

## Rich Kids Study English

<p>A. Students whose families have higher incomes tend to pursue majors in English and history, Kim Harrington, a sociologist from Brown University found after ___1___ data from the National Center for Education Statistics. According to the data, students from lower-income households choose to pursue associate’s degrees or major in areas ___2___ law enforcement<sup>1</sup>.</p>	<p>1. analyzed / analyze / analyzing 2. as such as / such as / such like</p>
<p>B. According to Harrington, the information collected by the National Center for Education Statistics is a nationally representative data set. The data ___3___ from approximately 12,000 students starting from when they were 10th graders<sup>2</sup> in 2002 and ending in 2012, after they became college graduates.</p>	<p>3. has collected / was collecting / was collected</p>
<p>C. Harrington believes that three factors influence the majors ___4___ by young adults from lower socioeconomic backgrounds. Students from lower-income households, for one, tend to attend schools with less funding for the arts and humanities, Harrington says. “If you go to a high school where there’s no more music programs, no more arts programs and you can’t afford to buy a trombone to practice with, ___5___ you’re probably not going to major in music when you get to college,” says Harrington.</p>	<p>4. chosen / chosed / choosing 5. thereby / then / thus</p>
<p>D. The amount of money parents spend on their children on educational opportunities outside of school also <i>factors into the equation</i>. Parents who ___6___ more can afford to spend more on their kids, Harrington says.</p>	<p>6. earn / gain / win</p>
<p>E. Risks are also taken into consideration. Harrington says students with lower economic ___7___ tend to major in subjects with more job availabilities. “Majoring in something like performing arts or something in the humanities <i>may be riskier in terms of job opportunities</i>,” says Harrington. “At least students think that it’s riskier in terms of later job opportunities and because of that, it’s going to be the students who have <i>a financial cushion</i> to ___8___ if they don’t immediately have a job who are going to be more likely to choose those particular majors.”</p>	<p>7. statues / statutes / statuses 8. fall back on / fall out of / fall into</p>

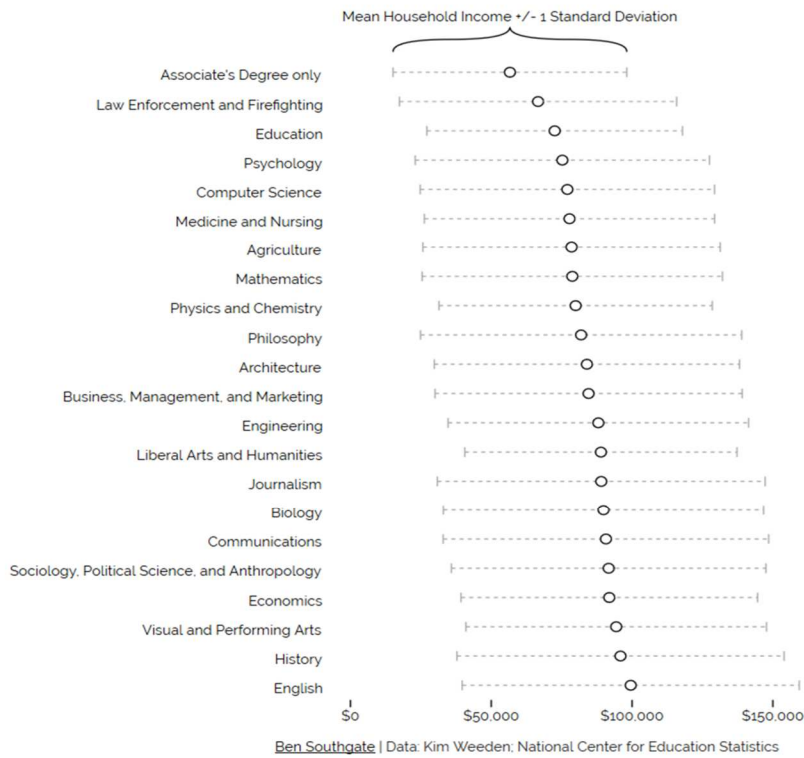
<sup>1</sup>Law enforcement : littéralement « application de la loi » ; c'est à dire, ici, les filières préparant aux métiers de la police et de la sécurité.

<sup>2</sup>Aux E.U. l'appellation des classes scolaires suit un ordre croissant ; les élèves de 'dixième' auxquels il est fait allusion ici seraient chez nous en 'seconde'.

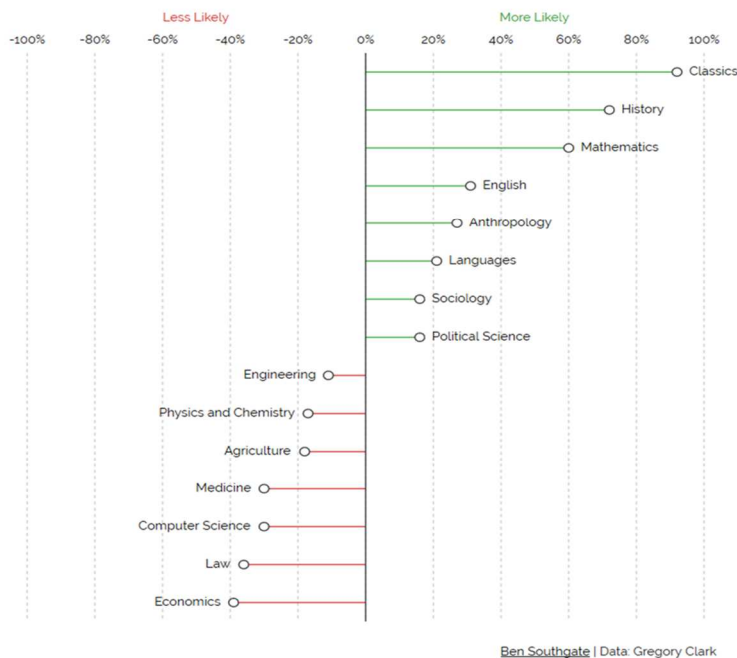
<p>F. Researchers from Georgetown University analyzed the incomes of 137 college majors and found that STEM<sup>3</sup> and business students earned ___9___ money after graduation. On the other hand, education majors as well as visual and performing arts majors were amongst the lowest earners.</p>	<p>9. the more / the most / the less</p>
<p>G. Emily Carlson, who studies English at New York University, says she has noticed this trend. "I think that it makes sense that students from higher-income families feel more flexibility to pursue majors like the liberal arts that are traditionally known to not pay ___10___ other majors after graduation," says Carlson.</p>	<p>10. as good as / as well as / better as</p>
<p>She has also noticed a connection between students who pursue undergraduate liberal arts degrees and ___11___ from wealthier backgrounds who may be more likely to pursue graduate degrees.</p>	<p>11. whose / those / their</p>
<p>H. "I also wonder if many of these students pursue the liberal arts because they plan to attend graduate school, and therefore ___12___ that they need to choose a major that is applicable to the job market for their undergraduate degree," says Carlson. "Whereas students from lower-income families may be more focused on getting a job that will pay well immediately, and thus gravitate toward more practical majors."</p>	<p>12. didn't feel / hasn't felt / don't feel</p>
<p>I. For Karen Aguirre, a student at Mercer County Community College, earning an associate's degree is integral to her career path. Aguirre, <i>a first-generation student</i>, says neither of her parents ___13___ to attend college in their home country but have been very supportive of her decision to pursue a degree.</p>	<p>13. have been able / would be able / were able</p>
<p>"I decided to pursue an associate's degree because I want to be someone in life," says Aguirre. "___14___ doors to different jobs and opportunities."</p>	<p>14. It opens / It's open / Its opens</p>
<p>J. ___15___, Lloyd Van Tuyle, a history student at Siena Heights University, believes young adults from lower socioeconomic backgrounds should pursue liberal arts degrees. It is important to have a diversity of voices in liberal arts disciplines, says Van Tuyle.</p>	<p>15. on other hand / on the other side / on the other hand</p>
<p>"I never came from a family of great means but I was encouraged to do what I was good at," says Van Tuyle. "It's troubling that this education [liberal arts education] is more and more ___16___ on the side of people of higher socioeconomic status."</p>	<p>16. being leveraged / leveraging / been leveraging</p>

**Table 1 : How Does Choice of College Major Correlate With Parents' Household Income?**

<sup>3</sup>STEM = Science, **T**echnology, **M**ath



**Table 2 : How Much More or Less Likely Are Cambridge Students With Rare, Elite Surnames to Choose Certain Majors?**



Key : left-hand side = less likely ; right-hand side = more likely

**Table 3 : Median Mid-Career Yearly Earnings, by College Major**

\$20,000      \$40,000      \$60,000      \$80,000

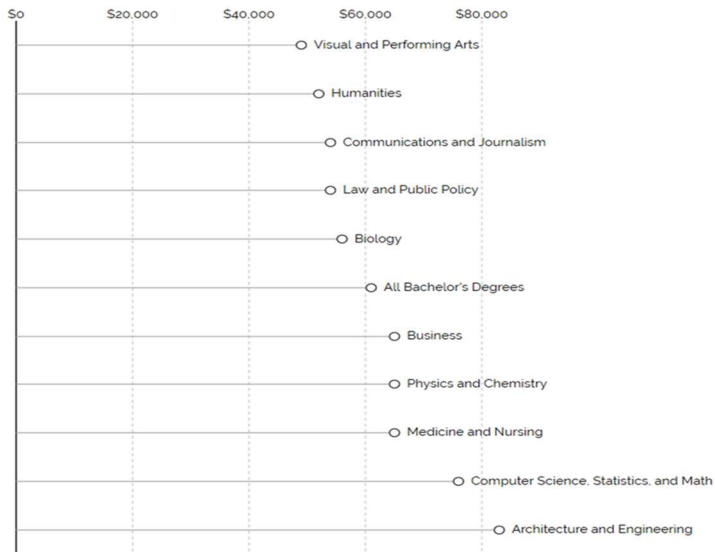
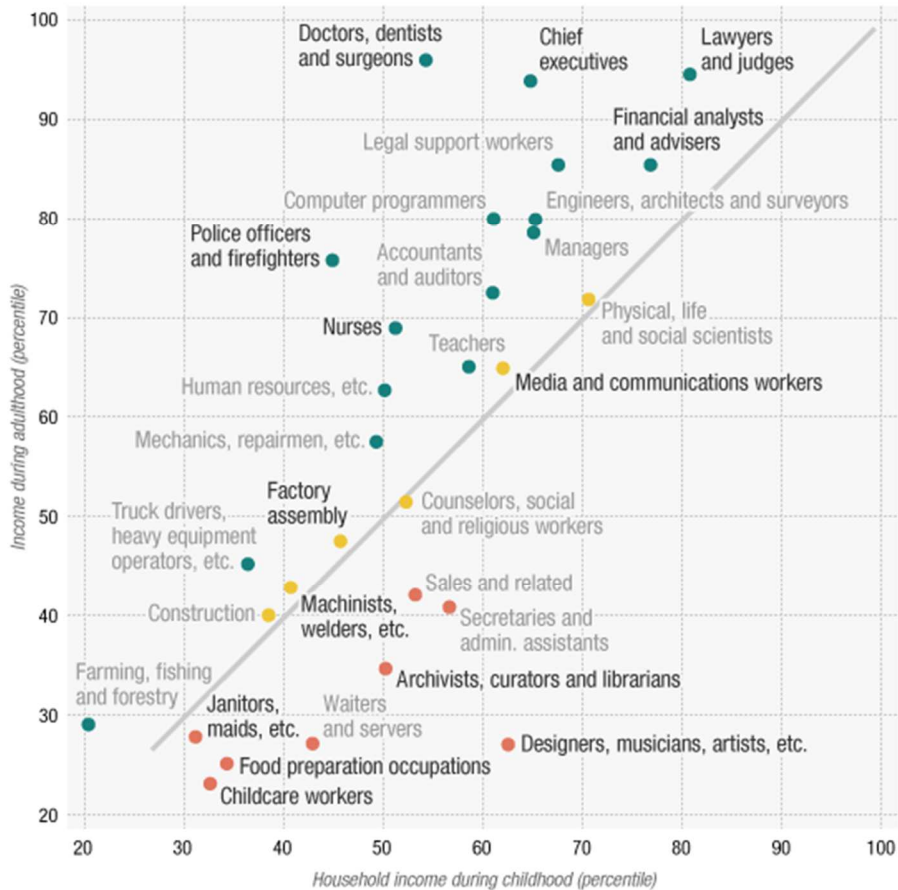


Table 4 : Who had richer parents ? Doctors or artists ?

### The Big Picture

#### Household income during childhood vs. income during adulthood

● Did better than parents ● Did about the same as parents ● Did worse than parents



## Questions on the text and the supplementary tables

### A . Vocabulary and syntax.

**A1.** Find the words corresponding to the following definitions. [2,5pts]

1. (noun) a specialization in a given field of study in college; (verb) to specialize in a given field of study in college;
2. the members of a family living together in a home, considered as a whole, for fiscal or statistical purposes;
3. the money that people obtain from their work;
4. the day or ceremony when a student is awarded a degree;
5. the academic disciplines that do not include STEM or business (see footnote on page 2)

**A2.** For each gap in the text numbered 1 to 16, choose the correct missing form from the lists on the right-hand side. [4 pts]

**A3.** Explain and/or reformulate in English. Do NOT translate [2,5pts]

1. "factors into the equation" (§ D)
2. "may be riskier in terms of job opportunities" (§ E)
3. "a financial cushion" (§ E)
3. "a first-generation student" (§ I)
5. "I never came from a family of great means" (§ J)

### B. Text analysis. Multiple Choice Questions

**B1.** Choose the ONE correct answer. [6 pts]

A - Kim Harrington studied:

- (a) data from the National Center for Education Statistics
- (b) English and history
- (c) at Georgetown University
- (d) all of the above

B - The data surveyed

- (a) people aged 12 and over
- (b) students between 10th grade and graduate school
- (c) students between the age of 12 and high school graduation
- (d) over 12,000 people including 10th graders and college graduates

C - Pre-college musical education

- (a) is more often than not denied to wealthier students
- (b) does not influence a student's choice of college major
- (c) encourages financially-secure students to opt for liberal arts/humanities

(d) none of the above

D - Generally speaking, poorer students

(a) are denied equal access to art education at school

(b) learn better through extra-curricular educational activities

(c) all of the above

(d) none of the above

E - Students with wealthier backgrounds tend to

(a) choose majors that involve longer studies

(b) lack motivation in finding jobs upon graduation

(c) graduate earlier

(d) both (a) and (b)

F - According to Mr. Van Tuyle,

(a) an education in the liberal arts is a useless pursuit

(b) wealthier students should leverage their education

(c) poorer students are perfectly legitimate in the liberal arts

(d) none of the above

**B2. Look carefully at the four tables and answer the following questions :**

[aucune erreur = 2 points ; 1 erreur = 1 point ; + d'1 erreur = 0 point]

For each question, the choice is between 1, 2, 3, 4 or  $\emptyset$  ( $\emptyset$  meaning that no table corresponds to the proposition)

**Circle or highlight** the correct answer for each proposition

**Which table... :**

- |  |                             |
|--|-----------------------------|
| A. correlates parents' income with their children's income ?   | 1   2   3   4   $\emptyset$ |
| B. correlates family name with choice of university major ?  | 1   2   3   4   $\emptyset$ |
| C. establishes a direct link between ethnicity and access to education                                     | 1   2   3   4   $\emptyset$ |
| D. establishes a link between a family's income and the choice of education made by a child of that family | 1   2   3   4   $\emptyset$ |
| E. compares annual income based on choice of university major  | 1   2   3   4   $\emptyset$ |
| F. associates adult income with type of higher-learning institution  | 1   2   3   4   $\emptyset$ |

### C. Grammar, syntax, lexis.

1. Ask a question about the part of the sentence that is underlined. [3 pts]

Here's an example : She has sent them a postcard.

→ What has she sent them ?

1. The information collected is a nationally representative data set.
2. Researchers analyzed the incomes of 137 college majors.
3. I decided to pursue an associate's degree because I want to be someone in life.

2. Use the prompt to rewrite the passages in inverted commas : [2 pts]

Example (not in text) : "They will not be allowed to go out until they the war is over."

→ Not until... *the war is over will they be allowed to go out* .

- a. "I decided to pursue an associate's degree because I want to be someone in life"

→ The reason I decided...

- b. « It is important to have a diversity of voices in liberal arts disciplines »

→ To have...

- c. « education majors as well as visual and performing arts majors were amongst the lowest earners. »

→ Amongst the lowest earners were...

- d. « ... students from lower-income families may be more focused on getting a job that will pay well immediately »

→ Focusing on getting a job that will pay well immediately is typical of...

### D. Writing / Summarising [8 pts]

Choose one.

1. Use your own experience as a student to say whether you agree or disagree with some / most / all / none / of the aspects discussed in the article . Write no fewer than 120 words.

2. Summarise the main findings of the research mentioned in both the text and the tables, in 60 to 80 words. Use the 'W' questions to base your summary on (What / When / Who / Why...etc)

