

# EVALUATING *our* EDUCATION:

## What Americans *Really* Think About Our School Subjects

From a young age, we learned it's cool to stay in school, but just how well does that schooling stay with us? Surely, our education's usefulness depends on the career fields we pursue, but that doesn't necessarily mean we value the subjects we've learned according to how useful they've been in our lives. Here, we take a look at America's feelings on school subjects.

### WHICH SUBJECT HAS BEEN MOST VALUABLE IN YOUR LIFE?

Math



34%

Unchanged since 2002

English/Literature/Reading



21%

Down from 24% in 2002

Science/Physics/Biology



12%

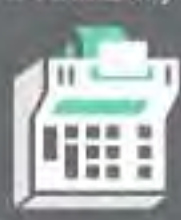
Biggest gainer, up from 4% in '02

History



8%

Business/Finance/Accounting



4%

Geography



3%

Psychology



3%

Economics



2%

Art/Theater/Music



2%

Foreign Language/Language Arts



1%

Home Economics



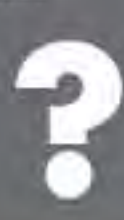
1%

Theology/Religion



1%

Other



2%

All



1%

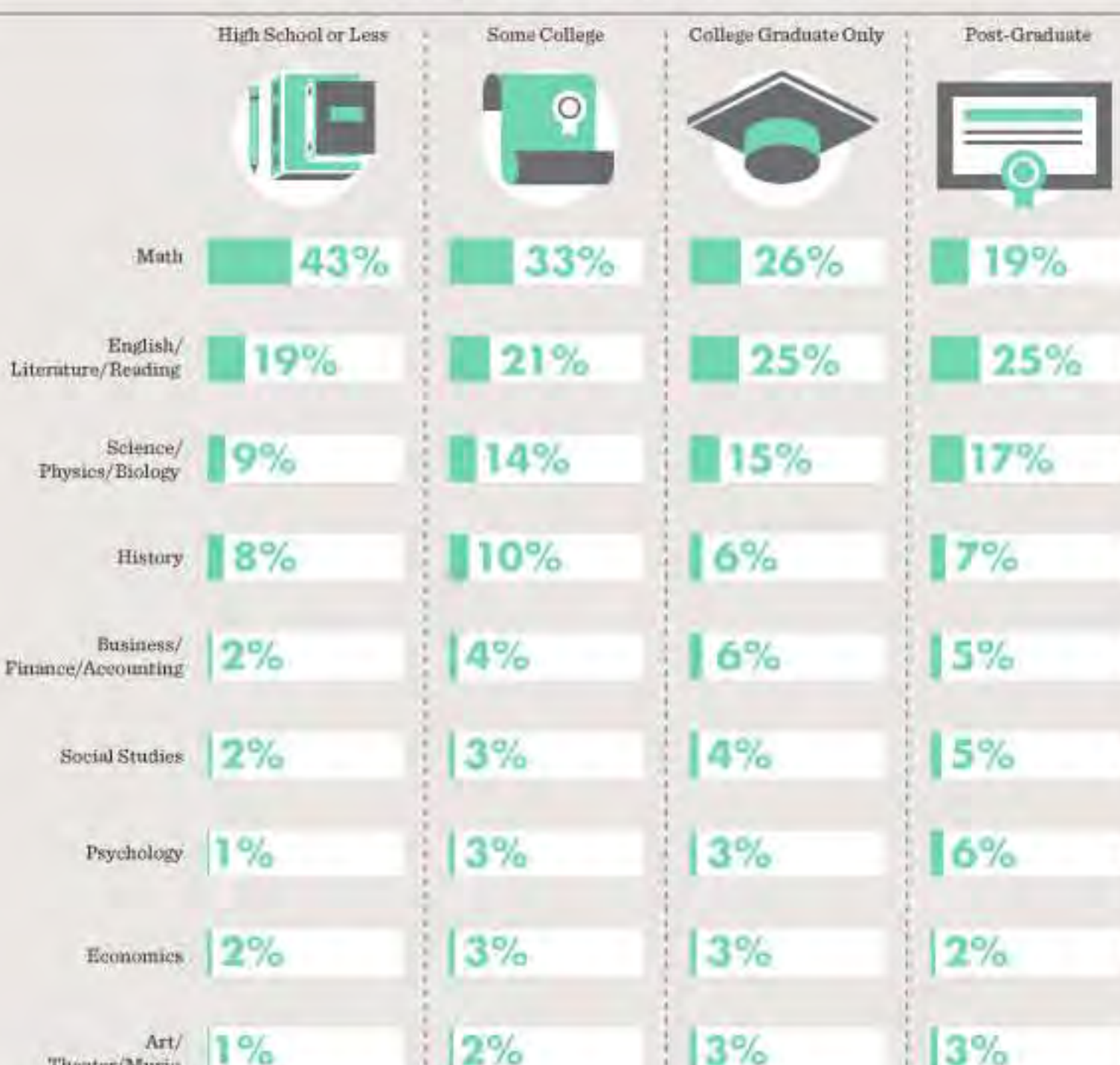
### CLASS ACTIVENSNESS

When measured across respondents' education levels, **MATH** still resonates as most valuable across the board; however, its expressed value sharply declines with each successive level of education.



Across education levels, respondents ranked English and science of utmost importance behind math, but people value these subjects increasingly with level of schooling.

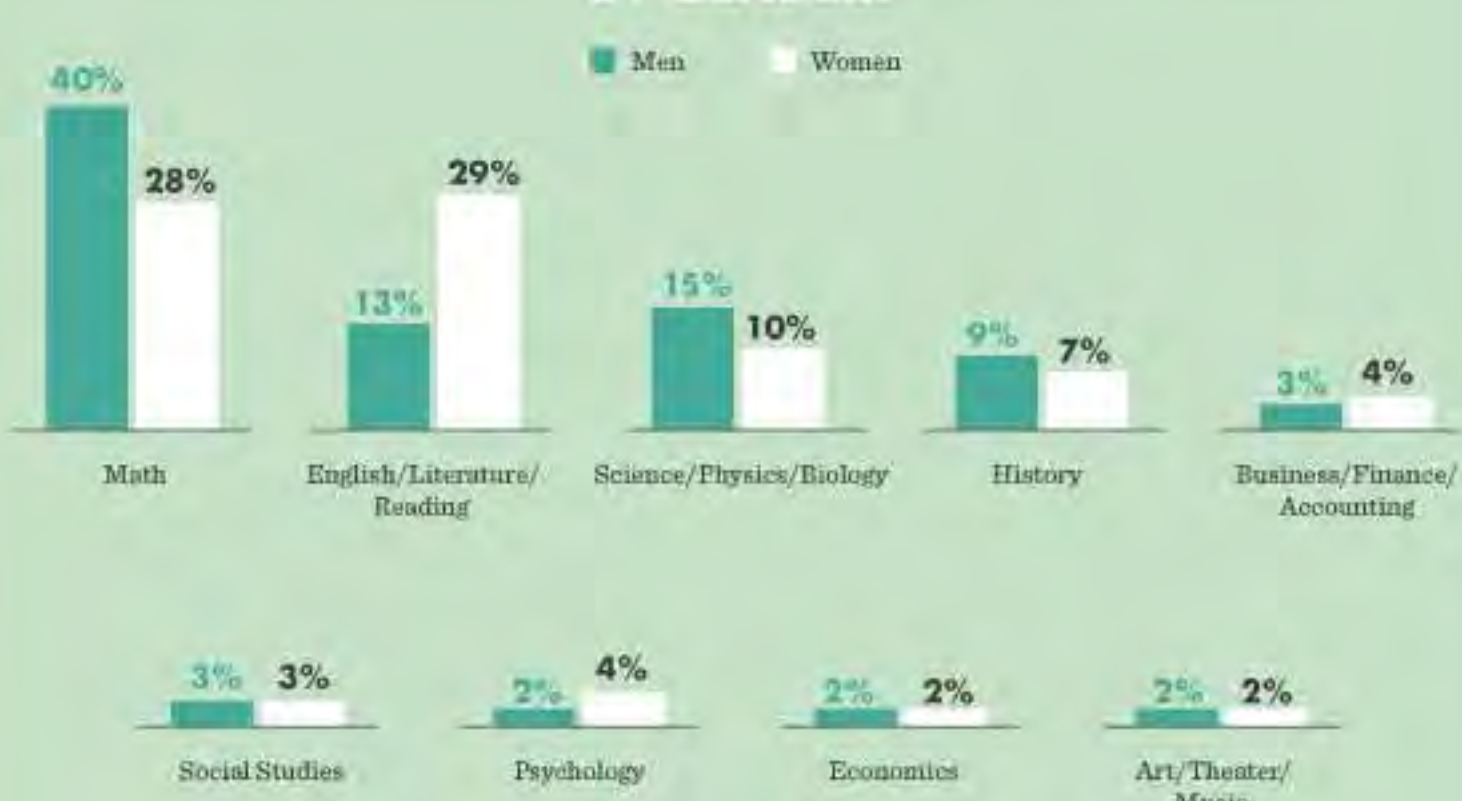
### MOST VALUABLE SUBJECT STUDIED IN SCHOOL, BY EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT:



### OF MATH AND MEN

Men value math higher than women, but only slightly, with English just barely leading among the ladies.

### MOST VALUABLE SUBJECT STUDIED IN SCHOOL, BY GENDER:



Americans continue to value math highest among educational subjects; however, the subject's left-brain counterpart, science, has gained on runner-up English in the past decade. Yet, this trend unfolds differently among education levels. It will be interesting to see how adults' retrospective judgment of their education evolves as the next generation graduates into the workforce.