8 Knowledge is Power

Reading

A **Discuss each newspaper headline with a partner. What do you think a 'Mickey Mouse' degree is?**

- The 'Mickey Mouse' degrees least likely to land you a job
- Stop funding Mickey Mouse degrees, says top scientist
- Critics of Mickey Mouse degrees are 'snobs'
- Employers call for end to 'Mickey Mouse' degrees

B **Read about these actual degrees. What are their merits? Would you consider any of them Mickey Mouse degrees? Which ones are most likely to lead to employment? Discuss with a partner.**

Baking Technology Management

Bake like a pro and take modules in bakery management, business leadership and finance.

Digital and Social Media

Study the significance and philosophical implications of social media. A hands-on degree with a 12-week work experience placement in a digital agency.

Surf Science and Technology

Learn about the history and development of surf. Practical modules in how to build a surf board and catch the perfect wave.

Ethical Hacking

Study how to hack, the different methods used to break into computers and how to solve security issues.

C **Quickly read the online comments. What topic do they all mention?**

Higher education today: your views (last updated 1 day ago)

A Yasmin, 1 day ago



I'm sick and tired of being asked why I'm not doing a 'real' degree. I assure you, I most definitely am. A BA in History is incredibly demanding, yet I've been subjected to snide jibes like, 'Do you want fries with that?' suggesting that my degree will be a fast track to the fast food industry.

I consider what I'm doing a significant academic undertaking. It requires serious research and a lot of critical thinking. However, since starting my degree, I struggle to think of a single positive remark which has been made about my choice of course, especially with regards to employment prospects.

But why does a degree have to be vocational? Isn't it a sad state of affairs when learning for its own sake is seen as a waste of time? It seems, amongst my peers at least, the only degrees that are immune from this level of scorn are law, medicine and engineering – with everything else being labelled as useless.

B Will, 1 day ago



There's a tremendous amount of snobbery in this country when it comes to universities. They all pale in comparison with Oxbridge – those ancient academic institutions, bastions of privilege and superiority. Competition is fierce, but the advantages are immense and – to an outsider – quite unfair. Oxbridge has opened plenty of doors for people whose talents may not have merited such recognition. If you look at politics, you can't fail to notice that membership of this prestigious club is practically compulsory.

As for the private sector, it would probably be a dishonest manager or recruiter who admitted to indifference when seeing an application from a candidate hailing from these hallowed halls. But an Oxbridge degree is absolutely no guarantee of ability in the real world. The redbrick universities and former polytechnics, though lacking in prestige, offer today's students opportunities in technical subjects that are more in sync with the real world than the classics at Oxbridge.

C Hanna, 2 days ago



I take offence when people mockingly refer to my course in Youth Studies as a Mickey Mouse degree. The implication is that I'm not sufficiently clever for more rigorous studies.

However, unless you actually undertake the course, you're in no position to question its value; academic or otherwise. It may not be as theory-driven as other courses, but it draws on a variety of disciplines including psychology, criminology, social policy, sociology and politics. I suppose the best way to describe it is an intellectual programme with a strong vocational element.

Not only is it interesting in itself, but there is an enormous capacity for youth work in disadvantaged communities across the country and my job prospects are excellent. What I enjoy most about the course are the annual four-week placements with government support services for young people. I enjoy putting theories learnt at university into practice and the hands-on experience is making me job-ready. When I land a job straight after graduating, I'll have the last laugh.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

D **Read the *Exam Close-up*. Then complete the *Exam Task*.**

E **Complete the sentences with the expressions in the correct form.**

a means to an end cry out for
have the last laugh in sync with
pale in comparison with
state of affairs

1 She prided herself on being a dean whose ideas were _____ the student body.
2 The country's education system is _____ reform, particularly in vocational training.
3 The scathing report revealed a sorry _____ in schools across all levels.
4 Ridiculed for choosing to study theatre, Gianni _____ when he became famous.
5 The benefits of a having a second class degree from a redbrick university, _____ to those you would get from a first class degree from Oxford.
6 Jelena didn't particularly like her teaching job – it was just _____ .

Exam Task

You are going to read comments about higher education. For questions **1 – 10**, choose from the people (**A – E**). The people may be chosen more than once.

Which person gives each of these opinions about higher education?

1 There are people who may not be deserving of their positions. ☐
2 Universities are no longer places for individual discovery. ☐
3 Making judgements on things you know nothing about is wrong. ☐
4 Being told you will only qualify for a menial job is frustrating. ☐
5 There is pressure on universities to maintain student numbers. ☐
6 Joblessness amongst graduates raises questions about degrees. ☐
7 The majority of degrees are perceived to have little worth. ☐
8 Newer institutions offer instruction in areas of greater practicality. ☐
9 Applying knowledge to real-life situations improves job prospects. ☐
10 There is a disconnection between course content and job demands. ☐

Exam Close-up

Avoiding hunting for words

- Don't be tricked into looking for a word in the exam questions that also appears in the text. It may well not be the correct answer.
- Read the text carefully to ensure you fully understand what each section is saying before you go ahead and choose your answers.

D **Damien,** 1 week ago



University was once seen as a place where adolescents went to satisfy their intellectual curiosity before settling on a job and career. Increasingly, however, students now see a degree as a means to an end. When did the purpose of higher education shift from that idyllic vision, to today's view that it's all about getting a job?

I think the introduction of fees has had a lot to do with it. There was a time when university was free, but now we fork out thousands of pounds in tuition. Faced with big loans, students want to be sure they pick a course that leads to a job after graduation. Universities worried about filling seats have accommodated this demand by introducing a range of practical courses; some in fields that didn't even exist five years ago – for example, a bachelor's degree in Social Media. That's the changing face of education today; the shift from established disciplines in favour of new courses and vocational training.

E **Lauren,** 1 week ago



I think there's a real crisis in higher education. Far too many new graduates are jobless or in non-graduate jobs, such as security guards, shelf-fillers, factory workers and waiters. It makes you wonder about the value of a university degree, especially when students have to invest in themselves so heavily through tuition fees. I have a friend who's currently working as an office clerk. She took a degree in applied computer science, an industry that is crying out for good graduates. She told me that although the quality of teaching on her course was high, it wasn't linked closely enough with what the labour market was looking for. The feedback she got from prospective employers was that they were looking for applicants who could work in teams with people from different disciplines; something her studies hadn't prepared her for. It suggests that universities should work closely with industry in order to better prepare their students for employment.

Ideas Focus

- Do you consider university graduates to be smarter than people without degrees? Why? / Why not?
- Would you want to attend an elitist university?



LIVEWORKSHEETS

8 Knowledge is Power

Vocabulary

A **Complete the text with the words. There are five extra words you do not need to use.**

acknowledgement analysis appendix argument assignment bibliography criteria critical data discipline fundamental hypothesis indicator matter methodology paper plagiarism review scholarly statistical

Graduate students: assessment

What is a dissertation?

A dissertation is a key (1) _____ of your capabilities as a student and a researcher. It is a research (2) _____ which demonstrates your level of (3) _____ and analytical thinking.

Your dissertation must follow the (4) _____ principles of (5) _____ writing:

- It must be structured and develop a(n) (6) _____ in response to a central question.
- It should be divided into chapters containing a detailed examination of your subject (7) _____.
- There must be a(n) (8) _____ listing all of the books, periodicals and theses referred to in your work, as well as a(n) (9) _____ containing all tables.
- The (10) _____ (investigative procedures and rules) that has been used to gather and evaluate evidence must be clear.
- If undertaking analysis of quantitative (11) _____, this too must adhere to the methodological requirements expected within your academic (12) _____.
- Avoid (13) _____ by ensuring that appropriate (14) _____ or referencing of authors or sources occurs. You may use the research of others only to guide you in coming up with your own (15) _____.

B **Circle the correct words.**

1 Our doctoral candidates have an infinite / intimate knowledge of this subject.
2 The dean of the faculty is known as a woman of formidable / respectable intellect.
3 I'm afraid the assessor of my dissertation disagreed with my line of rationalising / reasoning.
4 Unless you achieve a passing grade, you may have to sit a(n) appended / supplementary exam.
5 Students who are eager to learn are the most receptive / retentive to their teachers.
6 Positing / Surmising such a bizarre theory really damaged the academic's reputation.
7 The arguments he made in his essay were barely inexplicable / intelligible and his teachers struggled to correct his work.
8 Without applying / assigning yourself to your studies, you'll never get a place at university.

C **Choose the best answer a, b or c.**

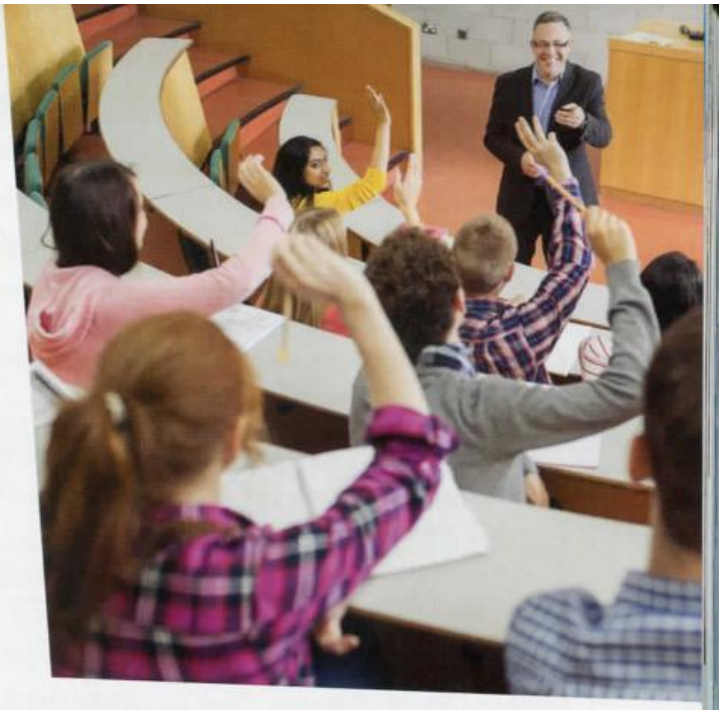
1 According to the _____, we'll be reading five novels this year.
a course b schedule c syllabus
2 The only _____ required for the experiment is/are a test tube and a Bunsen burner.
a apparatus b paraphernalia c tools
3 In her presentation, she tried to explain the scientific _____ behind her work.
a agenda b rationale c motive
4 Oriental philosophy does not come within the _____ of this course on the history of Western thought.
a scope b span c sphere
5 She wrote her _____ on the recurring themes in the works of Elizabethan poets and playwrights.
a hypothesis b theory c thesis
6 It was a fascinating lecture, full of interesting _____ into the philosopher's life and work.
a omens b insights c visions

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Phrasal verbs

D Circle the correct words.

1 I didn't need to give a lengthy explanation of the procedure as the students had caught on / off fairly quickly.
2 So little research has been done into the subject that it makes it hard to come by / into any useful information.
3 I don't know how he did it, but he managed to make them come over / round to his way of thinking.
4 The tutor explained to the students that their assignments would count on / towards 50 per cent of their total grade.
5 Had the lecture been even remotely interesting, I wouldn't have drifted along / off in the middle of it.
6 She was dedicated to her research and kept at / on it year after year until she received recognition.
7 In his first semester, Liam found himself in trouble when his assignments began to mount over / up.
8 I had to read the analysis of the experiment's results three times before I could take it all in / on.



Prepositions

E Complete the sentences with *in* or *on*.

1 Our professor, Dr Smith, is a world renowned authority _____ child psychology.
2 _____ theory, private schools are better than state schools, but are they really?
3 The university has accommodation for about 2,000 students _____ campus.
4 Many of the staff at Harvard University are leaders _____ their chosen fields.
5 My students' examination results were _____ line with my expectations.
6 _____ the face of it, he seems disinterested, but he's the brightest student in the class.
7 The news is not good. _____ a nutshell, students are slipping behind in reading skills.
8 Having been awarded his PhD, Colin was _____ the threshold of a dazzling career in science.
9 Having written such an excellent dissertation, Ben is _____ course to get a first.
10 _____ accordance with standard university procedure, any student found guilty of plagiarism will be ejected from their course.

Collocations & Expressions

F Complete the expressions with the words.

bell books book hands hard way lines ropes act same page subject

1 Jason was trained in the job for a year, so I'm quite sure he knows the _____ by now.
2 Everyone in our study group agrees on how we should prepare for the exams; we're all on the _____ .
3 No, I don't want to talk about my poor exam performance. Can you just drop the _____ , please?
4 Luckily, the bus arrived just as my nosy neighbour was approaching and I was saved by the _____ !
5 My friend doesn't want to take my advice, so I suppose he'll just have to learn the _____ .
6 Thanks for the invitation to your party, but I can't go out tonight. I really need to hit the _____ .
7 Reading between the _____ , I'd say he isn't interested in postgraduate study and is only doing it to please his parents.
8 We need to follow procedure; unless we do it by the _____ , we could get into trouble with the dean of the faculty.
9 Kate has missed so many lectures this term. She really needs to get her _____ together or her grades are really going to suffer.
10 Wing is a maths genius and beat the rest of his course mates _____ down in their recent test.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

8 Knowledge is Power

G **Complete the sentences with words from the box in the correct form.**

conduct detailed submit attend choose cite referral compilation

1 Child psychology is a subject that has always interested me, so I made sure I _____ every single lecture and seminar.
2 At the end of the course all students were expected to complete a dissertation of 15,000 words on a _____ topic.
3 I _____ my own research over a period of several weeks, by visiting several nurseries, observing the children and monitoring their cortisol levels.
4 I then had to write everything up, making sure that I _____ any sources.
5 It took a surprisingly long time to _____ my bibliography.
6 In my dissertation, I _____ to the appendix throughout.
7 The appendix is where all the charts and graphs are, _____ my findings.
8 The last day of term was the _____ date, and I was the first student to hand the assignment in.

H **Read the *Exam Close-up*. Then complete the *Exam Task* below.**

Exam Close-up

Forming plural nouns

- Read through the text quickly to get an idea of the meaning.
- Look carefully at the space and decide what part of speech could fit.
- If the gap requires a noun, decide if the word is a singular or a plural noun.
- Think carefully about the changes that you need to make to the root word to form the plural.

Exam Task

For questions **1 – 8**, read the text below. Use the word given in capitals at the end of some of the lines to form a word that fits in the space in the same line.

School: then and now

Education has changed enormously over the years. For a start, **(1)** _____ have changed in order to better reflect the needs of students. Fifty years ago, home economics and woodwork **(2)** _____ subjects that could prepare students for adult life.Nowadays, life skills are offered alongside a range of academic subjects, and students now have to sit **(3)** _____ tests in reading, writing and maths. Another difference is that students were subject to tougher **(4)** _____ action, which often involved corporal punishment, for being disruptive or acting **(5)** _____ towards teachers. Learning methods are constantly changing. Memorising information based on **(6)** _____, known as rote learning, has fallen out of favour. We are heading towards virtual **(7)** _____ classrooms where teachers will be able to recreate a 3D ancient Roman villa in a history lesson or turn a classroom into a galaxy where students can study natural **(8)** _____ like meteor showers.

CURRICULAR
EXAMPLE
STANDARD
DISCIPLINE
RESPECT
REPEAT
ASSIMILATE
PHENOMENON



Students use virtual reality devices in the classroom in Beijing, China

LIVEWORKSHEETS

8 Knowledge is Power



Listening

A **Look at the photo. Who is teaching and who is learning? What have you taught someone to do and how did you do this? Discuss with a partner.**

B **Imagine the sentences below come from a sentence-completion task which a student has filled in while listening to a talk. What is wrong with the words in red?**

1 Scientists did a research which proved that teaching enhances learning. _____
2 The childrens performance improved when they used this method. _____
3 The question is whether this effect could improve the results of all pupils'. _____
4 A new teaching tool has been developped. _____
5 Students need to recall information as accurate as possible. _____
6 They are upset at their student's failure not to undersatnd a concept. _____

C 8.1 **Now you will hear the talk the student in B listened to. Listen and write the correct words on the lines provided in B.**

D **Match 1–5 with a–e.**

1	this accelerates learning	a	makes learning tougher
2	this enhances learning	b	makes learning easier
3	this facilitates learning	c	makes learning faster
4	this reinforces learning	d	makes learning better
5	this hinders learning	e	makes learning stronger

E **Read the *Exam Close-up*. Then read the *Exam Task* below and think about what you might hear.**

F 8.2 **Now listen and complete the *Exam Task*.**

Exam Close-up

Writing grammatically correct structures

- When you have written your answer, read the whole sentence to make sure it is grammatically correct and correctly spelled, with apostrophes where necessary.
- Do not write two answers for one question; even if one of your answers is right, you will not get the mark.
- Make sure you have not written too much and don't repeat information on the answer sheet.
- You should write your answers in capital letters on the exam answer sheet.

Exam Task

You will hear an educational psychologist talking about ways to improve learning. For questions **1 – 8**, complete the sentences with a word or short phrase.

1 The traditional view of a thinker is of _____ .
2 The idea of _____ was put forward by an ancient Roman philosopher, Seneca.
3 Explaining a concept to others makes one's own _____ of it stronger.
4 When students teach others in a classroom situation, it has been shown to make their _____ faster.
5 The Protégé Effect could be responsible for higher IQ among _____ .
6 Betty's Brain features a _____ , a teachable agent called Betty.
7 Feedback from the teachable agent leads users to check the material, helping them to learn more _____ .
8 Students become involved _____ with Betty, which powerfully affects their learning.

G 8.3 **Now listen again and check your answers.**

LIVEWORKSHEETS