

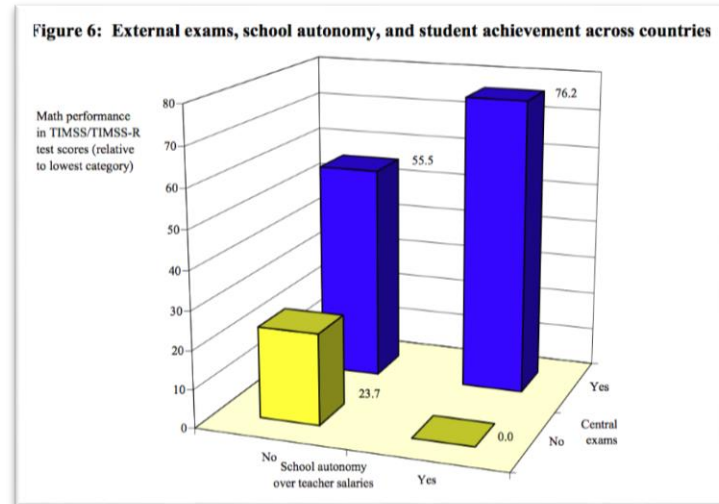
# Comprehensive State-Wide Senior Exams

## Reason No. 3: Comprehensive Exams are Best for Students' Learning

### 1. The Hanushek and Woessmann Study

In the landmark study *The Economics of International Differences in Educational Achievement* (2010), Hanushek and Woessman show that:

- Central exams are a key factor in student achievement,
- School independence only helps when the state/country has external exams,
- Results in mathematics and science link directly to economic growth



### 2. Simplicity

- One end-of-school comprehensive exam in each subject is a sufficient audit to ensure that every topic within a subject is taught.
- Schools retain their unique character while receiving confirmation of authenticity.
- The alternative, of year-round micromanagement by a central authority has been demonstrated counter-productive (by Qld).

### 3. Synthesis of Learning

- Preparing for a comprehensive, end-of-year exam brings together (synthesizes) all of the various topics taught and reinforces all that was learned, for the long-term.

### 4. Good Preparation

- Studying for school exit exams is ideal preparation for tertiary study and for careers which require mastery over a chosen field.
- The focus and organisation students employ to prepare for final school exams, is good preparation for the future demands of full-time work and important life events.

