Research exercise: Research on Foundational Elements of the Education System

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Pros of Standardized Tests
• They can be used to measure social inequality.
• They are less problematic than other alternatives for evaluating teachers and determining college acceptance.
• They help drive national school improvement and guide standards for teaching.

Cons of Standardized Tests
• They are not necessarily good predictors of future success.
• They are not an accurate representation of students’ knowledge and teachers should not be held accountable for students’ test-taking ability.
• They have too many high-stakes consequences.

Positive Effects of Homework
• Responsibility
• Time management
• Increased student achievement
• Study skills

Negative Effects of Homework
• Increased stress
• Sleep deprivation/health problems
• Less time for friends/family/extra-curricular activities
• Too much can diminish student achievement

Optimum Amount of Homework per Grade
• K-2nd: 10 to 20 minutes
• 3rd-6th: 30 to 60 minutes
• Jr. High: 90 minutes
• High School: 90 minutes to 2 ½ hours