

End exam-based education

London Young Labour Believes

- 1) That in May 2015 the NSPCC reported a 200% increase in the number of calls to ChildLine concerning exam stress.¹
- 2) That the Tories want to introduce testing for students from the age of four².
- 3) That time spent on examinations is time not spent on teaching and learning.
- 4) That in May 2014 90% of parents thought a love of learning and gaining skills for adult life matter as much as attaining high grades³
- 5) That Finland's education system, which is consistently at the top or near the top of international league tables, has no exams until the age of 18.⁴

London Young Labour Further Believes

- 1) That exam-based education prioritises certain forms of learning over others, arbitrarily privileging some young people over their peers.
- 2) That exam-based education teaches many young people that they are failures, not simply that they failed at something – this is inevitable in life – but that they are failures themselves.
- 3) That an exam-based education system functions as a way for employers to test our ability to jump through hoops and complete seemingly arbitrary tasks.
- 4) That we want a school system that empowers young people to develop their skills and personal qualities, and to discover a love of learning.
- 5) That examinations are sometimes necessary, for instance to check qualifications for jobs and tasks where an unqualified person may harm others.
- 6) That in these circumstances the results need only be 'Qualified' or 'Not yet qualified'.

London Young Labour Resolves

- 1) To publicise this position to our members.
- 2) To campaign and lobby within the Labour Party for our next manifesto to include a commitment to move away from exam-based education and to raise the age at which school students are first examined.

¹ <http://www.nspcc.org.uk/fighting-for-childhood/news-opinion/childline-reveals-a-200-increase-in-exam-stress-counselling-last-year>

² <http://www.teachers.org.uk/node/4365>

³ http://www.teachers.org.uk/files/manifesto-16pp-a5--9929-_0.pdf

⁴ <http://www.theguardian.com/education/2013/jul/01/education-michael-gove-finland-gcse>