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- 請注意：中文文字内容只提供簡體版

Vocabulary: education 词汇: 教育

Our parents always tell us that if we work hard, we will do well. If you're studying at university this ultimately means passing your exams and achieving a **first-class degree**. **Easier said than done!** So if you're struggling to complete that final **assignment** or feel your revision is going nowhere, how will you believe that getting a **top-notch qualification** is a real possibility?

I can't claim to be an expert in this as the grade I achieved in my degree was a little lower than a first! But today, in the UK at least, there are encouraging signs that getting one is a bit more **attainable**. That's because the number of first-class degrees being awarded by UK universities is **soaring**, with firsts now more common than a **2:2**. More than a quarter of students received a first in 2015 and 2016 at the UK's top universities, known as the **Russell Group**. Among specialist institutions, such as in the **creative arts**, proportions of firsts are thought to be even higher – such as 64% of students getting firsts at the **Royal Academy of Music**.

Of course, not everyone thinks this is because of the **hard graft** that students are putting in. Critics say that universities are handing out higher grades to boost **applications** and having a first-class degree gives an advantage for future job opportunities – this all looks good on a university **prospectus**. But there have also been arguments that rising degree grades reflect the improved A-level grades of those entering university and a more focused attention to studying.

But whatever the reason, we mustn't **deny** first-class **graduates** their hard-earned achievement and success. Many have made **sacrifices** along the way, such as 22 year old Khadijah Lewis, who got a first in history and **sociology** at Warwick University. She told the BBC's Newsbeat programme that her course was "tough" but says "Knowing that getting a first is more common than a 2:2 does make me feel like my first isn't as **valid**," she explains, "but also I know that I worked very hard for it, so regardless of how easy or how hard people think it is, I still did it."

Another student, Sam Gibbins, who got a first in **software engineering** at Cardiff Metropolitan University said he spent "a lot of nights in the library". But even though he did well, he says going to university is not just about the grades, he says "You develop so much going to university, and meet so many people, you're able to understand yourself much better." Some wise words; it sounds as though he studied at **the university of life!**

词汇表

first-class degree	一等成绩
easier said than done	说比做起来容易
assignment	作业, 任务
top-notch	一流的
qualification	资格证书, 资历
attainable	可实现的, 可获得的
soar	猛增
2:2	(英国本科毕业) 二级乙等学士学位
Russell Group	罗素大学集团
creative arts	创意艺术
Royal Academy of Music	英国皇家音乐学院
hard graft	繁重的学业
application	入学申请
prospectus	(学校的) 简介
deny	拒绝承认
graduate	毕业生, 大学毕业生
sacrifice	牺牲
sociology	社会学
valid	让人信服的
software engineering	软件工程
the university of life	生活经历

测验与练习

1. 阅读课文并回答问题。

1. In the UK, how common are 2:2 degrees awarded compared with firsts?
2. Name the main benefit mentioned in the article, of gaining a first-class degree.
3. What encourages students to choose a particular university and is always mentioned in their prospectus?
4. Which word used in the article, means 'the scientific study of society, the way that it is organised, and the way that people behave in relation to each other.'
5. True or false: *According to one student, going to university is more about the life experience you get than the grade of degree you achieve.*

2. 请在不参考课文的情况下完成下列练习。选择一个意思合适的单词填入句子的空格处。

1. I think Scotland is great for a holiday: It's got isolated bothies, white-sand beaches and _____ surf spots.

notch-top	top-notch	top-knot	notched-top
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2. The University of Toronto, one of Canada's top-ranked universities, has seen interest rising sharply, including a 57% increase in _____ from India.

prospectus	applications	creative arts	soaring
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3. The manager said that it had taken a lot of _____ to turn the airport around and improve the environment for passengers.

sacrifices	applications	graduates	hard graft
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4. Visitors to the UK need a visa that is _____ for the total duration of their stay.

validating	validate	valid	valued
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5. The company director has set out a list of targets that he believes should be _____ by every employee.

attainable	deny	sacrificed	valid
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答案

1. 阅读课文并回答问题。

1. In the UK, how common are 2:2 degrees awarded compared with firsts?

Less common. the number of first-class degrees being awarded by UK universities is soaring, with firsts now more common than a 2:2.

2. Name the main benefit mentioned in the article, of gaining a first-class degree.

Having a first-class degree gives an advantage for future job opportunities.

3. What encourages students to choose a particular university and is always mentioned in their prospectus?

The number of first-class degrees the university awards each year.

4. Which word used in the article, means 'the scientific study of society, the way that it is organised, and the way that people behave in relation to each other.'

Sociology.

5. True or false: *According to one student, going to university is more about the life experience you get than the grade of degree you achieve.*

False. According to student Sam Gibbins, going to university is a life experience but it's not more important than getting your degree.

2. 请在不参考课文的情况下完成下列练习。选择一个意思合适的单词填入句子的空格处。

1. I think Scotland is great for a holiday: It's got isolated bothies, white-sand beaches and **top-notch** surf spots.

2. The University of Toronto, one of Canada's top-ranked universities, has seen interest rising sharply, including a 57% increase in **applications** from India.

3. The manager said that it had taken a lot of **hard graft** to turn the airport around and improve the environment for passengers.

4. Visitors to the UK need a visa that is **valid** for the total duration of their stay.

5. The route to **becoming obese** is overeating: there's no doubt about it.