

Read the text about Mr Goodman's research, showing one advantage of learning maths. Some parts are missing. Choose the correct part (A-N) for each gap (1-11). There are two extra parts that you should not use. Write your answers in the boxes provided on the answer sheet. The first one (0) has been done for you.



How to get smart

Mr Goodman has found that each extra required maths course raised the annual income of Black males by 15%. (More reading classes had a negative or no effect (0) ___ earnings.) More maths also increased the likelihood of young Black men going to university and someday having a job requiring quantitative skills. But an advanced degree or better job accounts for only a fraction of the earnings increase. Mr Goodman (1) ___ most of the wage increase reflects greater worker (2) ___.

One reason why people who learn more mathematics earn more is because doing maths makes you smarter and more productive. According to Clancy Blair, a professor of psychology at NYU, the act of (3) ___ mathematical calculations improves reasoning, problem-solving skills, behaviour, and the ability to self-regulate. These skills are (4) ___ with the pre-frontal cortex part of the brain, which (5) ___ to develop into your early 30s. Solving maths problems improves the way your brain (6) ___ and, according to Mr Blair, this can translate into an ability to earn more money and form (7) ___ relationships.

Curiously, Mr Goodman found that requiring more maths did not have much (8) ___ on the income of Black women or whites. He suspects that these groups already had basic maths skills, and the reforms he studied did not teach more advanced maths. But for many Black males, learning even basic maths (9) ___ an improvement. Mr Goodman's research suggests more rigorous requirements will be necessary to reach the other students.

Of course, (10) ___ qualified teachers to teach advanced maths courses will not be easy. According to a study published by the Education Trust in 2002, many middle- and high-school maths classes are taught by teachers who did not even minor in a mathematical field. Attracting qualified maths teachers (11) ___ paying them more. That presents a challenge, not only for strained state budgets, but for local teaching unions who often oppose market-based pay for hard-to-fill jobs.

A associated

G maintaining

M stable

B continues

H may have been

N will require

C finding

I on

D functions

J performing

E impact

K productivity

F in

L reckons

