

# Education

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## Content

- Definition: Education is the process of receiving knowledge, skills, values, beliefs, and habits, usually in a systematic manner at an institution of instruction like a school.
- What are the various aspects of education: SPERMGT
  - Social mobility & Educational equality: Is it achieved yet?
  - Political stability: HEHESS
  - Economic benefit
  - Race & Religion: How to manage a multiracial society (Singapore VS China)?
  - Media, Globalisation & Technology
- What makes an educated individual:
- What are the macro-aims of education:
  - Intellectual discipline (critical/analytical thinking)
  - Psychological and emotional maturity
  - Skills for a more specialised labour force
  - Role education: Education helps discover interests and talents.
  - Social stratification VS Social inequality
- What is the best form of education:
 

Finland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Starting school late (7 years old, 9 am)</li> <li>◦ Holistic learning</li> <li>◦ High accountability for teachers</li> <li>◦ Less homework and more outside work</li> <li>◦ No standardised tests (no cram)</li> <li>◦ School facilities: Free meals, counselling, healthcare, Individual guidance</li> </ul>
Singapore	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Coherent and pragmatic teaching (effective)</li> <li>◦ “Teach less, Learn more” &amp; Technology</li> <li>◦ Stress</li> </ul>
China	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ 9-year compulsory education</li> <li>◦ Long hours &amp; Heavy content (effective)</li> <li>◦ Lack of communication &amp; problem-solving skills</li> <li>◦ Disinterest due to lack of clear goals (achievement obsession)</li> </ul>
- What is the impact of media and technology on what and how teachers teach/students learn:
  - Social media
  - Technological tools

## Statistics

- Compulsory Education Act: In Singapore, all children need to complete 6 years of primary education before they turn 15.

- China: 9-year compulsory education.
- Both China and Singapore spend about 4% of its GDP on education each year.
- Singapore literacy rate: 97% for all, 98.7% for male, 95.5% for female.
- China literacy rate: 96.7% for all, 98% for male, 95% for female
- Niger literacy rate: 25% for all, 31% for male, 19% for female
- Average literacy rate in developed countries: 99%
- Average literacy rate in the world: 86% for all, 90% for male, 82% for female

### **Questions**

- 'Books serve little purpose in education as technological developments become more sophisticated.' How far do you agree?
- 'Education should only be concerned with what is useful in life.' Discuss.
- 'Only educated people should have the right to vote in elections.' Discuss.
- The word failure should never be used in education. Discuss.
- 'Conformity should be the main aim of all schools.' How far is this true?