

NEW COMPREHENSION TESTING

SCORES HIGH POINTS FOR POLITICIANS

(May 17, 2011) This year's English Bagrut (matric) examination has come under a lot of criticism, especially the 'C' exam which is supposed to evaluate students at a low- middle level. Many of exam checkers have pointed out that several questions to the reading passage -- which deals with recent research on daydreaming and the brain -- can actually be answered with the **same answer!** The answer to Q4, for example is: *The brain works hard.* The same answer is acceptable in Question 5. Furthermore, a correct answer to Question 2 is "*The brain **doesn't** work hard.*" Here's another exam-ple pulled from the same exam. Both Q5 and Q6 can be correctly answered by "*The parts of our brains that deal with solving problems is very active when we daydream.*"

What happens when a student encounters such questions? Many students report that they understand the material, but were hesitant to write the identical answer for two –or more– questions. Les Marx, a second year student at Givalt Hashpalla high school, was hesitant to write identical answers. "I was sure it was some kinda trick. One of them had to be wrong."

For such students, the picture is grim. However, Pofessor Dr Indie Shuall of Huneads U, claims that such exams are the wave of the future. Having identical answers to questions is a tremendous advantage for today's 'unseen' examination.

Until recently, claims Shaul, these exams had to be checked by a team of professionals. The cost of briefing them, transporting them, and double checking them was staggering. That doesn't even include the exorbitant amounts of money required to offer them so as to ascertain an acceptable level of work.

Under the new system, exams can be checked quickly, accurately and easily. The savings in cash alone is incredible. The mere rumor that these exams will be ready by next summer has caused the Bursa to jump 5 points.

But the most viable benefit is social: In the past, exam papers with identical answers were considered suspect – a sign of dishonesty. Students were penalized and stigmatized as cheaters for years once they were seen with that accusatory pink slip. No longer! Examinees can now put down the same answers as that nerd in the front seat, without shame, but with pride! This is the new revolution in educational evaluation. Projects like "No Child Left Behind" will be left far Behind!

Uniform Response IncremeNt Exams, or URINE as they are known in the educational buzzoshpere, are just around the corner, but will not be phased in too quickly . After all, teachers don't take changes easily. But by next June, expect to see exams in several key subjects that can be answered by 2 to 3 answers tops. And after that – well, just look down at the next page! **Please scroll down for the answer key.**

**ACCESS TO INFORMATION FROM WRITTEN TEXTS:
(Uniform Response Pilot Exam)**

Answer questions 1-13 in English according to the passage. In question 13, circle the number of the correct answer. In other questions, follow the instructions. In the question with those weird boxes, don't even bother 'cause no one ever knows what to do with them. **Note: In the teacher's version, an answer key is provided at the end.**

1. What is the advantage of the new type of reading comprehension, according to Prof. Shuall?

ANSWER.....

2. What do we learn about the answers to the unseen passage described in paragraph one?

ANSWER.....

3. Students will expend less energy while taking tests because
.....
.....(8 points)

4. Why might an examinee use several sets of ditto marks during the exam?

COMPLETE THE ANSWER. Because(8 points)

5. Les Marks didn't think it was smart to write to
different questions. (8 points)

6. Test your thinking skills: If all the answers are_....., why are
they worth different points? (different points)

7. Fill in the following flowchart:

Huge amounts of money are spent checking matriculation exams.

7.1 A new type of exam questionnaire is developed in which
.....(8 points)

The stock market picks up.

The president(/finance minister/ etc...) stays in office.

14. Fill in the following flowchart:

We put one of these darn flowcharts in the exam. Maybe even 2 if we're having a bad day.

14 a: proofread them.

The vast majority of the examinees are as confused as a humming bird in a washing machine.

14: b: (28 points)

We make tons of money marking Moed Bet and get my son married.

8. The word "them " in line 13 refers to (8 points)

9. Why were some examinees disqualified **before** the change described in lines ___ took place?

COMPLETE THE ANSWER. Their,.....(8 points)

10. Under the new system, which students will receive the highest grades, in your opinion?

Answer: The ones who have(8 points)

11 Under the new system, which students will receive the highest grades, in your opinion?

Answer: The ones who have (8 points)

12. There is a striking resemblance between the answers because

they are not d-- (8 points)

13. Why do so many of these answers rhyme with "Himmler?"

Because they are so

(38 points)

14. How is this exam different than all previous exams?

- (i) They have identical answers.
- (ii) The answers are all the same.
- (iii) The difference between answers is negligible.
- (iv) All of the above.
- (v) If you are copying from the guy on the right, make sure it's the same girsa, idiot

(8 points).

בהצלחה!



ACCESS TO INFORMATION FROM WRITTEN TEXTS: (Uniform Response)

Answer the following questions according to the above passage. In the teacher's version, an answer key is provided at the end.

1 What is the advantage of the new type of reading comprehension, according to Prof. Shuall?

Answer: All the answers are the same.

2 What do we learn about the answers to the unseen passage described in paragraph one?

Answer: They are all the same.

3 Students will expend less energy while taking tests because all the answers are the same.

4 Why might an examinee use several sets of ditto marks during the exam?

Because all the answers are the same.

5 Les Marks didn't think it was smart to write the same answers to different questions.

6 Test your thinking skills: If all the answers are the same, why are they worth different points?

7 Fill in the following flowchart:

Huge amounts of money are spent checking matriculation exams.

A new type of exam questionnaire is developed in which all the answers are the same.

The country's economy recovers from its slump.

The president(/minister etc...) stays in office

8 The word "them " in line 13 refers to...answers that are the same.

15. Fill in the following flowchart:

We put one of these darn flowcharts in the exam. Maybe even 2 if we're having a bad day.

15 a: Nobody bothers to . proofread them.

The vast majority of the examinees are as confused as a humming bird in a washing machine.

15: b: actually, we don't know what

We make tons of money marking Moed Bet and get my son married. _____ took place?

Answer: Their answers were all the same._____

10 Under the new system, which students will receive the highest grades, in your opinion?

Answer: The ones who have the same answers._____

11 There is a striking resemblance between the answers

because they are not d--ifferent__

12 Why do so many of these answers rhyme with "Himmler?"

Because they are so... .. alike.

13. How is this exam different than all previous exams?

(i) They have identical answers.

(ii) The answers are all the same.

(iii) The difference between answers is negligible.



(iv) All of the above.

(v) If you are copying from the guy on the right, make sure it's the same girsa, idiot.

בהצלחה!

/Brought to you by: Barry Silverberg, Kiriath Shmona Aug 7