

Passage 2

In the year ahead, the UK government is due to carry out the next Research Assessment Exercise (RAE). The goal of this regular five-yearly check-up of the university sector is easy to understand – perfection, of a kind, in public sector research. But perfection extracts a high price. In the case of the RAE, one risk attached to this is the creation of a dictatorial management culture that threatens the future of imaginative science.

Academic institutions are already preparing for the RAE with some anxiety – understandably so, as the financial consequences of failure are severe. Departments with a current rating of four or five must maintain their score or face a considerable loss of funding. Meanwhile, those with ratings of two or three are fighting for their survival.

The pressures are forcing research management onto the defensive. Common strategies for increasing academic output include grading individual researchers every year according to RAE criteria, pressurizing them to publish anything regardless of quality, diverting funds from key and expensive laboratory science into areas of study such as management, and even threatening to close departments. Another strategy being readily adopted is to remove scientists who appear to be less active in research and replace them with new, probably younger, staff.

141 . It is said that the Research Assessment Exercise

- a. may lead to publication of low quality articles
- b. will result in the unemployment of more younger staff
- c. has succeeded in attaining its ultimate objectives
- d. should be applied in its current form without any modification

142 . The writer is excessively concerned about in academic settings.

- a. lack of sufficient research
- b. easygoing attitudes adopted
- c. tough RTA discipline implemented
- d. high efficiency which might be achieved

143 . The last paragraph deals mostly with

- a. shortages academic institutions are suffering from
- b. problems which may arise due to the application of RAE
- c. the quality research management needs to meet RAE criteria
- d. the strategies the individual researchers should adopt to achieve perfection

144 . It is implied that the RAE criteria are

- a. easy to achieve
- b. very rigid
- c. well-defined
- d. quite democratic

145 . The author is apparently the Research Assessment Exercise (RAE).

- a. biased toward
- b. indifferent to
- c. in favor of
- d. critical of

146 . To achieve the perfection established by RAE, academic institutions

- a. require a large amount of money
- b. might encounter some threats
- c. should carry out their work as before
- d. have to undergo dramatic educational changes