

Who does better?

Topic

Education, gender differences in education

Aims

- To practise reading skills
- To practise speaking skills in a discussion on gender differences in education
- To learn vocabulary related to academic performance

Age group

12 - adult

Level

B1 +

Time

45 – 60 minutes

Materials

1. Who does best? Student worksheet
2. Internet links: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/11364130/Girls-do-better-than-boys-at-school-despite-inequality.html> article about how girls outperform boys at school, despite gender inequality.
<http://www.theguardian.com/science/occams-corner/2013/dec/09/gender-stereotypes-schools-children-choices> - article on school subjects and stereotyping

Introduction

Start this topic by writing the word 'Exams' on the board. What words do students associate with exams ? Prompt them with words you would like to preview: stress? revision? marks? grades? written? and intersperse with questions to involve the class and preview the concepts covered in this topic, for example: written? Are all your exams written? grades? Do you get grades in your national exams like A or B ? Are you pleased with your grades? school subjects? What is your best subject?

For higher levels you could focus on collocations of the word 'exam' (take, do, sit, re-sit, pass fail etc),

Procedure

1. Task 1 – Read and find out	<p>This is a prediction task to get students thinking around the subject. Get them to predict the answers before giving them the table of information. This could then lead onto their own country and discussing whether the statistics would be similar. If you have a good mix of boys and girls in your class you could do a quick survey to see if the results reflects their own grades in school.</p>
2. Task 2 – Nature or Nurture	<p>Get the students to do this activity in pairs or small groups. Compare answers to decide if the reasons are nature or nurture. Students can then comment on each reason with their own opinion. Encourage students to use language to give and ask for opinion, agree and disagree (you might want to review this before you start). Encourage students to justify their opinions. They can then change groups and repeat the activity with their new group.</p>
3. Task 3 – Single sex schooling	<p>This is a discussion task based on the theme of single sex education. You can either do the task as a whole class discussion or put the students in groups or pairs to do it. You could set this up as a debate with one side arguing for and the other side arguing against single sex schools.</p>

Contributed by

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