

Education

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:

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