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Level 5 – 19th August, 2019

UK government U-turns over exam results fiasco

FREE online quizzes, mp3 listening and more for this lesson here:

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2008/200819-exam-results-5.html>

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Please try Levels 4 and 6. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2008/200819-exam-results-5.html>

The U.K. has made a U-turn over its exam grades system for students hoping to attend university. The government used a controversial algorithm to determine the grades of students who did not take exams due to COVID-19. The algorithm failed and gave students grades that were lower than those predicted by teachers. About 40 per cent were downgraded. Most affected students live in poorer areas. Many of them did not get into university as a result, despite not taking an exam. Grades for many richer students in private schools were higher than predicted.

The algorithm is now a scandal. Parents and students are furious. They called the government grossly incompetent for ruining the dreams and future of England's young people. One person said the algorithm was designed by the elite for the elite. After a major government U-turn, grades will now be based on the predictions of teachers. The UK Education Secretary said: "I am sorry for the distress this has caused young people and their parents but hope this announcement will now provide the certainty and reassurance they deserve."

Sources: <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-53810655>
<https://metro.co.uk/2020/08/16/level-pupils-launch-legal-action-ofqual-13135305>
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/end-exam-shambles-tories-tell-boris-johnson-cd306kz2r>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2008/200819-exam-results-5.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|--|-------------------------|
| 1. students hoping | a. a result |
| 2. The government used a controversial | b. live in poorer areas |
| 3. The algorithm | c. predicted |
| 4. Most affected students | d. to attend university |
| 5. did not get into university as | e. private schools |
| 6. despite not | f. algorithm |
| 7. richer students in | g. failed |
| 8. higher than | h. taking an exam |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. The algorithm is now | a. the elite |
| 2. Parents and students | b. their parents |
| 3. grossly | c. they deserve |
| 4. designed by the elite for | d. incompetent |
| 5. based on the predictions | e. this has caused |
| 6. I am sorry for the distress | f. a scandal |
| 7. young people and | g. of teachers |
| 8. the certainty and reassurance | h. are furious |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2008/200819-exam-results-5.html>

The U.K. has (1) _____ over its exam grades system for students (2) _____ university. The government used a controversial algorithm to determine the grades of students who did not (3) _____ to COVID-19. The algorithm failed and gave students grades that were lower than (4) _____ teachers. About 40 per cent were downgraded. Most affected students live in poorer areas. Many of them did not get into university (5) _____, despite not taking an exam. Grades for many richer students in private schools were (6) _____.

The algorithm is (7) _____. Parents and students are furious. They called the government (8) _____ ruining the dreams and future of England's young people. One person said the algorithm was designed by (9) _____ the elite. After a major government U-turn, grades will now (10) _____ the predictions of teachers. The UK Education Secretary said: "I am sorry (11) _____ this has caused young people and their parents but hope this announcement will now provide the certainty and (12) _____."

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2008/200819-exam-results-5.html>

The U.K. has made a U-turn over its exam grades system for students hoping to attend university. The government used a controversial algorithm to determine the grades of students who did not take exams due to COVID-19. The algorithm failed and gave students grades that were lower than those predicted by teachers. About 40 percent were downgraded. Most affected students live in poorer areas. Many of them did not get into university as a result, despite not taking an exam. Grades for many rich students in private schools were higher than predicted. The algorithm is now a scandal. Parents and students are furious. They called the government grossly incompetent for ruining the dreams and future of England's young people. One person said the algorithm was designed by the elite for the elite. After a major government U-turn, grades will now be based on the prediction of teachers. The UK Education Secretary said: "I am sorry for the distress this has caused young people and their parents but hope this announcement will now provide the certainty and reassurance they deserve."

EXAM RESULTS SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2008/200819-exam-results-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about exam results in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper. When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student A: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

d) _____

e) _____

f) _____

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WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student B: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

d) _____

e) _____

f) _____

