

COGNOME

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Part 1

Read the following article, then answer the questions which follow

BOYS 'MIGHT DO BETTER IN SINGLE-SEX CLASSES'

1. Boys at primary school perform 'significantly' better in English tests if they are taught in classes with fewer girls, a new study claims. Research from Bristol University, which used data from every state school in England, found that as the proportion of girls rose, the results achieved by their male classmates fell. Steven Proud, who carried out the work, concluded it 'might be beneficial for boys to be educated in single-sex classes' in English.
2. He argued that girls tended to be ahead of boys in English, and so were more likely to answer questions, raise their hands and behave confidently in lessons. Boys studying alongside a large number of girls find it easier to 'hide in the background'. 'The more girls there are, the less they need to work. That is one supposition. Since girls perform considerably better in English, if there are more girls in the class, they are more likely to volunteer answers, so boys can hide in the background and it still appears the class is doing well.
3. 'The other possibility is that there is some link between the sex of the teacher and how they focus their teaching. If a female teacher is teaching a lot of female pupils, they could focus their teaching towards girls and that could negatively affect the boys.' In his working paper, Proud said the results implied 'that boys would benefit at all ages from being taught English in English schools with as small a proportion of girls as possible'.
4. Mick Brookes, general secretary of the National Association of Headteachers, said that boys who were a minority in a class could 'feel swamped by the high-attaining girls'. 'English is seen as a girly thing to do but that is wrong,' he said. 'What schools have to do is look at the subject matter in English and if it appears to have a feminine bias, then they need to look at that and see how it can be changed.' Parents, meanwhile, called for teachers to be trained in dealing with classes where there were gender imbalances.

Q1. READING COMPREHENSION. Choose the best answer (a, b or c), ACCORDING TO THE AUTHOR'S OPINION. Write the letter you have chosen in the space provided near the question number. (10 marks)

_____ **1. According to a study from Bristol University:**

- a. gender composition and results attained in English don't seem to be related.
- b. gender composition and results attained in English seem to be linked.
- c. gender composition and results attained in English seem to be unconnected.

_____ **2. According to researcher Steven Proud, girls:**

- a. do better in English as the number of other girls in class decreases.
- b. do better in English as the number of boys in class increases.
- c. do better in English as the number of other girls in class increases.

_____ **3. Boys in single-sex classes get better grades because:**

- a. they cannot hide in the background as when there are many girls in class.
- b. they can raise their hands unlike when there are many girls in class.
- c. they can't benefit from being taught English with a small proportion of girls.

_____ **4. Researcher Steven Proud is also suggesting that a female teacher may...**

- a. have a negative effect on girls if there are a lot of boys in a class.
- b. have a negative effect on boys if there are a lot of other boys in a class.
- c. have a negative effect on boys if there are a lot of girls in a class.

_____ **5. What do we learn in paragraph four?**

- a. Girls who are a majority in a class may feel overpowered by boys.
- b. Parents are growing a bit concerned about gender disparity in classes.
- c. Since English is a “girly thing to study”, the subject matter must have a feminine bias.

Q2. VOCABULARY

(10 marks)

In paragraphs 1 and 2, there is ONE WORD ONLY that has the same meaning as the following:

- 1. advantageous _____
- 2. maintains _____
- 3. remarkably _____
- 4. hypothesis _____
- 5. dropped _____

In paragraphs 3 and 4, there is ONE WORD ONLY that has the same meaning as the following:

- 1. disparities _____
- 2. influence _____
- 3. overwhelmed _____
- 4. partiality _____
- 5. suggested _____

Q3. WRITING (50-100 words):

What do you think about the results shown by this study from Bristol University? Would you be for or against the reintroduction of single-sex classes in state schools? Give reasons for your answer. (10 marks)

Part 2

Q4. GRAMMAR AND LEXICON. Read the following text and then put ONE word only in the numbered spaces provided BELOW the text (10 marks)

Sophie Thomlinson weighed just 1lb 15oz (1) ___ she was born in the back of an ambulance as her mother Emily, 29, was driven to hospital (2) ___ a blizzard earlier this year. The premature baby was in need of an incubator but the equipment is (3) ___ large to be installed in most ambulances. But paramedic Rob Dalziel, 37, was (4) ___ to keep her moist by wrapping her in a yellow plastic bag usually used for disposing of hazardous medical supplies. He then used towels (5) ___ cocoon the child and keep her body temperature at a safe level and forced (6) ___ into her lungs to ensure she kept breathing as the ambulance continued on to Royal Berkshire Hospital in Reading. She (7) ___ two weeks in the hospital's ITU 'Hot Room' before (8) ___ transferred to the High Dependency Unit at John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford. Four months later Sophie has been allowed home (9) ___ her mother and father Peter Hazzard, 27, in Wheatley, Oxon. Emily said: "I was in a lot of pain and quite stressed not knowing what was going to happen. "Giving (10) ___ 14 weeks premature is not ideal, especially on the side of the road."

- | | |
|-----------|------------|
| (1) _____ | (6) _____ |
| (2) _____ | (7) _____ |
| (3) _____ | (8) _____ |
| (4) _____ | (9) _____ |
| (5) _____ | (10) _____ |

Q5. SYNTAX: SENTENCE TRANSFORMATION. Using the word given, rewrite each sentence so that it has the same meaning as the original sentence. DO NOT CHANGE THE WORD GIVEN (10 marks)

Example:
I moved to Italy 10 years ago.
SINCE
I have been living in Italy since 2000.

- We don't know anything about the problem.
INFORMATION
We _____ about the problem.
- It's not necessary to pay to use the office phone.
HAVE
You _____ the office phone.
- "I'll call you tomorrow", Karl said to me.
NEXT
Karl said _____ day.
- Could you ask Francis to come into my office, please?
MIND
Do _____ into my office, please?
- Did they take her to hospital in an ambulance?
SHE
Was _____ in an ambulance?

Q6. VERBS. Read the following article and put the verbs in brackets into a suitable form. Write your answers in the numbered spaces provided below the text. (10 marks)

It was only minus 28 degrees Celsius when we (1) _____ (**land**) in Irkutsk. But that was cold enough to make breathing an effort - the air (2) _____ (**feel**) like ice as it scraped the back of my throat. Five minutes later, I needed a second pair of gloves and pulled my scarf tight over my nose and mouth. Obviously I was a mere beginner. At the petrol station, Mikhail the attendant laughed when we asked if he (3) _____ (**not freeze**). He (4) _____ (**spend**) the whole day outside with no more than his fur hat and a sheepskin coat for warmth. It was mid-afternoon and icicles hung from his moustache like Dracula's fangs. He said he never drank to stay warm - unlike many others. There (5) _____ (**be**) a belief in Siberia that enough vodka (6) _____ (**insulate**) you from the cold. It (7) _____ (**be proved**) tragically wrong in the past few weeks. Dozens of bodies of the homeless or men (8) _____ (**walk**) drunkenly back from the pub were hauled out of the snowdrifts, frozen or so badly frost-bitten that many have never walked again. The local hospital in Irkutsk is overwhelmed. Ironically, it's the burns unit that (9) _____ (**take**) all the frostbite victims - 200 of them in just two weeks in one town. Even here, icicles (10) _____ (**hang**) down on the inside of the windows, though the heating is on full power.

- (1) _____
- (2) _____
- (3) _____
- (4) _____
- (5) _____

- (6) _____
- (7) _____
- (8) _____
- (9) _____
- (10) _____

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