

改错练习

1

One question is often risen in response to international __1__ test comparisons: Do these results really mean anything? In the past, international testing programs have been criticized on variety of grounds. Two allegations, in particular, have __2__ been common: first, that other nations have not tested as large a percentage of their student population, and nevertheless their __3__ scores have been inflated; and second, that our best students are among the world's best, with our average brought down by a __4__ large cohort of low-achievers. Whatever the historic validity of such concerns, they are now, __5__ if anything, reversed. Particularly in the fourth and eighth grade, education has become universal in all of the leading nations. Therefore, in science, the percentage of randomly selected __6__ U.S. schools and students that actually did participate at the eighth-grade level was just 73 percent—the third-lowest of all 45 participating countries, and 11 percentage points under the __7__ United States had third-lowest overall participation rate for both __8__ grades in both subjects. Japan, Taiwan and Singapore all had participation percentages in the 90s. How about our best and brightest? At the fourth-grade level, there is some real truth to the idea that the best American students __9__ are among the best in the world. Looking only at the top 5 percent of test-takers, American fourth-graders beat the average of wealthy nations by 13 percentage points. By the eighth grade, however, the tables have turned, with America's brightest students fallen to __10__ percentage points behind their foreign peers.

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Long ago there was a prince who unwisely confided the media __1__ that while tending his loved garden, he often talked to his plants. __2__ He also warned his future subjects about losing touch with their natural surrounding and their rich cultural heritage. But the people scoffed and __3__ said it was the fuddy-duddy Prince and was out of __4__ touch. And they shook heads at the madness of the Prince's forebear, King George III, who famously talked with a tree he had mistaken the King of Prussia. __5__ These days Britain's Prince of Wales is still considered a tad eccentric. But increasingly, Charles Philip Windsor is winning applause for his campaign to combat that he calls the wanton destruction __6__ that has taken place with the name of progress. For 30 years __7__

the Prince has been in the forefront to promote kinder, gentler farming methods;

protect Britain's countryside urban sprawl; improve __8__ city landscapes; and safeguard the nation's architectural heritage.

And whereas his once a lonely if plummy voice crying in the wilderness,

__9__

the Prince has seen many of his once maverick opinions became mainstream.

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