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01

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Education

Schools, universities and the way we learn.

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01 School subjects and practical skills

Should schools give practical skills the same importance as academic subjects?

AGREE / SUPPORTING IDEAS

1. Practical skills support everyday decisions
2. Hands-on tasks connect learning with real life
3. Financial literacy helps prevent poor money decisions

DISAGREE / OPPOSING IDEAS

1. Limited class time means competing priorities
2. Specialist practical lessons need trained staff
3. Replacing core subjects may weaken essential knowledge

A BALANCED VIEW

- Combine practical tasks with academic projects
- Adjust the balance to students' age and needs

KEY WORDS

life skills
abilities needed for daily living
teach **life skills** *early*

curriculum
subjects taught in a school
a broad **curriculum**

financial literacy
understanding how money works
improve **financial literacy**

hands-on
involving direct practice
hands-on *experience*

well-rounded
developed in many areas
a **well-rounded** *education*

core subjects
main required subjects
focus on **core subjects**

self-sufficient
able to manage without help
become **self-sufficient** *adults*

time constraints
limits caused by lack of time
due to **time constraints**

PRACTISE · 40 MINUTES

- [ ] OPINION
  Schools should spend more time teaching practical skills such as cooking, budgeting and basic repairs than academic subjects. To what extent do you agree or disagree?
- [ ] DISCUSS BOTH VIEWS
  Some people believe schools should prepare students for life, while others think the main purpose of school is academic study. Discuss both views and give your own opinion.

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02 University fees and public funding

Should university education be free for everyone?

YES / REASONS IN FAVOUR

1. Free tuition reduces financial barriers
2. More graduates can fill skilled roles
3. Students may enter work with less debt

NO / REASONS AGAINST

1. Universal funding also subsidises wealthy families
2. University spending competes with other public services
3. Free tuition does not cover rent and living costs

CONDITIONS AND SAFEGUARDS

- Target grants at students with financial need
- Protect teaching quality as access expands

KEY WORDS

tuition fees
money paid for teaching
rising **tuition fees**

student debt
money students owe after study
graduate with heavy **student debt**

public funding
money from government
increase **public funding**

subsidise
help pay part of a cost
subsidise *higher education*

means-tested
based on a person's income
means-tested *grants*

tax burden
load of taxes on people
ease the **tax burden**

accessible
easy to reach or obtain
make university **accessible**

graduate
person with a degree
a recent **graduate**

PRACTISE · 40 MINUTES

- ○ OPINION
  Governments should pay for all university tuition, so that students never need to borrow money. To what extent do you agree or disagree?
- ○ ADVANTAGES / DISADVANTAGES
  In some countries, students pay little or nothing for university, and the cost is covered by taxes. Do the advantages outweigh the disadvantages?

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