Cambridge Assessment International Education

Cambridge IGCSE™

GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES **0457/11**

Paper 1 Written Examination **May/June 2021**

INSERT **1 hour 15 minutes**

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INFORMATION

- This insert contains all the sources referred to in the questions.
- You may annotate this insert and use the blank spaces for planning. **Do not write your answers** on the insert.

This document has **4** pages. Any blank pages are indicated.

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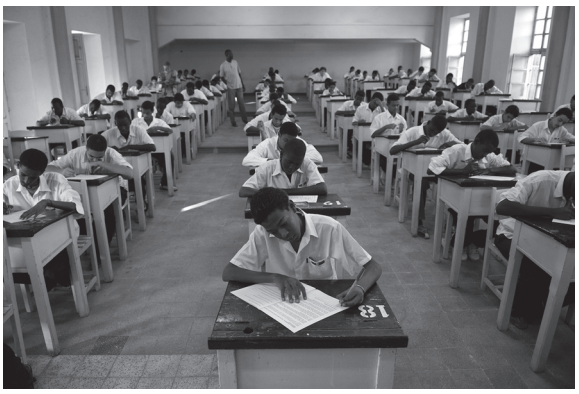
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Source 1

In many parts of the world, governments are introducing more tests of students' achievement in schools. Since 2000, eight countries in Europe have introduced national tests for students in primary and secondary schools.

In the United States, the government spends $1.7 billion on testing students. Most students take about 112 tests between the ages of 5 and 19; about 8 tests per year. This takes about 25 hours every school year. Japan, Mexico, and South Africa also have significant external testing of school students.

Source 2: Reasons for testing students



Raise the achievement of students
Select people for university and higher education
Measure the quality of schools
Improve the work of teachers
Help parents to compare schools
Measure the quality of teaching
Measure progress in learning

Source 3: School makes me unhappy

I did not want to go to school today. I like learning but not taking tests. We should stop having tests in schools.

At the end of the year, we take an important test. We have to revise a lot and the teacher stops sports and art lessons so that we can practise for the test.

I saw a programme on television about tests. There was an expert who said that too much testing makes children unhappy at school. He also said it causes stress and makes children scared of trying new things. He said that their health could be affected. This happened to me and some of my friends.

I failed a test last year. I did not want to come to school because other students might be unkind. The teachers put me in a different class and I miss my friends.

Extract from a student's diary in 2019

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Source 4

Helen

My teacher says that tests encourage students to work harder. Students aim to get good grades and their hard work is recognised and rewarded. Our school awards prizes for excellent results.

Tests can help someone choose a school. My parents think a good school is where children get excellent grades. I think that tests show which teachers are good and bad.

A recent newspaper article claimed that we should not be afraid of hard work and discipline. Tests tell teachers what to teach and ensure high standards. This is just common sense; I cannot understand why some people hate tests. I always get a good grade in tests and my grandfather says they never hurt him!

Olav

It is right that students work hard. However, I believe that motivation comes from the joy of learning and exploring new ideas. Schools should be places where students have fun and learn together.

Tests often become barriers to learning. A research study in the UK in 2018 showed that teachers often 'teach to the test' and that important subjects are neglected. Active learning of practical skills for the future is replaced by simple recall of knowledge to pass tests. As the United Nations points out, schools need to develop skills for the future and lifelong learning.

It is important for schools to provide a supportive, caring environment where confidence in learning is encouraged. Too much pressure from testing leads to stress and mental health issues. For example, depression in students is more common in countries with higher levels of school testing.

Finland, where there is less testing, has some of the best levels of school achievement in the world.

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