

Students sell bodies and gamble to survive

3rd July, 2015



University students in the U.K. are having such a hard time making ends meet that they are resorting to desperate measures. Many have turned to gambling, taking out high-interest loans and even selling their body to cover their living costs. The financial website Save the Student (StS) questioned 1,900 students about their finances. It discovered that the average student received \$750 a month from the government in the form of a student loan. However, average living expenses amounted to \$1,170 a month. This leaves a monthly shortfall of \$420. Students have made up the difference in a variety of ways, some of which would cause parents a considerable amount of concern.

The StS poll found that 71 per cent of students relied on parents for extra income, while 65 per cent had a part-time job. Around 46 per cent turned to banks for an overdraft. Seven per cent of the students who took part in the survey said that they had "sold their body" to earn additional cash. Others reported taking part in medical trials for money. Twelve per cent of students said that they had tried gambling to supplement their income, while three per cent took out loans with extortionate interest rates. One student said: "It's frustrating when you're already paying off multiple credit cards at 19." Save the Student said the government loans were "out of touch with individual circumstances and student needs".

Sources: *Mirror.co.uk / Huffington Post / TimesHigherEducation*

Writing

Students should be given interest-free loans. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

university / students / desperate / measures / gambling / living costs / concern / income / overdraft / additional cash / income / interest rates / credit cards / needs

True / False

- The article says students are having a hard time making meetings end. T / F
- Students are gambling, getting loans and selling their body for cash. T / F
- The average U.K. student gets \$750 a month from the government. T / F
- The average U.K. student spends \$420 a month more than (s)he gets. T / F
- Around 71% of U.K. students had a part-time job. T / F
- Students paid doctors to do medical trials on their body. T / F
- A 19-year-old student complained about many credit card bills. T / F
- A website said the government was much in touch with student needs. T / F

Synonym Match

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. making ends meet | a. get |
| 2. measures | b. sizeable |
| 3. cover | c. actions |
| 4. amounted to | d. situation |
| 5. considerable | e. tests |
| 6. poll | f. get by financially |
| 7. earn | g. sky-high |
| 8. trials | h. survey |
| 9. extortionate | i. pay for |
| 10. circumstances | j. added up to |

Discussion – Student A

- What are the pros and cons of gambling to get extra cash?
- Should students get paid for studying?
- What would you study if you were a student again?
- Would students study harder if they had more money?
- Should there be laws to stop students borrowing money?
- In what ways are governments out of touch with students?
- What do you think of students having large credit card bills?
- What questions would you like to ask a student in the U.K.?

BreakingNewsEnglish - The Mini Lesson

Phrase Match

- having such a hard time making
- resorting to desperate
- taking out high-
- cover their living
- in a variety
- students relied
- taking part
- paying off multiple
- out of
- individual
- touch
- interest loans
- on parents
- of ways
- credit cards
- ends meet
- costs
- circumstances
- measures
- in medical trials

Discussion – Student B

- What is it like being a student?
- Is it better to be a student at elementary school or university?
- Should students have to get part-time jobs?
- What is the worst thing about being a student?
- How bad is it that students are gambling or selling themselves?
- How are / were your student days?
- How can governments help students more?
- How important are students?

Spelling

- resorting to aedertspe measures
- The afciilnan website
- the average student viereed \$750
- This leaves a monthly hfsлтаorl of \$420
- in a yaiertv of ways
- cause parents a enrdoabseilc amount of concern
- students ielder on parents for extra income
- turned to banks for an rveadofrt
- tried gambling to spmultpene their income
- oeirttoaxnet interest rates
- paying off tpliulme credit cards
- indiulvaid circumstances

Answers – Synonym Match

1. f	2. c	3. i	4. j	5. b
6. h	7. a	8. e	9. g	10. d

Role Play

Role A – Books

You think books are the most important things students should spend money on. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): mobile phone charges, travel or chocolate.

Role B – Mobile phone charges

You think mobile phone charges are the most important things students should spend money on. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): books, travel or chocolate.

Role C – Travel

You think travel is the most important thing students should spend money on. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): mobile phone charges, books or chocolate.

Role D – Chocolate

You think chocolate is the most important thing students should spend money on. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): mobile phone charges, travel or books.

Speaking – Expenses

Rank these with your partner. Put the most important expenses for a student at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- travel
- hobbies
- presents
- chocolate
- books
- mobile phone
- food
- entertainment

Answers – True False

a	F	b	T	c	T	d	T	e	F	f	F	g	T	h	F
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.