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Level 4 – 19th August, 2020

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-4.html>

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Please try Levels 5 and 6. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

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

The U.K. has made a U-turn over its exam grades for students hoping to get into university. The government used a controversial algorithm to determine grades after COVID-19 cancelled exams. The algorithm failed. It gave students lower grades than those predicted by teachers. Many of them did not get into university as a result. Most affected students live in poorer areas. Grades for many richer students were higher than predicted.

The algorithm is now a scandal. Students are angry. They said the government was grossly incompetent for ruining their dreams and future. One person said the algorithm was for the elite. After a major government U-turn, grades will now be based on teachers' predictions. The UK Education Secretary apologised for the "distress" young people feel. He said the U-turn, "will now provide the certainty and reassurance [students] 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-4.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. The U.K. has | a. grades |
| 2. students hoping to get | b. students |
| 3. used a controversial | c. into university |
| 4. It gave students lower | d. predicted |
| 5. Many of them did not get | e. algorithm |
| 6. Most affected students live | f. made a U-turn |
| 7. Grades for many richer | g. into university |
| 8. higher than | h. in poorer areas |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------|
| 1. The algorithm is now a | a. predictions |
| 2. Students are | b. incompetent |
| 3. the government was grossly | c. U-turn |
| 4. ruining their | d. the elite |
| 5. the algorithm was for | e. scandal |
| 6. After a major government | f. reassurance |
| 7. based on teachers' | g. angry |
| 8. certainty and | h. dreams |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

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

The U.K. has made a U-turn over (1) _____ for students hoping to get into university. The government (2) _____ algorithm (3) _____ after COVID-19 cancelled exams. The algorithm failed. It gave students lower (4) _____ predicted by teachers. Many of them did not get into university (5) _____. Most affected students live in poorer areas. Grades for many richer students were (6) _____.

The algorithm is (7) _____. Students are angry. They said the government (8) _____ for ruining their dreams and future. One person said the algorithm was (9) _____. After a major government U-turn, grades will (10) _____ on teachers' predictions. The UK Education Secretary apologised for (11) _____ people feel. He said the U-turn, "will now provide the certainty and (12) _____."

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

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

The U.K. has made a U-turn over its exam grades for students hoping to get into university. The government used a controversial algorithm to determine grades after COVID-19 cancelled exams. The algorithm failed. It gave students lower grades than those predicted by teachers. Many of them did not get into university as a result. Most affected students live in poorer areas. Grades for many richer students were higher than predicted. The algorithm is now a scandal. Students are angry. They said the government was grossly incompetent for ruining their dreams and future. One person said the algorithm was for the elite. After a major government U-turn, grades will now be based on teachers' predictions. The UK Education Secretary apologised for the "distress" young people feel. He said the U-turn, "will now provide the certainty and reassurance [students] 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) _____

