on my part, and making changes to or canceling after submitting this booking request may incur fees by the tour company.

I understand that to protect my purchase, I should enroll in a travel insurance plan. If I do not enroll, I understand that I am responsible for any cancellation penalties and out-of-pocket expenses incurred. I will also make my own provisions in the event of an emergency while I am traveling.

Bookings and payments are processed by BikeToursDirect LLC (DBA BikeTours.com), of Chattanooga, Tennessee. We are registered with the state of Florida as a Seller of Travel, Registration No. ST39841, and in the state of California, Registration CST #2120437-50.

22. You must read the above information before confirming your order on BikeTours.com.

A) True B) False

23. People ordering the tour are required to buy travel insurance.

A) True B) False

24. BikeToursDirect LLC is also a travel agent.

A) True B) False

Questions 25-27 (Suggested completion time: 8 minutes)

Directions: *Read the text about Nobel Prize. Answer the questions according to the text.*

Between 1901 and 2016, only 12 of the 211 total winners in physiology or medicine have been women. Only four women over that period have ever won the Nobel Prize in chemistry. Just two won it in physics. For minority scientists, the numbers are even worse. No black scientist has ever taken home a Nobel Prize.



____ 25 _____. "It's not about the prizes but the reward system of science," Harriet Zuckerman, a sociologist at Columbia University, says. "There's been a tendency to not recognize the work of people who aren't from the right countries or the right sex." Candidates also tend to come from a relatively few universities or research centers, she notes. Among them: the University of California at Berkeley and Harvard University, in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

____ 26 _____, Zuckerman says. Important scientific societies, such as the National Academy of Sciences in the United States and the Royal Society in the United Kingdom, now let in more women and people of color. These societies help scientists get recognized by their peers. And the more women and minorities that become recognized, the more likely they are to receive a Nobel Prize. Between 1901 and 2001, only 10 women received a Nobel Prize in science. Within the next 15 years, another eight won them. That hardly seems fair, Zuckerman notes, "but it's better than it was."

____ 27 _____. Still, the allure of the prize remains strong. "I asked freshmen at the California Institute of Technology what the goal was for [their] careers in science," says Friedman. "Ninety percent said their goal was to win a Nobel Prize." But there are so few Nobel Prizes, most, if not all, of those students will be disappointed. "It's like going to Las Vegas believing you'll become a millionaire," says Friedman.

Not winning a Nobel Prize won't make those students failures, however. "Yes, the brilliant insight of a brilliant scientist is important," Friedman says. "But it's only of importance when you have a community and networks of people working together."

25-27. Complete the text with the following statements. There are TWO extra statements that you do not need.

A. Gender inequality is still a major issue in academic science B. This lack of diversity is a problem C. Winning the Nobel prize will greatly luster the winner's name E. But things are changing D. While Nobel Prize winners have done amazing work, there are many scientists who will never get the golden medal or the \$1,000,000

Questions 28-30 (Suggested completion time: 7 minutes)

Directions: *Read the following book review. Answer the questions according to the review.*

If you've ever told someone (or been told) that "everything happens for a reason," you need *The Coincidence Makers*. In his ambitious and genre-bending debut, Yoav Blum gamely tackles the quandary of fate versus free will, putting his own playful spin on one of humanity's biggest philosophical conundrums.

In Blum's re-envisioning of the universe, free will and fate coexist in a delicate dance: We all have the power to make choices, but these choices are orchestrated by an elite team known as the Coincidence Makers. Guy, Emily and Eric are three such Coincidence Makers, and it's their job to keep everything on track by adjusting circumstances and making sure everyone sticks to their steps and ____ 29 ____ their part of the dance. As relatively low-level agents, the three are often tasked with seemingly random tasks like arranging for people to meet and fall in love,

convincing someone to change careers or even getting a butterfly to flap one of its wings. However, all this changes when Guy receives the most difficult, dangerous and morally dubious assignment of his career, one that will forever change their understanding of cause and effect.

Already a bestseller in Blum’s home country of Israel, this existential, mind-bending jigsaw puzzle of a novel is supremely satisfying when all the pieces ____30____ into place. Perfect for readers who enjoy a cerebral bent to their fiction, *The Coincidence Makers* is a unique and unforgettable story about what happens when you try to make life go according to your own scrip

28. How does Yoav Blum paraphrase the sentence “everything happens for a reason” in his book?

- A) Fate and free will exist together in a delicate way.
- C) Sometimes it takes the wrong turn to get you to the right place.
- B) Your life would be unique and unforgettable when you make it go as to your own script.
- D) If a door closed, it’s because what was behind it wasn’t meant for you.

29-30. For each blank, choose the word that best fits in.

29. _____

- A) executes
- B) looks
- C) carries

30. _____

- A) back
- B) fall
- C) put

Questions 31-40 (Suggested completion time: 35 minutes)

Directions: Read three passages about homework. Answer the questions according to the passages.

Passage A

In August 2016, a message from a teacher in Texas in the United States calling off homework was widely shared on social media.

“After much research this summer, I am trying something new,” the teacher wrote to parents.

“I ask that you spend your evenings doing things that are proven to correlate with student success. Eat dinner as a family, read together, play outside, and get your children to bed early.”

But was she right? Is homework an unnecessary burden?

Professor Susan Hallam from the Institute of Education says there is “hard evidence” from research that homework really does improve how well pupils achieve. “There is no question about that.”

But she says this doesn’t mean that endlessly increasing the amount of homework will keep delivering better results.

At some point, the benefits of more homework stop. But the difficult part is that this homework saturation point is different for each individual.

“Another complication” , says Prof. Hallam, “is that the most able pupils probably need the least homework—but in practice, teachers give pupils in the top ability groups the most homework.”

It would be more effective if the least able pupils were given the most homework.

Prof. Hallam also says the benefits of homework are more doubtful in primary school than in secondary.

But she says there is no evidence that homework can be actively counter-productive to learning.

A big study published by the Department for Education also found homework made a positive difference.

After taking into account family background, the amount of time spent on homework was found to be a strong predictor of doing well in exams in secondary school.

“The strongest effects were noted for those who reported spending two to three hours doing homework on a typical school night,” said the study from researchers at the University of Oxford, Birkbeck and the Institute of Education.

Pupils who did that amount of homework were almost 10 times more likely to achieve five good GCSEs (General Certificate of Secondary Education, an academic qualification test generally taken by pupils in secondary education in England, Wales and Northern Ireland) than students who did not spend any time on homework.

Homework has also always been something of a political football.

In the US, it’ s claimed that the habit of piling on homework went back to the 1950s and Cold War fears that the US was losing the space race to the Soviet Union.

In an attempt to catch up with the cosmonauts, US schools hit the homework to rocket-boost young learners.

Even though homework seems to be such an entrenched part of the English school system, there are no official guidelines to impose it.

There used to be recommendations for an hour a week for five- to seven-year-olds, rising to 2.5 hours per night for pupils aged between 14 and 16.

But that was scrapped four years ago—leaving schools to make their own decisions.

If the late-night arguments over homework are too much, there is always the last-minute excuse.

Blaming dogs for eating homework has been an excuse in circulation since at least the 1920s.

But a college survey showed the current most popular excuse for homework being destroyed was milk spilled over it at breakfast.

And like tears over late-night homework, there’ s no point crying over spilt milk.

Passage B

“Homework has been a hot topic for a number of years now because it affects so many people,” says Robert H. Tai, a professor at the University of Virginia’s Curry School of Education who has researched the topic and conducted a 2012 study, “When Is Homework Worth the Time?” After studying transcripts and data for more than 18,000 sophomore students nationwide, he found no significant relationship between time spent on homework and grades, but did find a positive relationship between homework and performance on standardized tests. “Homework should act as a place where students practice the skills they’ve learned in class,” Tai says. “It shouldn’t be a situation where students spend many hours every night poring over something [new].”

The Case for Less Homework

The authors of *Reforming Homework: Practices, Learning and Policies* evaluated homework research and concluded that it does not significantly impact achievement — and can even be **detrimental**. One study from Penn State that analyzed data from the late 1990s found that, in countries with high homework demands, student performance on the international test of achievement known as Trends in Mathematics and Science Study was poorer than those with less rigorous after-school assignments. The authors, both professors at Australian universities, do not call for a homework ban, but they do recommend less homework, as well as homework assignments of a higher quality, rather than large amounts of drill and practice work.

Further, Tai and colleagues’ study, “When Is Homework Worth the Time?” also found that sophomores who spent more time on after-school assignments did not fare any better or worse with grades, but did perform better on standardized tests. “Based on our research, it appears that the most effective use of homework may be to help students sharpen their skills with things that they already know how to do, rather than trying to use homework as an extension of class time,” Tai says. Issues often arise when students and parents do not understand the aim of the homework assignments, Tai adds, and it is imperative for teachers to make the purpose clear.

A 2011 study in the *Journal of Advanced Academics* found that it was the sense of self-efficacy students felt while completing homework assignments, and the availability of resources (such as a quiet place to work and access to a computer) that led to increased mathematics achievement on an international exam. And students who spent more time on homework performed worse on the exam, the researchers found. “Although this was a surprising finding, a lack of understanding of a subject can lead to inefficient and disproportionate effort, as well as diminished motivation,” the study states. The researchers add, “This observation fits the notion that students who have low mathematics scores and spend more time on mathematics homework do it precisely because of low self-efficacy and fewer support resources.”

Passage C

For years I have never fully understood my parents’ celebrations of or concerns about my education. They have strong opinions about everything from the curricula used in my classes to how instruction is provided. My parents are both professors in the educational psychology and special education fields, so I have heard their views on education all my life.

One area that has prompted much discussion in our household surrounds the use of homework, particularly since I entered high school. Based on my own experiences, listening to my parents in their classes, and my research, I have come to the conclusion that homework needs some serious modifications.

First, mastery can only be achieved by correct practice over time. My parents are advocates of explicit instruction; that is, teachers should show us what to do, give us opportunities to do it, and then give us a chance to show that we can do it on our own. Homework was designed to build on skills covered extensively in class. I should be able to complete an assignment with little to no confusion at home as long as it involves previously learned skills.

Many of the homework assignments I have received throughout my years of schooling have involved activities not previously practiced. When a teacher assigns homework incorporating information that was just recently taught or not taught at all, it puts a tremendous amount of stress on students. Worse yet, I think, it puts a great deal of stress on our parents. We rely on our parents to help us be successful. Our parents have to figure out how to do the assignment and then teach it to us. Many of the projects and activities are too difficult to be done without our parents' help. Students who have no help at home, therefore, are at a total disadvantage and their grades might falter because of this lack of assistance.

Second, homework should not exceed two hours per night. If we assume that we know how to do the homework we are assigned, we should be able to complete it in a reasonable amount of time. But consider the schedules of many high school students: we often wake up early in the morning; some of us have long bus rides; and many of us have sports practices, jobs, or other extracurricular activities before or after school. We have to make time to eat dinner and complete our chores. Now add on three or more hours of homework a night and you have instant stress, not only for students but also for their families. I have known my peers to stay up until midnight trying to finish their homework on top of everything else they have to do in their busy lives. These students are not always procrastinators—they just simply cannot do it all.

Additionally, some teachers assign homework before a test day. All I would like to focus on before a test is studying. I find it hard to put in the necessary hours of studying when I have to complete extra assignments. Before a test day, the only work that should be assigned for a particular class is to study.

The research I read found benefits for homework. Students do better in school if they have homework assignments and actually complete them; they get better test scores too. However, teachers should think about how long assignments might take to complete and whether they involve previously learned skills, and assign them accordingly.

In summary, I enjoy school and appreciate the time my teachers take in providing feedback on homework assignments and in reviewing them in class. If teachers take the time to assign homework we can actually do within a reasonable amount of time, we will enjoy the experience much more, be less stressed, and have more time to spend with our families each evening.

31. The message from the teacher in Texas mentioned in Passage A shows that _____.

A) spending time doing things together with children is evidently beneficial

C) there's no significant relationship between homework and student success

B) the idea of cancelling homework was widely supported in social media

D) homework shouldn't be a burden for either parents or children

32. Which of following is TRUE about Professor Hallam's opinions in Passage A?

A) Secondary school students can achieve good grades by doing more homework.

C) It is hard to prove that homework improves academic performance.

B) Homework may lead to negative results in motivating students to study.

D) Different students should be assigned different amounts of homework.

33. What does the last sentence in Passage A imply?

A) Late-night homework always puts unbearable pressure on students.

C) It is useless to blame spilt milk for not finishing one's homework.

B) Homework is inevitable for students even though they try to avoid it.

D) Teachers don't believe the excuses students make about their homework.

34. The word *detrimental* in Passage B is closest in meaning to _____.

A) negligible B) regular C) damaging D) indispensable

35. According to Tai in Passage B, the aim of homework is to help students _____.

A) improve performance in standardized tests B) promote their sense of self-efficacy

C) extend their class time after school

D) practice what they have learned

36. Which question does the 2011 study in Passage B answer?

A) What leads to the decreasing motivation B) How does homework influence

in learning mathematics?

mathematics test scores?

C) What influences students' mathematics

performance?

D) How can students perform well in

mathematics exams?

37. According to Passage C, students may feel quite stressed about homework because _____.

A) the homework must be done with parents' B) they need to master learnt skills with

help

limited time

C) teachers always make ambiguous and

vague instructions

D) the homework assignments are beyond

their capability

38. Which of the following advice of modification is NOT included in Passage C?

- A) It is better if homework assignments do not need parents' involvement.
- B) The assignments should be based on the skills covered in class.
- C) The amount of time required by homework should be more reasonable.
- D) Teachers should give students more instructions.

39. What has been mentioned in both Passage B and Passage C?

- A) Homework should be designed to improve previously learned skills.
- B) A clear guideline is needed to set proper time for homework.
- C) Teachers are responsible to make homework instructions clear.
- D) The quality of homework outweighs the amount of homework.

40. What can be learned from all three passages?

- A) More time spent on homework doesn't necessarily lead to better scores.
- B) Concern about homework has always been a hot social issue.
- C) None of the authors require the cancellation of homework.
- D) Teachers should pay more attention to the quality of homework.