

**A) READING COMPREHENSION**

1. Look at this document. What sort of document is it?
2. What is it about?
3. Who wrote this article?
4. Look at the 'Facts' section. What was the January 2000 BBC4 debate about?
5. Read the first part of the article. What was Kate's reaction when she entered her grammar school? Explain why.
6. Read the second part and list the pros and cons of both systems:

	+	-
COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOLS		
GRAMMAR SCHOOLS		

7. If you went to study in Britain, would you rather go to a comprehensive or a grammar school? Explain why.

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## Grammar vs Comprehensive



Hands up first in grammar schools..?

**Which is best? Kate puts forward her personal view on whether grammar beats comprehensive -**

**continued from previous page....**

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[Anorexia - True Story](#)  
[Useful teen websites](#)  
[School watch](#)  
[Jamie's response to this report](#)

### WEB LINKS

#### [Birmingham Grid for Learning](#)

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### FACTS

The 5 Birmingham King Edwards Grammar Schools are all in the top 100 of the UK.

On 5th January 2000, a programme on BBC Radio 4 debated the motion 'Good education is selective education'. After this debate, which considered most of the key issues from both sides, a nationwide telephone poll produced the following result: For selective education 5,017  
Against selective education 1,947

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### Fashion versus text books

I was very surprised when I moved to a grammar school to see that there is no emphasis on appearance. The girls aren't always doing their hair or make up in a bid to attract someone's attention.

There are no criteria of how to look to be popular unlike the school where I used to go.

There, you had to be the right size and have the right hairstyle, and if you didn't you were called fat and ugly.

At this school, you have to be bright to be popular - and not beautiful. I think another reason grammar schools tend to do better is because there is no interaction between pupils and teachers. Here a teacher is there to teach, they do not chat to pupils as they did where I used to go.



'At my last school the girls worried about their appearance' - Kate

### Both systems have their plus points

Although there are pros and cons of both comprehensive and grammar schools, I disagree with those who want grammar schools abolished.

I am glad I went to a comprehensive school before coming here because it did help me in a lot of areas. I started secondary school in year 7 terrified and unbelievably shy.

However by year 11 the teachers had helped me develop my social skills as well as my academic and it all paid off. I don't think I'd have developed this much had I started the grammar school in year 7.

I'm still very shy but I'm more able now to speak up for myself than I was, and I think it was going to a school where not everyone wants to work makes you stand up for yourself because you have to.

However, I believe grammar schools do help you achieve better academically because they push you right from the start and the only reason they can do this is because they only have the more able students.

Therefore I don't think that grammar schools are any better than comprehensives, they just start off with the cleverer people who want to work.

Whereas in my experience comprehensive schools include people who don't want to work and no matter how much the teachers try to get them to work they would still rather have a social life.