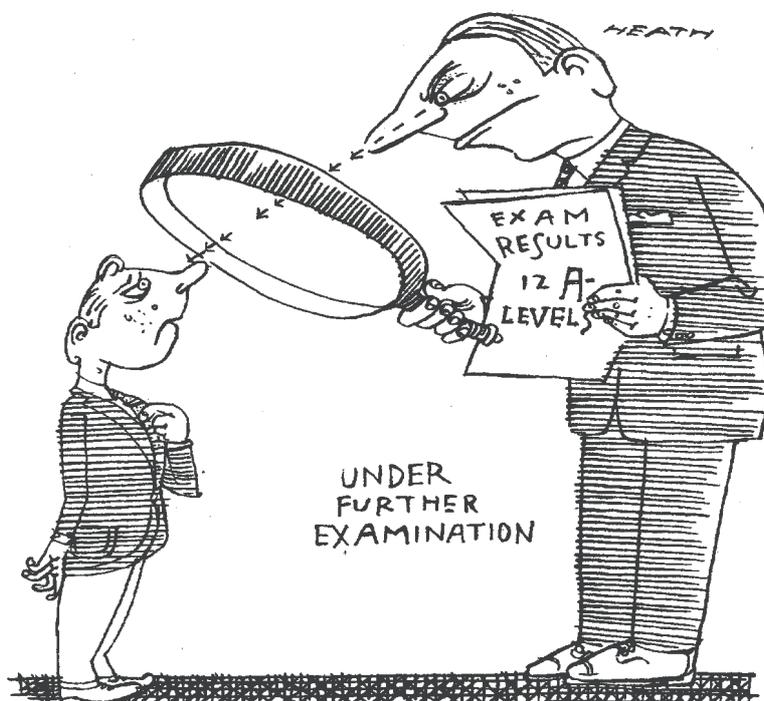


Tekst 2



Do exams make good sense?

NIGEL WILLIAMS writes scornfully about A-level examinations in News Review: "Examination results tell us nothing about a person apart from how they performed in an exam." Just so. He overlooks the fact that examinations test performance in matters important to life outside the examination hall. Somebody who has gained a high grade in a German examination can understand spoken German and write it well.

Would Williams like to take his next flight with a pilot who has not shown, in an examination, that she or he can fly a plane safely?

Howard Bailes
St Paul's Girls' School
London W6

APART FROM knowledge of a subject matter and communication skills, doing well in a "traditional" A-level exam demonstrates that the pupil can work in a disciplined manner over a period of time and perform under pressure. (If you know your stuff you don't need Prozac.) Most companies do not require their employees to discuss the meaning of life but it does help if people are numerate and literate and able to absorb new information.

I suppose to be a journalist requires a hefty dose of imagination and creativity but should I need a hip replacement, some dental work or the services of a barrister, I shall consult someone who has passed traditional exams.

Toria Forsyth-Moser
Ross-on-Wye, Herefordshire

'The Sunday Times', September 6, 1998

■ Tekst 2 Do exams make good sense?

- 1p **2** ■ What is the main point Howard Bailes makes in his letter?
- A Good examination results do not guarantee a successful career.
 - B School examinations do not sufficiently allow pupils to show their qualities.
 - C The practical value of examination results should not be underestimated.
- 1p **3** ■ What is the main point Toria Forsyth-Moser makes in her letter?
- A All school examinations can be passed, provided pupils have studied well.
 - B Maths and language skills should be made compulsory subjects for school examinations.
 - C Passing school examinations should not be a necessary requirement for every job.
 - D The knowledge and skills required to pass school examinations matter in working life.