



Name _____

Eignungstest Englisch

Millions of school-leavers in the rich world are about to say goodbye to their parents and start a new life at university. Some are inspired by a pure love of learning. But most also believe that spending three or four years at university – and paying a lot of money for it – will improve their chances of landing a well-paid and secure job.

5 Their parents have always told them that education is the best way to equip themselves to do well in a globalised world. Blue-collar workers¹ will see their jobs move to China or get automated, the familiar argument goes. School dropouts will have to cope with a life of insecurity and little money. But those with a university education will have the world at their feet.

10 There is some evidence to support this view. A recent study from Georgetown University's Centre on Education and the Workforce argues that "getting a university degree is almost always worth it." Your educational qualifications determine your earnings: an American with a professional degree can expect to get \$3.6m² in wages over a lifetime; one with merely a high-school diploma can expect only \$1.3m. The gap between more- and less-educated earners may be widening. A study in 2002 found that someone with a bachelor's degree could expect to earn 75% more over a
15 lifetime than someone with only a high-school diploma. Today this income gap is even wider.

But is the past a reliable guide to the future? Or are we at the beginning of a new phase in the relationship between jobs and education? There are good reasons for thinking that old patterns are about to change – and that the fact that there is currently less demand for Western graduates³ may become a more serious problem in the future. What has happened to so many blue-collar workers
20 over the past few decades is beginning to happen to university-educated elite as well.

The supply of university graduates is increasing rapidly. The Chronicle of Higher Education calculates that between 1990 and 2007 the number of students going to university increased by 22% in North America, 74% in Europe, 144% in Latin America and 203% in Asia. In 2007 150m people attended university around the world, including 70m in Asia. Emerging economies –
25 especially China – are pouring resources into building universities that can compete with the elite of America and Europe. They are also producing professional-services firms such as Tata Consulting Services and Infosys from India that take fresh graduates and turn them into world-

1 connected with people who do physical work in industry

2 million

3 a person who has successfully finished school or university

class computer programmers and consultants. The best and the brightest of the rich world must increasingly compete with the best and the brightest from poorer countries who are willing to work harder for less money.

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I. Reading Comprehension.

28 BE

Which statement is correct? Tick the appropriate boxes. Only one box should be ticked per question.

1. This text is about ...
 - the importance of education in general.
 - the difference between people with a university education and those without one.
 - the fact that a university degree may not be a guarantee for a good job any longer.

2. Going to university ...
 - won't get you a better job.
 - is only for those who love learning.
 - is quite expensive.
 - is only for rich people.

3. This is what the text says about a university education:
 - It will prevent your job from moving to China
 - It will help to get jobs automated
 - It will guarantee you a life of insecurity
 - It will give you many options.

4. Georgetown University ...
 - is a centre of education and the workforce.
 - has researched the lifetime wages of people with different educational backgrounds.
 - says that getting a university degree is a good idea.
 - promises people with a professional degree \$3.6m in lifetime wages.

5. The author questions the reliability of the past as a guide to the future because ...
 - the relationship between getting a good job because of a good education doesn't exist anymore in today's globalized world.
 - Western graduates cannot demand as good a job as they could a few decades ago.
 - university-educated people might have the same thing happen to them that happened to people without a university education some time ago.

6. Which statement is closest to what the text says?

- In 1990, less than 30m students attended university in Asia.
- In 2007 there were more Asians attending university than in the rest of the world taken together.
- Europe now has more students than North America.
- Today, there are more people attending university than ever before in human history.

7. Which statement is **not** true? Tick the appropriate box!

- The competition from Asia will make it harder for Western graduates to find a job.
- China and India have the best universities in the world.
- Asian universities receive a lot of money.
- Companies like Tata Consulting Services and Infosys train great IT experts.

II. Composition

30 BE

Write about 120-150 words.

“School is an important part of every teenager's life.” Do you agree?

III. Grammar

20 BE

Put the words in brackets into the correct form. Add words only if necessary!

1. Homeschooling _____ (to be) the topic of both controversy and curiosity over the last 20 years.
2. However, the concept of homeschool is _____ (hard) a new one.
3. It is simply the question which is _____ (good) way of _____ (to educate) children – at home, or in school?
4. Before compulsory laws which _____ (require) school attendance _____ (to introduce) in 1852, a child's education _____ (to take place) at home – if at all.
5. Tasks like _____ (to raise) livestock and others like that were primary sources of learning.
6. At that time, practical skills were _____ (essential) to survival than a person's ability to read or write.
7. Some of the most well-known American writers and inventors _____ (to teach) at home.
8. However, once compulsory attendance laws became _____ (effective), America eventually _____ (to rely) entirely on public and private schools for the education of children.
9. A major turning point in the history of homeschooling was in 1983, when tax regulations for Christian schools _____ (to change).
10. If Christian schools _____ (to lose/not) their tax-exempt status then, they _____ (to force/not) to close by the hundreds.
11. Ever since then parents _____ (must/to decide) between public schools and home education.
12. Today, more and more people _____ (to be interested in/to teach) their children at home.
13. Maybe in the future the majority of children _____ (not/to go) to schools, but stay at home to be taught by their parents.

Total: 78 BE