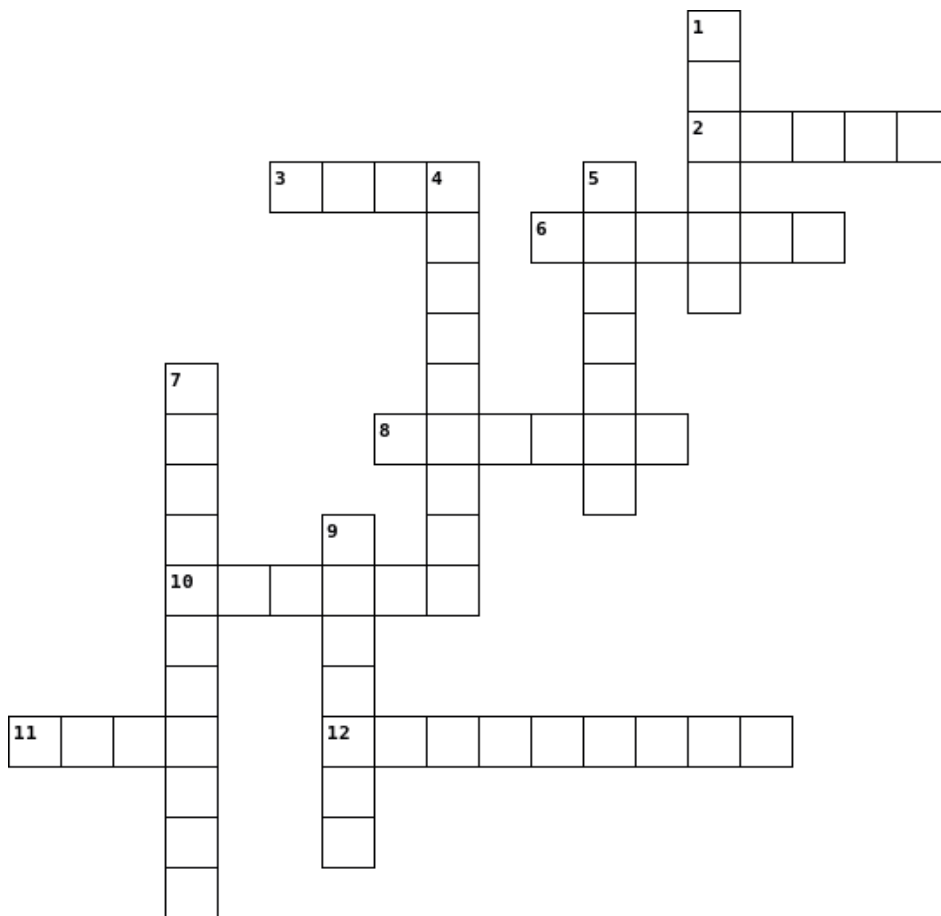


The Tyranny of Merit by Michael Sandel (RSA Minimate:)

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dRoIGQ3QJPE>; subtitles available)

In 2020, the American philosopher published a book challenging meritocracy. The video summarises some of his arguments. Listen – with subtitles if necessary – and decide whether these sentences are true or false. Then try do the crossword. The answers are at the bottom of the page.

- 1/ Winners believe they earn their success. (true/false)
- 2/ They correctly evaluate the luck they have had. (true/false)
- 3/ The winners believe that people on the bottom are just unlucky. (true/false)
- 4/ Awareness of contingency leads to humility. (true/false)
- 5/ A perfect sense of meritocracy helps us see that we have a common fate with others. (true/false)
- 6/ A meritocracy is favourable to solidarity. (true/false)
- 7/ The idea that “you can make it if you try”, helps everyone. (true/false)
- 8/ Meritocracy leads people who “fail” to believe it is their fault. (true/false)
- 9/ The politics of humiliation combines resentment of the winners, and nagging self doubt. (true/false)
- 10/ To revive democratic politics, we need to strengthen meritocracy further. (true/false)



Across

2. links, connections
3. excessively self-satisfied or complacent
6. to expel, to drive away
8. gift, great capacity of ability
10. to breath in (air)
11. destiny, luck, chance
12. causing resentment, animosity

Down

1. pride or arrogance
4. a real or supposed cause for complaint
5. scolding, complaining, tormenting
7. the condition of being dependent, uncertainty
9. irritating, bitterly humiliating

1/ true; 2/ false; 3/ false; 4/ true; 5/ false; 6/ false; 7/ false; 8/ true; 9/ true; 10/ false

Crossword answers: Across: 2/ Bonds; 3/ Smug; 6/ Banish; 8/ Talents; 10/ Inhale; 11/ Fate; 12/ Invidious/

Down: 1/ Hubris; 4/ Grievance 5/ Nagging; 7/ Contingency; 9/ Galling.