Education Idioms and expressions.

Task 1. Look at these sentences and decide which of the idioms and colloquialisms in bold is correct. In each sentence, there are two expressions which we do not use in English.

1. He gets up early to go to college, and comes home late. I keep telling him he shouldn't ***buy a dog with two tails / burn the candle at both ends / try to wear two pairs of trousers.***

2. Sally always does her homework on time and buys the teacher little presents. The other children hate her. She's such *a* ***teacher's toy / teacher's jewel / teacher's pet***.

3. He'll have to ***pull his socks up / polish his head / empty his washing basket*** and work harder or he'll fail his exams.

4. She didn't work hard enough and ***flunked / splodged / squidged*** her exams.

5. They didn't go to school, but ***chased the tiger / emptied their heads / played truant*** and went fishing instead.

6. He never comes to his English lessons. He's always ***smirking / skiving / shrinking.***

Task 2. Insert the words from above into the most appropriate sentences below.

all-nighter blank bookworm cap colours copycat dog dropout grade heart knocks pet Rs ropes school schoolboy swot truant

1) *He passed the exam because he is a _____. He kept looking at the answers on the paper of the student sitting next to him. (Use the work of another and claim it as one's own).*

2) *My son doesn't like school very much and keeps playing _____. If he keeps missing classes he will have serious problems when he gets older. (Deliberately not going to school)*

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3) *My mother is a real _____. She is always reading and seems to know everything. It has made her quite unsocial, to be honest. (Vey studious or a lover of books)*

4) *He is a real _____ and has already revised everything he needs to in order to pass the exam. (Very well revised and studious)*

5) *In a civilised society, all children should be educated to at least the basics in the three _____. (Be able to read, write and do basic calculations)*

6) *I went to the School of Hard _____ and the University of Life. It's the best form of education there is. There is nothing I'm not prepared for. (Life experience)*

7) *I can't get my father to use the latest software. He is too used to the older version. You can't teach an old _____ new tricks! (Train somebody who is very accustomed to doing things a different way.)*

8) *It took me a while to learn the _____ when I first started in this job but it all seems pretty routine now. (Learn all the procedures and routines and get used to them)*

9) *She had a good relationship with her teacher at school and was often labelled as a teacher's _____ as a result. (Somebody who is favoured by the teacher)*

10) *It's a tricky issue and is going to require considerable thought to be able to solve it. I'll have to put on my thinking _____ before deciding what to do. (To ponder carefully)*

11) *He passed his English exam with flying _____. He did a lot better than we expected. (Easily with high marks)*

12) *We had to learn our multiplication tables by _____ when we were children. (To memorise)*

13) *My mother is old _____ when it comes to cooking. She would never eat anything straight from a packet. (Very traditional)*

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14) *Although he was a high school _____, he started his own business at the age of 18 and went on to build the second biggest restaurant chain in the country. (Didn't complete a full course of education)*

15) *Publishing a full list of demands before the negotiations had even finished was a classic _____ error. A politician of that calibre should not have done that. (Obvious and stupid mistake)*

16) *We had several mathematicians working on the problem but they all drew a _____. (Unable to provide an answer after a great deal of effort)*

17) *The selection process is very tough and very few candidates make the _____. (Reach the required standard)*

18) *I knew nothing about the last exam and had to pull an _____ the night before in order to revise. (Study all night)*

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