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Hali Abdelkarim secondary school Level/3rd year lit & philo

The Second Examination of English

Chinese maths teachers to help UK schools



The British government is looking to China to try to improve the standard of maths in British schools. Students in the Chinese city of Shanghai have the highest international test results according to a global testing agency. There is a huge difference in numeracy levels between the UK and China. Britain's Times newspaper reports that: "The children of cleaners in Shanghai outperform those of UK doctors and lawyers in global maths tests." To attempt to rectify **this situation**, the UK government will hire 60 of Shanghai's best maths teachers. It is part of a new initiative called the National Numeracy Challenge, **which** aims at improving the mathematics ability of one million British students.

The UK government said it was shocked that Britain lagged far behind many countries in maths. It warned that poor numeracy is costing the country's economy up to $30 billion a year. Britain's education minister Elizabeth Truss, who recently returned from a fact-finding mission in China, stated: "We have some brilliant maths teachers in **this country** but what I saw in Shanghai and other Chinese cities has only strengthened my belief that we can learn from them." She added: "They have a can-do attitude to maths and I want us to match that, and their performance." She said: "Good maths qualifications have the greatest earnings potential and provide the strongest protection against unemployment.

From:www.bbc.com/news/education-14th March,2014

Ex1/The text above is: a-a web article. b-a newspaper article. c-an extract from a novel.

Ex2/Are these statements (True) or (False) according to the text:

a-Shanghai students are the world's best at maths.
b-Chinese children do better at maths than British doctors & lawyers.
c-The UK wants to employ 600 maths teachers from China.
d-Good maths qualifications greatly help employment opportunities.

Ex3/Answer these questions according to the text:

a-Who do Chinese children beat in their maths test scores?
b-What does National Numeracy Challenge aim at?
c-What is the cost of poor numeracy to the Uk economy?

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Ex4/What or who do the underlined words refer to in the text:

a-this situation(§1). **b-which**(§1). **c-this country**(§2).

Ex5/Re-order the following statements according to their occurrence in the text:

a-Good maths qualifications help getting better jobs.
b-Poor competence in maths costs the Uk economy a lot.
c-Uk government will employ some best Shanghai teachers.
d-Chinese students have a never-say-die attitude.

B-Text exploration:

Ex1/Find in the text words or phrases that are closest in meaning to:

a-quality(§1). b-enormous(§1). c-cautioned(§2). d-income(§2).

Ex2/Classify the following words in the table:

international – British – returned -unemployment

Prefix	root	suffix

Ex3/Re-write sentence (b) that means the same as (a):

1-a. Educators feel that the government should improve the standards of maths in British schools
b.It's high time……

2-a. National Numeracy Challenge is improving maths ability of British students.
b.Maths ability……

Ex4/Underline the silent letters in the following words:

highest – school – sword – doubt – writing – Christmas

Ex5/Re-order the following sentences to make a coherent paragraph:

a-that the students who were accused of fraud,
b-Last week, our college knew three cases of cheating.
c-would fail the assignment or be expelled.
d-After holding a consultation, the headmaster declared

Written expression: **Choose one of the following topics**

Topic one: Using the following notes,write a composition of 100 to 120 words to highlight the problem of declining of maths scores recently among our students:
*Maths is fundamental skill in many jobs *Teachers are not specialized in maths
*large classes size *methods & approaches differ *lack of motivation & resources
*overloaded programmes *students lack of knowledge & understanding

Topic two: In a composition of 100 to 120 words ,write an expository article for your school magazine analysing the cause & consequences of cheating at exams.

Good luck for all

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