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Hotter weather lowers exam results – 1st June, 2018

Level 4

Hot weather lowers exam results. A major study from three universities in the USA says heat may reduce learning in the short and long term. Hot weather on test days, and higher than average yearly temperatures lowered grades. Researchers looked at how the weather affected test scores from 10 million American students. Findings showed that a temperature rise of just 0.55°C over one year led to a one per cent decrease in learning.

The research paper is called "Heat and Learning". It was published last month. A worrying conclusion in the study is that global warming may affect the future income of students around the world. Researchers said that if global temperatures continued to rise, the average American student could lose \$25,000 because of lower test scores. Air conditioning in classrooms could stop this. Hotter weather was "particularly damaging" for poorer students.

Level 5

Hot weather lowers exam results, according to a new study from three universities in the USA. Heat may reduce learning in both the short and long term. Researchers say hot weather on test days, and higher than average yearly temperatures resulted in poorer grades. The study is the first major research into how heat affects students in the USA. Researchers analyzed how the weather affected test scores from 10 million American students. Their findings showed that an average temperature rise of just 0.55°C over one year led to a one per cent decrease in learning.

The research is in a paper called "Heat and Learning" and was published last month. One of the more worrying conclusions in the study is that global warming may affect learning and the future income of students around the world. The researchers said that if global temperatures continued to rise, the average American student could lose \$25,000 over their lifetime because of lower test scores. Air conditioning in classrooms could stop this. The researchers also found that hotter weather was, "particularly damaging...for low income and minority students".

Level 6

Hotter weather leads to lower exam results, according to a new study from Harvard University, the University of California and Georgia State University. What's more, hot weather may reduce learning in both the short term and long term. Researchers reported that hot weather on test days and higher than average temperatures throughout the school year resulted in poorer grades. The study is the first major research into the effect of heat on students in the USA. Researchers analyzed how test scores from 10 million American students were impacted by the weather. Their findings showed that an average temperature increase of just 0.55°C over one year resulted in a one per cent decrease in learning.

The research is in a paper called "Heat and Learning" and was published last month by the USA's National Bureau of Economic Research. One of the more concerning conclusions contained in the study is that global warming may affect learning and the income-earning potential of students around the world. The researchers predicted that if global temperatures continued to rise, the average American student could lose \$25,000 in income over their lifetime because of lower exam results. Using air conditioning in classrooms could circumvent this. The researchers also found that hotter weather was, "particularly damaging...for low income and minority students" across the USA.