

Unit 2 – 12th grade Exam / Under Pressure

Reading

The results of a new poll show that financial problems have taken over from the environment as the main concerns for young people. The survey asked over **12,000** people aged between **14 and 18** what they were most worried about. The clear ‘winner’ was ‘finding a job’, while the environment was only the seventh greatest worry. This compares with similar polls in the last fifteen years, when environmental worries came first.

One of the poll’s organizers commented that the results demonstrated a clear change in attitude. ‘It’s not just that getting a job is the main worry,’ **he** said. ‘Also included in the top six worries were getting into debt (6th) and passing exams (4th=). I’m convinced that there’s a connection. Because of changes in the job market, there is more and more pressure on young people nowadays to pass exams and go on to university in the hope of finding a good job. And rising university fees make it inevitable that many students graduate from university with huge debts.

Other concerns mentioned by large numbers of young people also tended to be personal rather than social, including worries about relationships (2nd), health (3rd) and ‘fitting in with peers’ (4th=).

Annette Coleman, director of the Green Earth organization, said yesterday that **she** was ‘disappointed, but not surprised’ at the fall in the number of young people concerned about the environment. ‘It’s not that environmental concerns are less urgent than before – quite the opposite in fact. It’s just that after decades of publicity on topics like climate change, so little has actually changed. A lot of people get the feeling that there’s nothing we can do about **it**, and young people in particular tend to be impatient. Of course, the other thing is that in times of economic difficulty, people are more likely to focus on worries that are more immediate and have an impact on their daily lives.’

A) Put the list of concerns in the order they appear in the text.

1. _____ 2. _____
3. _____ 4= _____
4= _____ 6. _____ 7. _____

B) Complete the sentences with phrases from the text.

Previous similar polls show that _____ were first.

The stress that young people face these days is _____

C) What do the following numbers and pronouns refer to?

1. 12,000 (line 2) _____ 3. 14 and 18 (line 3) _____
1. he (line 7) _____ 4. she (line 16) _____

D) Decide if the following statements are True or False.

1. Environmental problems are more important nowadays than fifteen years ago. ()
2. According to a poll's organiser, the change in the results explained a change in people's interests. ()
3. Three of the concerns by young people tended to be personal rather than social. ()

Vocabulary

A) Choose the correct answer:

1. I don't think he stepped on your foot (**in purpose / on purpose**).
2. Policemen usually wear uniforms when they are (**on the way / on duty**).
3. The book you need is (**on demand / on order**) and will probably be here next week.
4. The badly wounded people take (**high priority / high rigidity**) for medical attention than those only slightly hurt.
5. Firefighters and paramedics usually wear special clothes when they are (**on purpose / on duty**).
6. We will be pleased to send you more information (**in / on**) request.
7. You can't always make your brain work on (**demand / the way**).
8. Making lots of money isn't a very high (**priority / minded**) for him.

B) Complete the following sentences with a word from the box below:

personal

impatient

fees

point

reward

1. Please ensure you take all _____ belongings with you when you leave the train.
2. After waiting for an hour, the _____ customer stormed out and complained to the manager.
3. At universities today, _____ are too high for students to pay.
4. I'm not going to this afternoon's session. I don't see a _____ of it.
5. The company gave him a _____ for his years of service and a farewell party.

language

A) Choose the correct form:

1. I didn't feel like _____, so I went out to a restaurant. (**to cook – cooking**)
2. We hope he will stop _____ such silly questions. (**to ask – asking**)
3. She decided _____ her new car. (**to sell – selling**)
4. Everyone hates it when others keep (**to interrupt / interrupting**)
5. Remember (**to park / parking**) your car outside the gate. It's not allowed here.

B) Correct the verbs in brackets:

1. Max enjoyshis cell phones in the play games. (use)
2. I absolutely remember him . I gave him 20\$. (pay)
3. She managewith them although she doesn't speak their language. (communicate)
4. Don't stopto win the competition. You may succeed later. (try)
5. Deema promised her mother mistakes (not make)
6. He can still remember in hospital when he was 5 . (be)
7. They didn't even offer Oh! That's awful. (pay)
8. There's so much noise! Can you stop (talk)
9. They'd like their success. (celebrate)
10. They decided any suggestion directly. (not accept)
11. He advised me a second hand frig (not buy)
12. On the way to Edinburgh, we stopped at an old castle . (look)
13. I always remember her for the first time. (meet)