

How has the UK education system changed?



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The diversity of educational provision

Government policies from 1988 onwards, including vocational and work-based training

Ideological influences on government educational policy:

- New Right
- social democratic

The impact of educational policies on:

- competition, diversity and choice
- raising standards
- equality and equality of opportunity

consider different types of educational institutions, including different types of school.

consider a range of policies from 1988 onwards. Any contemporary educational policy will be rewarded where relevant.

explore the links between educational policies and ideological influences.

consider educational policy in relation to gender, class and ethnicity.





Types of school in the UK



Produce a short presentation about one of the types of school

Types of school:

1. Community schools
2. Foundation schools
3. Academies (Traditional / OLD)
4. Academies (NEW)
5. Faith Schools
6. Free Schools
7. City technology colleges
8. State boarding schools
9. Private (/independent/public) schools
- 10 . Special schools
11. Grammar Schools

For each try to find out:

- The curriculum;
- The students (admissions)
- How they are paid for
- Governance
- Accountability
- An example of this type of school

<https://www.gov.uk/types-of-school/overview>

<http://www.newschoolsnetwork.org/sites/default/files/files/pdf/Differences%20across%20school%20types.pdf>

Community Schools

Faith Schools

Private schools

Free Schools

Academies (OLD)

City Technology Colleges

Foundation schools

Academies (NEW)

State Boarding Schools

Grammar Schools

Special Schools

The New Right's View of Education

Underlying principles of the New Right

They believe the state (government) cannot meet people's needs.

The most efficient way to meet people's needs is through the free market – through private businesses competing with each other.

Economic growth is an important overall goal – to be achieved by allowing individuals the freedom to compete with each other.

Key ideas of The New Right on Education-

The New Right created an 'education market' – Schools were run like businesses – competing with each other for pupils and parents were given the choice over which school they send their children to rather than being limited to the local school in their catchment area. This led to the establishment of **league tables**

Schools should teach subjects that prepare pupils for work, Hence education should be aimed at supporting economic growth. **Hence: New Vocationalism!**

The state was to provide a framework in order to ensure that schools were all teaching the same thing and transmitting the same shared values – hence the **National Curriculum**

Social Democratic Views

Covers a broad range of views and elements can be found in Labour, LibDem and even Conservative policies.

Underlying principles of Social Democracy:

Social Democracy though is a middle way between the free market right and the socialist left.

It advocates a mixed economy and believes the state should help the poor and disadvantaged and act like a referee - ensuring people and society stick to the rules and behave properly.

There is a desire for meritocracy, but recognises that the system as it stands is unable to deliver. Social democrats believe that it is possible to work within the capitalism to create a fairer system. However they still argue that some inequality of outcome is inevitable and desirable.

Key ideas of Social Democrats on Education -

In education policy this has meant - providing state schools and free education for all, giving extra resources and help to those who need it. Providing grants and help for able pupils who cannot afford fee paying educational institutions, whether they be schools or establishments of higher education.

Halsey argued that the grammar-school system disadvantaged working-class children. The 11+ exam tested middle-class culture and falsely labelled working-class children as less intelligent. Social democrats believed that the tripartite system should be abolished and replaced by the comprehensive system.

1960s	1979-1997	1997-2010	2010-201...
Labour introduced comprehensive education	Conservative Influenced by New Right mainly	Labour Influenced by BOTH New Right and Social Democrats	2010-2015 coalition with Conservative and Lib Dems 2015-present Conservative

Educational change:

1988 Educational Reform Act

This is one of the most important pieces of educational legislation. It led to significant changes to the purpose, structure and delivery of education. You may be asked questions about how far the aims of the act have been met.

Read the information on pages 155-158, page 617-620 of Haralambos (not the bit on vocational education and training) and the information in the old textbook pg 51 & 52. Use this to make notes on the 1988 Education Reform Act.

Identify:

- Aims (top of page 617 Haralambos)
- How the aims were achieved (identify each part of the act and what it was trying to achieve – all three sources)
- Criticisms of each aspect – all three sources, but specifically reference Ball et al, Gewirtz et al & Glatter et al

Education and social policy

The key aims of the political parties has been (variously) to achieve the following:

- Competition, diversity and choice
- Raising standards
- Equality and equality of opportunity

Use pages 154-163 - Identify policies that attempted to achieve each of these objectives. For each policy identify the following (where possible):

- Date
- Detail
- How it reflects New Right / Social Democrat policy
- Evidence of success / failure

Evaluate how successful each successive government has been across the three areas.

Education and social policy

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- Competition, diversity and choice
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Identify evidence that suggests that the aim has been met (consider policies and any other evidence).

Identify evidence that suggests that the aim has not been met (can use evidence from any part of the course)

Come to a judgement as to how far the aim has been met. Explain your judgement.

Read page 163.

Summarise the impact of educational policies on class, gender and ethnic inequalities in education.

Exam questions to answer:

1. In what ways does a child's ethnicity influence his or her educational attainment? 10 marks
2. To what extent are boys now under achieving in education compared to girls? 20 marks
3. Assess the extent to which policies of marketisation of education have helped to improve educational opportunities for all children. 40 marks