

## College news

Professor Tim Scholes has been nominated (0) ..... a national award, the Taymon Environmental Prize, in recognition of his research into the impact of deforestation (9) ..... land in the Amazon basin. He is interested in both its potential benefits for agriculture and the risk of desertification, a process by (10) ..... formerly fertile land becomes desert. Scholes's most recent study was undertaken (11) ..... part of an international project led by Professor Clara Berminton.

According to Scholes, a lucrative prize (12) ..... the Taymon would make a significant contribution to funding for the next stage of his research. The awards ceremony will (13) ..... place in London on 19 March. Scholes jokes that he (14) ..... well be the first person in the Taymon's history to be nominated six times without winning. (15) ..... this prove to be the case, though, Scholes won't be too upset. He believes the publicity generated by the event will raise awareness of the problem of deforestation, if (16) ..... else.

## Golf courses and the environment

The recent popularity of golf resulted from

local success in  7 events.

A demand for new golf courses attracted

the interest of both  8 and businessmen.

Many developers made the mistake of building

golf courses to  9 standards.

Golf courses tend to be used by people who live in

10

Some people think that golf courses look too much like

11

Trees planted on golf courses are often chosen because they

12

Tom suggests that golf courses could also be used as

13

Tom would like to see golf courses

integrated into both the  14 and the local ecology.

- 1 During the winter I prefer watching football to playing it.  
**SOONER**  
During the winter I ..... it.
- 2 Karen says it takes less than an hour to drive there, but I'm sure she has got it wrong.  
**MUST**  
Karen says it takes less than an hour to drive there, but she ..... a mistake.
- 3 Students wishing to enrol on the course should complete all sections of the application form.  
**REQUIRED**  
Students wishing to enrol on the course ..... in all sections of the application form
- 4 She decided to move to a part-time job so that she could spend more time with her young children.  
**ORDER**  
She decided to move to a part-time job ..... able to spend more time with her young children.
- 5 I really messed up the first question in the exam. I wish I had considered it more carefully before answering.  
**THOUGHT**  
I really messed up the first question in the exam. I should ..... it more carefully before answering.
- 6 The factory has been able to reduce its CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 50% in the last year.  
**SUCCEEDED**  
The factory ..... back its CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 50% in the last year.
- 7 It's a long walk home, so I advise you not to miss the last train.  
**BETTER**  
It's a long walk home, so ..... the last train.
- 8 They didn't mention the subject of unpaid holidays until the end of the interview.  
**BRING**  
Not until the end of the interview ..... the subject of unpaid holidays.

**1 Work in pairs. Discuss what you think the idiomatic phrases in bold mean and write a short definition for each.**

- 1 You should get some sleep – you're **not doing yourself any favours** by staying up until 3 am watching movies.
- 2 Denzel Washington has been one of the most **consistently bankable** movie stars for over three decades now.
- 3 My laptop is no good for watching movies on. It's about eight years old now, and it's really **on its last legs**.
- 4 If I'm ever **in a slump**, I try to do more exercise and watch a funny film.
- 5 Most people find Danilo annoying because he's **never been shy in coming forward** with his opinions, even if no one wants to hear them.
- 6 In the world of consumerism, **cost is king**. Everyone wants the latest smart phone, but not if they have to **break the bank** to get one.
- 7 Our national film industry has had an unexpectedly successful year, so it's a good time to **take stock** and plan for the future.
- 8 Local residents were **out in force** yesterday to protest against the closure of the town's last remaining cinema.



- 1 You are going to read four experts discussing their views on the long-term survival of the movie industry. Quickly read all four texts on page 3 and decide with a partner whether you think each writer is optimistic, neutral or pessimistic about the future of the movie industry and cinemas.
- 2 Read the first two sentences of extract A. Which of the options (A–C) is the closest paraphrase of A's main point?
  - A Amateur movie critics are making unsupported claims which should be ignored.
  - B Cinemas need to do more to attract frequent visits from moviegoers at present.
  - C History has shown that the movie industry is always capable of dealing with adversity.
- 3 Read question 1 of the exam task in Exercise 4. Then scan the other three texts. Which of the other writers mention looking at the movie industry from the same historical perspective as A?
- 4 Complete the part 6 exam task for the remaining three questions.

For questions 1–4, choose from the texts A–D. The texts may be chosen more than once.

**Which writer**

- 1 makes a similar claim to A about the future of cinema based on a historical perspective?
- 2 holds a similar view to D about what viewers consider to be the main attraction of streaming services
- 3 holds a different view to the other writers about the ongoing survival of art house cinemas?
- 4 has a similar opinion to B about the extent to which viewers value familiarity in their movie choices?

## Can cinema survive?

- A** The pessimistic bloggers and critics are out in force again, screaming that cinema attendances are lower than ever, and the death of cinema is imminent. Their views can be swiftly disregarded when we recall that the movie industry has been in a slump so many times before and yet it is still here. More recently, our movie theatres and multiplexes have coped admirably with the huge loss of income caused by the coronavirus pandemic. So, what might the future look like? Do we believe these so-called experts, predicting that home streaming will soon take over as the only medium for watching movies, with all theatres closing for good? Encouragingly, a recent survey has shown how mistaken this view is. The majority of moviegoers are apparently as connected as ever to the big screen, particularly at the local art house cinemas which will continue to thrive and to make a valuable contribution to our communities.
- B** It is increasingly the case for the big studios that movies with original scripts and storylines represent too much of financial risk to be made. Sequels, however, are consistently bankable. They provide audiences with what they apparently need and want most – a comforting sense of the recognisable. People are less attracted to originality in its pure form, and they are certainly not prepared to pay for it. I do not mean this in an elitist way; even in the passionate and explorative world of the art house cinema, theatres rely on showings of much-loved classic movies to help with their survival (and survive they surely will). But when an entire month's subscription to a streaming service costs less than a single viewing of a movie at the cinema, we have to acknowledge that cost is now king.
- C** We shouldn't forget that the movie industry, despite supposedly being on its last legs for the last 50 years, has always found ways to overcome any challenges it has been set. Reinvention is now key, and we should be willing to exploit the advances in technology afforded us. Streaming services offer vast film libraries to choose from, and consumers haven't been shy in coming forward to take advantage of this. Going by the viewing figures from those platforms, and in opposition to the 'make more sequels' lobby, we can only conclude that it is above all the opportunity to explore new content that excites us. It is true that there are still moviegoers who remain loyally committed to the traditional art house experience as a central part of their viewing habits. With the popularity of streaming, though, their numbers can be expected to diminish sooner rather than later.
- D** Where now for our battered movie industry, down but not quite out? The world has utterly changed since the start of the pandemic, and it would not do us any favours to look to the past and assume this latest existential threat to the industry will be overcome, just because it has managed to do so previously. We movie folk need to take stock and work with what we have left. While art house cinemas will certainly continue to be vibrant focal points of the creative industry, as they always have, we now need to acknowledge that today's mainstream movie fans are consistently drawn to plots and casts that they feel they already know in some way. So, for now, let's offer them the remakes and sequels they crave. Let's address their complaints of sky-high ticket prices by looking to the successes of streaming services – because if there's one thing people love even more than movies, it's watching those movies at a price which won't break the bank.



## Exam task

You are going to read four extracts from articles in which academics give their views on behaviour in schools. For questions 1–4, choose from the academic A–D. The academics may be chosen more than once.

### Which academic

- has a different view to the others about the historical trends in student behaviour? 1 .....
- expresses a similar view to B about what should be done to improve student behaviour? 2 .....
- expresses a different view to A on the broader social consequences of poor student behaviour? 3 .....
- has a similar view to B about the effect of behavioural issues on student achievement? 4 .....

## Behaviour in schools

### A Dorota Ignatieff

Student behaviour in schools is a topic that many people are anxious about these days, and rightly so. Recent surveys amongst teachers have given me most cause for concern, especially the reflections of those who have been teaching ten years or more who report a deterioration in standards of behaviour. Although there's no evidence as yet of a concurrent increase in antisocial activities outside of school among the age group, I suspect we may see this emerge in years to come. Despite this, concern about pupils' results seems to be largely unfounded, as there has been a gradual improvement in academic results over the last 20 years or so. This is quite some attainment given that, over the same period, funding for schools has fallen in real terms. This shortfall is the underlying cause of poor conduct, as support for more disruptive students has been eroded, and therefore is what those in power need to rectify.

### B Sunil Kumble

Student behaviour has been an issue for as long as schools have been in existence. Teachers have more influence over their students than anyone, so clearly filling the apparent gap in their training would achieve more than any government minister could. The usual hysterical media coverage has made it more or less impossible to ascertain the actual extent of any fluctuation in standards of student conduct, and indeed even to know

which direction it has taken over time. What we can be sure of is that, in schools where behaviour is an issue, levels of attainment for learners from better-off families have fared well, while their poorer counterparts have once again lost out. It remains to be seen whether this will lead to problems in the wider world. Indicators such as petty crime levels are currently stable, but I'd anticipate a sharp rise if this is as big an issue as many suggest.

### C Ruth Iveson

Some of the means by which it used to be achieved in the past may not be particularly palatable today, but there's little doubt that over two generations, respect for authority in schools and associated standards of behaviour has suffered a steep decline. The root of the problem sits squarely on the shoulders of those who deal with students on a day-to-day basis. Qualifications for educators clearly haven't kept pace with the speed at which life in schools is changing, so this needs addressing. Although official figures show a steady fall in problems such as graffiti and vandalism, I believe the reverse to be true. They've become such commonplace occurrences now that they're seldom reported, and I can't help but feel that this is not unconnected to people becoming increasingly tolerant of disrespect in schools. Clearly this would also explain the decline in success rates that's starting to emerge. Students appear to have lost their focus on learning.

### D Joao Rodrigues

When one analyses school results these days, it's always a good idea to dig a little deeper than perhaps schools or the government would want. On the surface, all appears to be well, as overall pass rates continue to rise. Nevertheless, the breakdown for how different social classes perform shows the opposite to be true for less affluent students. Behavioural difficulties in schools are evident in students from every strata of society, but clearly

they affect this group more than others. Therefore, financial assistance needs to be made available for schools to better support these vulnerable learners and to help them eradicate the underlying problem. Schools simply don't have the resources to do this these days. I think it's no coincidence that, as government provision has declined, levels of misconduct have done the contrary. Teachers are generally devoted to their students yet unfairly receive much of the blame when their charges misbehave.