

REASONS TO GET RID OF SATs

1. SATs don't help our education – they harm it.
2. In SATs years valuable time is wasted practising and studying for the tests instead of giving us the opportunity to find out more about a wide range of subjects.
3. SATs put us under unnecessary stress.
4. Too much money goes into running the SATs. New Labour spend almost as much on testing as they do on recruiting and keeping teachers.
5. SATs results are used to decide what level we get taught at. Streaming at a young age can affect the rest of your education.
6. SATs aren't there to benefit us. They are used to make schools compete against each other in league tables because the government won't fund all schools properly.

NO MORE SATs

This year the biggest teachers' union, the National Union of Teachers (NUT), is discussing plans for boycotting the 2004 SATs. International Socialist Resistance is campaigning for school students to be involved in the boycott. Many students organised and took strike action against the war.

If we can build a mass campaign to boycott the SATs they will not be able to use them.

If no student fills in an answer paper the government cannot make the SATs happen.

The government is so worried about the NUT's campaign that Charles Clarke, the government minister responsible for education, has made some very small changes to SATs but fundamentally they remain in place as part of the government's control over what and how we learn. We need to organise SATs boycott campaigns in all schools to force Clarke and New Labour to cancel them completely. Students and parents need to have a say in how our education is run.



★ www.anticapitalism.org.uk ★

★ againstcapitalism@hotmail.com ★

★ 020 8558 7947 ★ PO BOX 858, London, E11 1YG ★

A decent education should be a right not a privilege

The SATs are tests which limit what we learn and how we learn it. New Labour used the slogan "Education Education Education" for their election campaign in 1997. In reality it has been "tests tests tests" and "cuts cuts cuts".

★ Eton has class sizes as small as 10 students where every student can get individual attention. Most state schools are facing significant numbers of redundancies amongst both teachers and teaching assistants.

★ Students at the posh private schools do not have to take SATs. If these were tests that helped us don't you think Eton would ensure their students had access to them?

Privatisation and cuts to education mean that there is one high quality education for the rich and the service for the rest of us gets worse and worse. Tony Blair and his pro-big business party have no interest in improving the living standards of ordinary people. They want the education system to produce workers who do not expect to have a say in how things are run and who will accept the appalling conditions without protest.

What kind of organisation is ISR and what does it fight for?

International Socialist Resistance is a youth organisation that is run by and for young people. Many of our members are school students who are organising to build the anti-SATs campaign in their area. ISR initiated the idea of school and college student strikes against the war on Iraq and helped to organise many of them. These strikes proved that we are not apathetic but are in fact very angry about the way the world is run and want to be actively involved in changing it.

Capitalism means poverty, war and disease. This is because capitalism is a system that is run on the basis of huge profits for a tiny rich elite – not on the basis of the needs of the millions. Under capitalism education is used to prolong this inequality. ISR fights to change the way the world is run, for "system change", for socialism. We fight for a socialist society which is run democratically on the basis of the needs of the whole population and not for the profits of the rich few. This includes fighting for education to be based on young people's needs – not the needs of big business.

International Socialist Resistance fights:

- ★ Against SATs and the testing regime that limits education to intensive training for tests
- ★ Against cuts in education which means a two-tier education system
- ★ No to teacher redundancies and staff shortages
- ★ No to private companies being allowed to profit from our education
- ★ For free quality education for all from nursery to university
- ★ For the right of students to be organised into democratic school student unions
- ★ For the abolition of fees and the introduction of a living grant available to all from the age of 16
- ★ For extra investment so schools can cater for children with special needs



What can you do to build the campaign?

What you can do if you're due to take SATs in 2004:

- ★ Boycott the tests. If everyone does it they just won't happen!!
- ★ Talk to people in your class about the campaign. Get other school students involved in organising a campaign in your school and with other schools in your local area. To let people know you could put up notices around your school advertising a meeting place or hand around some notices
- ★ Get your friends, family, school year group and teachers to fill in the petition calling for the abolition of SATs
- ★ Hand out copies of this leaflet in your school or local town centre (get in touch if you would like more copies to be sent to you or if you would like a member of ISR to come and help you on 020 8558 7947)
- ★ Talk to your parents about why you oppose SATs and ask for their support
- ★ Find out who the NUT representative is in your school and ask them to work with your student campaign
- ★ See the ISR guide to campaigning in schools and colleges on our website www.anticapitalism.org.uk

. . . and if you're not: -

If you've already taken your SATs or you know people who have - you'll know how stressful and wasteful they are. It's important that everyone gets involved in building this campaign as it is an important part of the fight against cuts in education. Here are some things you could do to help:

- ★ If you are in school get in contact with the students who are due to take their SATs next year. Let them know about the plans and help them to campaign in the school
- ★ If you are working or in higher education you could pass the petition round and build support in your union or link it up with the campaign against fees in the universities. See if a student or / and an NUT rep could speak at a lunchtime meeting in your workplace / FE college / university.

JOIN ISR

I would like an anti-SATs campaign pack (£1) I would like to get involved in the anti-SATs campaign
I would like to join ISR
I enclose £2 unwaged / £4 waged (please make cheques and postal orders payable to ISR.)
name.....address.....
tel.no.....email.....D.O.B.....
school/college/workplace.....send to PO Box 858, London E11 1YG tel: 020 8558 7947