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From: FreshEd podcast, episode 363 (August 12, 2024), "Elite Private Schools and Inequality in Australia", hosted by Will Brehm and featuring Myra and Clive Hamilton.

Full episode at: <https://freshedpodcast.com/hamilton>

This excerpt was selected and edited for educational use by the PROF-L project.

#### **Hinweis:**

Dies ist eine **Beispielaufgabe im Format der PROF-L Prüfung** und keine **Originalprüfungsaufgabe**. Inhalt und Schwierigkeitsgrad können abweichen.

## **Elite private schools in Australia**

**Indicative time: 15 minutes**

### **Situation**

You are preparing for a professional development workshop on educational inequality and school funding models. As part of your preparation, you are asked to listen to a podcast excerpt that discusses the role and influence of elite private schools in Australia.

### **Task**

You are going to listen to part of a podcast episode in which the host, Will Brehm, interviews Clive and Myra Hamilton about the role and influence of elite private schools in Australia.

Listen to the recording and answer the multiple-choice questions below.

- Each question has three options, but only one correct answer.
- Circle the correct answer for each question.
- You are allowed to listen to the recording twice.

Question 1:

**What has the greatest impact on school achievement?**

- A.** The kind of institution the students are enrolled in.
- B.** The students' home background and upbringing.
- C.** The quality of instruction the students receive.

Question 2:

**What have experts found about student performance at university?**

- A.** State school students may outperform those from elite schools.
- C.** Elite schools prepare students better for independent study.
- D.** University results show no variation between different school types.

Question 3:

**What kind of advantage do elite schools reportedly pass on to their students?**

- A. Better access to expert tutors and learning support.
- B. Stronger discipline and focus developed through strict routines.
- C. The ability to move comfortably in high-profile social settings.

Question 4:

**What personal qualities are some parents hoping their children will gain from elite schooling?**

- A. Perfect exam results and elite university placement.
- B. Technical knowledge for future professional success.
- C. The ability to carry themselves with purpose and authority.

Question 5:

**What kind of comparison did the researchers make regarding elite school graduates?**

- A. Whether former students gained more social standing.
- B. How academic and personal success are linked.
- C. How student attitudes changed over time.

Question 6:

**What change did the researchers observe in Rhodes scholarship distribution?**

- A. Scholarships were equally distributed across school types.
- B. A growing share went to elite school graduates.
- C. Private school students became less likely to be selected.

Question 7:

**What trend did the researchers find in the awarding of top national honours?**

- A. More went to former elite school students over time.
- B. Public school graduates received the majority of awards.
- C. Overall recognition declined across all school backgrounds.

Question 8:

**What does the speaker imply about elite private school graduates?**

- A. They seldom pursue careers in professional sports.
- B. They increasingly dominate unconventional professional fields.
- C. They are mostly appointed to judicial positions.

## Answers

### Question 1

**Correct answer: B. The students' home background and upbringing.**

→ Academic outcomes are influenced most strongly by family factors such as income and parents' education level, not by the school type or teaching quality.

### Question 2

**Correct answer: A. State school students may outperform those from elite schools.**

→ Research shows that public school students often do better at university than elite school students with the same entry scores.

### Question 3

**Correct answer: C. The ability to move comfortably in influential social settings.**

→ Elite schools help students develop a sense of belonging and ease in formal or influential environments — often described as “cultural capital.”

### Question 4

**Correct answer: C. The ability to carry themselves with purpose and authority.**

→ Some parents choose elite schools not for academic reasons, but to help their children develop leadership traits and social presence.

### Question 5

**Correct answer: A. Whether former students gained more social standing.**

→ The researchers compared today's elite school graduates to those from 40 years ago to see whether their access to high-status roles had changed.

### Question 6

**Correct answer: B. A growing share went to elite school graduates.**

→ The proportion of Rhodes scholarships awarded to elite school graduates increased significantly over four decades.

### Question 7

**Correct answer: A. More went to former elite school students over time.**

→ The share of Australia's top national honours awarded to elite school graduates rose from 47% to 56% in the same period.

### Question 8

**Correct answer: B. They increasingly dominate unconventional professional fields.**

→ → Elite private school graduates gained influence even in unexpected areas such as professional sports.