

The UK Education System



History of Education

- Before 1870 **no organised system!**
 - some Church schools for the poor (most children worked)
 - fee-paying schools for the rich (**grammar, public**) Girls and boys were separated
- **1870 Education Act** introduced **elementary schools** from age **5-14** (**no free**)
- For over 14 year olds - fee-paying schools
- **1944 Education Act**: created equality of opportunity - free **compulsory** secondary education up to age 15 (raised to 16 in 1972; to 18 in 2015) Why was age raised?

Stages

Pre-school/n ursery	3-5	voluntary
Primary	5-11	compulsory
Secondary	11-18	compulsory

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Compulsory_education



Selection at age 11

What happens at age 11?

Before 1970s :

- Grammar schools (more academic students - top 20%)
- Secondary schools (less academic pupils)

Government **abolished** this system.

Why do you think this happened?

What is your opinion of this ?



Secondary schools today

- 90% secondary schools are now open to children of all abilities (comprehensive)
- BUT some areas (Buckinghamshire, Kent...) retain grammar school system which favour academically successful pupils [11-plus test]

Comprehensive schools

- Average size > 1000 pupils
- Most are mixed gender, some single-sex schools
- National Curriculum sets levels of attainment
- Schools graded into **League Tables** based on results at 11 & 16 – competition for places in 'best' schools, families relocate to 'better' catchment areas

ACADEMIES

- What are Academies ?
- publicly funded **independent** schools

What does this mean?

- They **do not have to follow** the national curriculum and can set their own term times
- They still have to follow the same rules on admissions, special educational needs and exclusions as other state schools
- They get **money direct from the government**, not **local council/authority**
- <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-13274090>

Academies

Some academies have **sponsors** such as

- ▣ businesses
- ▣ universities
- ▣ **faith** groups
- ▣ or **voluntary** groups
- ▣ Sponsors are responsible for improving the performance of their schools
- ▣ *<https://www.gov.uk/types-of-school/academies>*

GCSEs

- At age 16 students take GCSEs (9 or 10 subjects)

Which subjects are compulsory ?

English, maths, science & Religious Education (RE)

- Schools are measured by how many pupils achieve grades 5-9 in five subjects

Post 16

Options after GCSE

School	A levels	2 or 3 subjects
FE College	Vocational subjects	Eg.mechanics hairdressing/catering
Apprenticeship	Work while you study	Eg.building/office work

School leaving age

- In 2015 school leaving age was raised to 18.

*Why? What are the benefits?

School leaving age

- ▣ <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-2262763/School-leaving-age-Children-parents-stay-school-longer-better-GCSEs-new-study-shows-boost-government-plans-raise-leaving-age.html>
- ▣ <https://www.gov.uk/know-when-you-can-leave-school>
- ▣ <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education/>

State or Private?

- Most schools are state-run, funded by central government, controlled by **local authorities**
- But 8% pupils are educated privately

***Would you prefer to educate your children in a state-run or a private school? Why?**

Private education

- Oldest traditional, high-ranking private schools are called public schools: eg. Eton ,Harrow, Rugby, Stowe

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6ic8bBeem5o>

- Many are **boarding** schools
- Emphasis on 'character building' & development of team spirit
- **Prepare young men** for high ranks of armed services, business, legal profession, politics...

William and Harry

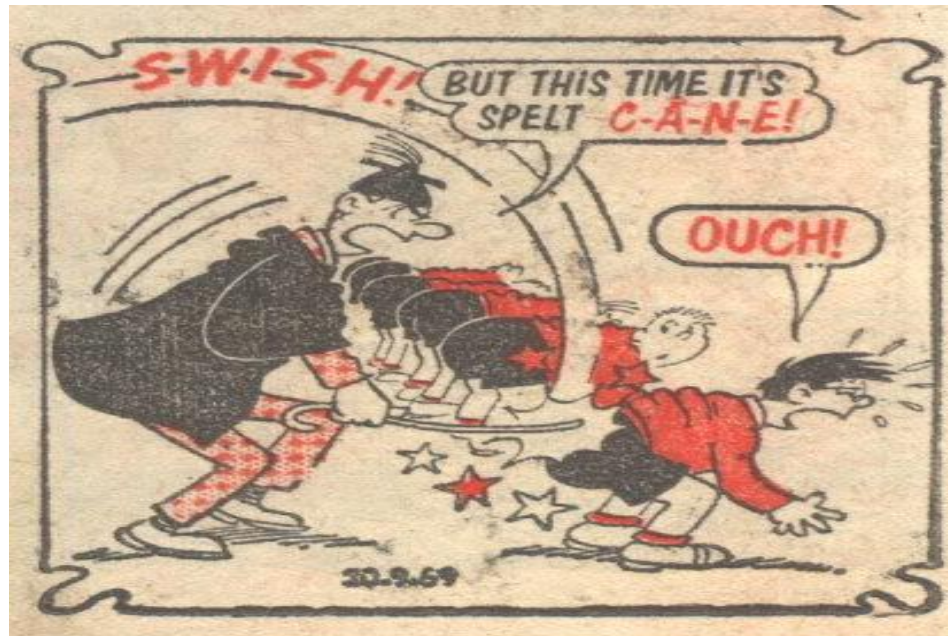




Corporal punishment

*What is corporal punishment ? Do you think it is a good thing ?

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p00g26g1>



Private education : 8% pupils

but consider the stats

- ▣ 23 % A level passes
- ▣ 25% university population
- ▣ 46% Oxford/Cambridge entrants
- ▣ Average cost = **£30 000 – £37 000** per annum
- ▣ Boarding school= **>£33 000** per annum
(>UK average earnings)
- ▣ Traditionally only for boys, now some also for girls

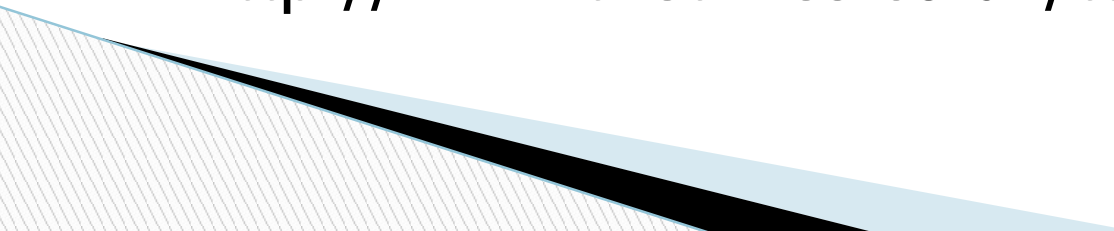
Devolution

- Scottish parliament & Welsh Assembly have responsibility for education in their nations
 - Some *variations in curriculum and assessments*
 - **No fees for Scottish university students**
 - Different qualifications at age 18
 - <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-2327986>
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Higher Education

- Universities select students on 'A' level results
- UK university teaching standards highly regarded worldwide
- 4 top Universities are British
- <http://www.topuniversities.com/university-rankings-articles/world-university-rankings/qs-world-university-rankings-201617-out-now>
- 'Oxbridge' = Oxford & Cambridge known for academic excellence
- Undergraduate usually 3 years, medicine 7-8, architecture 5 years
- BA or BSc awarded by institution

The Student Experience

- <http://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/en/uk-culture/whats-university-education-worth>
 - <http://www.timeshighereducation.co.uk/world-university-rankings/2013-14/world-ranking>
 - <http://www.guardian.co.uk/education/table/2012/may/22/university-guide-business-management-studies>
 - <http://www.theguardian.com/education/table/2013/jun/03/university-league-table-2014>
 - <http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/public/gug/>
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Recent changes in HE

- Last 10 years expansion in university education:
 - > 45 % of 18 year olds go to HE
 - Tuition fees - £9000/year for home students
 - Eligible for loan (government scheme) repaid after graduation, dependent on income (>£21 000)
 - http://www.studentloanrepayment.co.uk/portal/page_pageid=93,6678784&dad=portal&schema=PORTAL
- *What do you think about this system ?
- Many students have to work part-time
 - *Is the debt a deterrent ? Will increased fees have a negative impact on social mobility ?

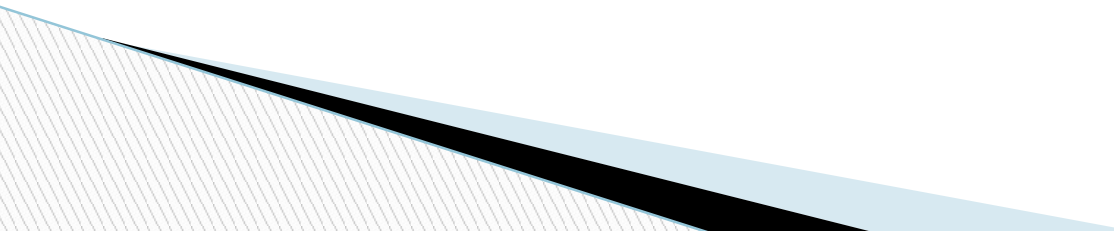
Current challenges in education - when did it all go wrong?

- Low attainment levels at age 16
- 45% leave with < 5 A-C grade GCSEs
 - especially boys
- 30% 14 year olds have reading age of only 11
- International comparisons of **attainment**

<https://www.theguardian.com/education/2016/dec/06/english-schools-core-subject-test-results-international-oecd-pisa>



Current challenges in education

- More demand for Faith schools - Church of England, Catholic, also Muslim, Jewish & Sikh
 - Teachers leaving the profession
 - Low pay and low status,
 - teacher shortage - particularly in maths, English and sciences...recruitment overseas
 - Highest pupil: teacher ratio in EU
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References

- <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p00g26g1>
- www.hero.ac.uk –gateway to HE/research
- www.dcsf.gov.uk
- www.dius.gov.uk
- <http://news.bbc.co.uk>
- Department for Children, Schools & Families
- Department for Innovation, Universities & Skills
- <http://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/en/uk-culture/whats-university-education-worth>