

Can Boys Do Better?

Read the following short text about the difference in achievement at school between boys and girls. A number of words have been left out. In the margin you will find four alternatives for each gap. Choose the **best** alternative and write your choice, A, B, C or D in the appropriate box below.

The gap between high-flying girls and underachieving boys is growing, and head teachers in British secondary schools are worried. Girls already do better than boys in every GCSE* ① except Science, and generally out-perform them at A-level.

“A typical 13-year old boy can concentrate for four or five minutes, ② a girl can concentrate for 15 minutes,” said Peter Downes, ③ of a handbook for schools called *Can Boys Do Better?* Boys evidently become disheartened ④ they see girls doing better than them and just switch off. “Some just go quietly to sleep, and go on underachieving, but ⑤ react by hitting the boy next to them.”

Some schools are experimenting with single-sex teaching to try to ⑥ the problem. Boys and girls are taught separately for all subjects up to age 14, and for core subjects (like English, Maths and Science) up to GCSE*.

People used to ⑦ that girls were disadvantaged by being in the same class as boys. Now, it seems, it is boys who are the ⑧ for concern.

* General Certificate of Secondary Education

- 1 A object
B study
C subject
D school
- 2 A while
B because
C since
D until
- 3 A teacher
B student
C professor
D author
- 4 A although
B when
C unless
D before
- 5 A others
B they
C those
D certain
- 6 A improve
B perform
C create
D solve
- 7 A hope
B demand
C worry
D refuse
- 8 A aim
B cause
C choice
D point

Answers

1	<input type="checkbox"/>	2	<input type="checkbox"/>	3	<input type="checkbox"/>	4	<input type="checkbox"/>	5	<input type="checkbox"/>	6	<input type="checkbox"/>	7	<input type="checkbox"/>	8	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Points

