BBC LEARNING ENGLISH
Take Away English 随身英语
Girls do better at school
女生在校学习成绩更好

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Vocabulary: education: 词汇：教育

Around the world, girls do better than boys at school. These are the findings of a recent study that looked at the test results of 1.5 million 15-year-olds in 74 regions across the globe.

The level of **gender equality** in those regions made no difference to the results. Other **factors**, such as the **income level** of the region also had little impact on the

Girls get higher grades in UK exams

findings. In only three regions – Colombia, Costa Rica and the Indian state Himachal Pradesh – was the **trend reversed** with boys doing better.

So what are the causes of girls' stronger performance? In the UK, girls outperform boys in exams that are taken at the age of 15 or 16, called GCSEs. According to education expert Ian Toone, this is down to the way girls and boys are brought up. "Boys are encouraged to be more active from an early age, whereas the restless movements of baby girls are **pacified**… Hence, girls develop the skill of sitting still for longer periods of time, which is useful for **academic pursuits** like studying for GCSEs."

He goes on to say that boys often **cluster** together in larger groups than girls. Because of this they are more likely to be **influenced** by **peer pressure** and develop a **gang mentality**. He says that GCSEs require a lot of **solo** work and are not viewed as '**cool**' in a **laddish** culture.

This is backed up by research in the UK that says girls are out-performing boys at the age of five. So what is the answer? Should girls and boys be educated separately? Or do exams and **school curricula** need to be changed to better **reflect** boys' skills? These are the questions facing educators in many countries.

词汇表请参看答案与词汇部分

Quiz 测验

阅读短文并回答问题。

1. How many young people were included in the study?
2. What are two things that made little or no difference to the results?
3. According to Ian Toone, what skill do young girls develop that boys do not?
4. What does he say can influence boys?
5. What could be changed to include the skills boys have?

Exercise 练习

请你在不参考课文的情况下完成下列练习。从每个表格中选择一个意思合适的单词填入句子的空格处。

1. Don't join the university football team unless you like drinking beer and other _____ behaviour.

peer pressure	cool	laddish	academic

2. She's been learning to fly, and today she had her first _____ flight.

cool	pacified	laddish	solo

3. The school is adding more science classes to its _____.

gang mentality	gender equality	factor	curriculum

4. According to this report, the _____ of a country doesn't affect how happy the people are.

income level	academic pursuit	influence	gang mentality

5. My paintings _____ the world as I see it.

reverse the trend of	cluster	reflect	pacify

Answers and Glossary 答案与词汇

Quiz 小测验

1. How many young people were included in the study? **1.5 million.**
2. What are two things that made little or no difference to the results? **Gender equality and income level.**
3. According to Ian Toone, what skill do young girls develop that boys do not? **Sitting still for longer periods of time.**
4. What does he say can influence boys? **Peer pressure.**
5. What could be changed to include the skills boys have? **Exams and school curricula.**

Exercise 练习

1. Don't join the university football team unless you like drinking beer and other **laddish** behaviour.

2. She's been learning to fly, and today she had her first **solo** flight.

3. The school is adding more science classes to its **curriculum**.

4. According to this report, the **income level** of a country doesn't affect how happy the people are.

5. My paintings **reflect** the world as I see it.

Glossary 词汇表

gender equality	男女平等
factor	因素
income level	收入水平
to reverse a trend	逆转一种趋势
to pacify	使安静、平定
academic pursuit	学术追求
to cluster	（人）聚集
to influence	影响
peer pressure	同龄人压力
gang mentality	帮派心态
solo	单独的，独自地
cool	酷
laddish	幼稚的，孩子气的
school curricula	学校课程
to reflect	反映