Oxford Exam Trainer B 1

Unit 4 School

Writing

Forum Post: Expressing your opinion

1. Think it over! Read the article about homework and exams.

Homework or not?

For many years, Finnish 15-year-olds have been performing well in international assessments of academic abilities. The success of these students is perhaps surprising: they spend less than three hours a week doing homework. And they do not take any examinations until they are 18.

So, should other countries follow Finland's example? Some experts think so, but others disagree. Research in the UK showed that doing homework helped students get better exam results. In Singapore, which came first in the international assessments in 2015, students have tests and exams regularly. And 15-year-olds in Singapore spend almost 9.5 hours a week on homework!

2. Answer the questions.

1. When do students take their first exam in Finland?

2. Do you spend more time on homework than students in Singapore?

3. How often do you have tests at school?

4. At what age do you have examinations?

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3. Complete the sentences (1-6) with the correct form of the verbs from the box.

to ask	be assessed	give	to learn	remembering	to revise

1. Teachers should ..... students advice about how to revise.
2. If you don't like working alone, it might be better ..... with a friend.
3. A good way of ..... something is to write it down several times.
4. One reason for looking at old exam papers is ..... about the types of exam questions.
5. A useful form of testing is ..... the student if a statement is true or false.
6. Students' progress should ..... regularly with tests.

4. Write a forum post expressing your opinion.

You are feeling stressed by the amount of homework you have to do every evening. Write a forum post, in which you:

- write how much homework you do each week,
- describe the benefits and disadvantages of homework,
- give your personal opinion.

Write a forum post of at least 100 words. Start your letter in an appropriate way. (Writing bank page 173)

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Name

Group

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