

China: world-class 中国成为最聪明的国家

Vocabulary: education and success 词汇: 教育与成功

Is China the world's cleverest country?

China achieved 'remarkable' results in the Pisa international education tests, which measure pupils' key skills: reading, numeracy and science.

The results indicate that China's education system is not only above average, it's overtaking the performance of many Western countries. But why do Chinese students get top marks?



Andreas Schleicher, who is responsible for the Pisa tests, says Chinese students show incredible resilience to become **high-flyers**, regardless of their background. "North Americans tell you typically it's all luck. In Europe, it's all about social heritage: 'My father was a plumber so I'm going to be a plumber.' In China, more than nine out of 10 children tell you: 'It depends on the effort I invest and I can succeed if I study hard.'"

Mr Schleicher adds it's a philosophical difference – we should expect the whole cohort to pass with flying colours, rather than just expecting the cream of the crop to succeed.

On a visit to a poor province in China, he noticed that schools were often the most impressive buildings. He says in the West, it's more likely to be a shopping centre.

So should other countries put their thinking caps on if they don't want their education system to flunk? When it comes to education, China might be able to teach the world a lesson.

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. Which skills are measured in the Pisa tests?
2. Is this statement true, false or not given? Only Chinese students from rich backgrounds try to do well at school.
3. In which part of the world does students' academic success depend on the profession of their parents?
4. Which expression in the article refers to the best students within a group?
5. What's the difference between school buildings in China and in the West?

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. My daughter is the cleverest girl in her class and always passes exams with _____

numeracy	key skills	flunk	flying colours
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2. I doubt Sally will get _____ in her exams if she continues to go out every evening.

key skills	performance	top marks	cleverest
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3. You need to _____ and help me figure out this maths problem!

put your thinking cap on	put thinking caps on	think with a cap	switch your thinking on
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4. Top universities want the best students and only accept _____.

the crop	the cream of the crop	the crop of the cream	the cream
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5. You're always horrible with your girlfriends. Someone needs to _____ !

overtake you	flunk	pass with flying colours	teach you a lesson
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Answers and Glossary 答案与词汇

Quiz 小测验

1. Which skills are measured in the Pisa tests? Key skills such are reading, numeracy and science are tested.
2. Is this statement true, false or not given? Only Chinese students from rich backgrounds try to do well at school. False. Chinese students are determined to succeed "regardless of their background".
3. In which part of the world does students' academic success depend on the profession of their parents? In Europe. Students tend to do the same jobs as their parents because "it's all about social heritage".
4. Which expression in the article refers to the best students within a group? The cream of the crop.
5. What's the difference between school buildings in China and in the West? In China, schools are often the most noticeable buildings, whereas in Western countries the most impressive buildings are usually shopping centres.

Exercise 练习

1. My daughter is the cleverest girl in her class and always passes exams with **flying colours**.
2. I doubt Sally will get **top marks** in her exams if she continues to go out every evening.
3. You need to **put your thinking cap on** and help me figure out this maths problem!
4. Top universities want the best students and only accept **the cream of the crop**.
5. You're always horrible with your girlfriends. Someone needs to **teach you a lesson!**

Glossary 词汇表

cleverest	最聪明的
key skills	关键技能
above average	高于平均水平
performance	成绩
top marks	高分
high-flyers	成功人士
social heritage	社会遗产
invest	投入
cohort	有共同点的一群人
pass with flying colours	高分通过
the cream of the crop	顶尖人才
put their thinking caps on	进入思考状态
flunk	失败（常指考试不及格）
teach (someone) a lesson	给（某人）一个教训