

FRIST ENGLISH EXAM
LEVEL 13
LISTENING AND READING

I. Listen to a conversation between a student and a university adviser. And choose the correct options.

1. The student cites which of the following as reason(s) for wanting to leave his university? (choose 2 answers)

- a. Greater familiarity with the college at home
- b. Failing grades
- c. Homesickness
- d. Illness

2. What is the student's major?

- a. Statistics
- b. Mechanical Engineering
- c. Economics
- d. Business Administration

3. Why does the advisor offer the anecdote of her own freshman year?

- a. To suggest that maybe it is best if he changes colleges after all
- b. Because she only wants to talk about herself
- c. Because she doesn't know what else to say to the student
- d. To demonstrate to the student that it is not uncommon to feel lonely and homesick during the first year of college

4. After hearing the advisor's story, the student feels

- a. That the appointment was a waste of his time
- b. That it is the right decision to transfer schools
- c. Encouraged that his situation can improve
- d. That misery is part of college and he'll just have to deal with it

5. What is the student's final decision regarding transferring schools?

- a. To take a year off of school to decide which path is best for him
- b. To remain at his current school until he completes his degree
- c. That the best course of action is to transfer schools
- d. To research transfer options more, but will still consider staying

6. The student cites which of the following reason(s) for coming to the university? (choose 2 answers)

- a. The appealing architecture of the university's buildings
- b. Its extracurricular activities
- c. Its strong Business program
- d. Desire to be independent from his family

II. You are going to read four reviews of a book about bringing up children. For questions 1 - 4, choose from the reviews A - D.

How children succeed

Four reviewers comment on a book called *Helping Children to Succeed*

A

I expected this book to enlighten me about why some children succeed at school and find work, while others drop out of education early, fail to find employment and continue living with their parents well into adulthood. I had hoped that *Helping Children to Succeed* would provide me with well-researched answers to my concerns, and maybe suggest ways in which all children can be helped to achieve success. However, the author chose to concentrate on the future of students from poor families and gave no indication that he felt such children's chances of future success might be improved. There was an interesting focus on the significance of taking students' personality into account as well as their academic test scores when predicting future success, but this is not new information. The same case has been established before, based on wider research.

B

I found *Helping Children to Succeed* to be a fascinating and inspiring book. What was most interesting to me was the research finding that children from wealthy families are no more prepared for a successful independent future than children from poorer families. The author demonstrates convincingly that children from all backgrounds need to learn how to work hard but also how to deal with failure without falling to pieces. The book shows convincingly how poor children as well as middle class children and those from wealthier homes are capable of learning these skills necessary for future success. This has made me feel very optimistic that no child needs to fail because of their family background and that something can be done to increase the life chances of poor children.

C

For me the most interesting aspect of *Helping Children to Succeed* is the amount of evidence which shows that children's characters as well as their academic performance play a crucial part in their future success. This seems to be especially true in the case of children from disadvantaged families. The author's central argument is that, even though children from poor backgrounds are less likely to succeed, determination and hard work can overcome inherited disadvantages. This is not a novel idea, but I found it interesting to hear it restated with reference to today's situation. Where I disagree with the author is his assertion that our education system requires fundamental reorganization if we are to help children from poor families. He seems to ignore completely the excellent work being done by dedicated teachers in today's schools.

D

I enjoyed *Helping Children to Succeed*, but in many ways, I also found it disappointing. Having finished reading the book, my main criticism is that the title itself is misleading because it focuses primarily on children who fail. Most research studies quoted by the author illustrate how difficult it is for children from poor, disadvantaged homes to succeed or indeed to escape from a cycle of failure. I bought the book for the library where I work, thinking it might offer parents strategies for bringing up children to be successful. In practice, the main strategies recommended by the author are the following: avoid becoming poor and don't expect your child to succeed at everything. He also suggests that children should get used to occasional failure. In my opinion this is an unnecessarily negative outlook.

1-shares reviewer C's view that academic performance is not the only measure of a child's success?

2-expresses a different view from the others about poor children's chances of future success?

3-shares with reviewer A the feeling that the book did not live up to their expectations?

4-agrees with reviewer A about the originality of the ideas in the book?