

EDUC264: The Policy Context

There are no lectures week 8-9 due to professional experience.

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WEEK 1**INTRODUCTORY LECTURE**

Minister for Education – Simon Birmingham

OECD – International education policies

HOW DO WE HEAR ABOUT EDUCATION POLICY?

- Social media
 - o Networks, Facebook, twitter
- News and print media
- Word of mouth locally
 - o Between friends, school open days, etc.

POLICY AND EDUCATION

- Education policy and policy debate surrounds us daily
- Education is in the news media and discussed on social media
- Policy debate continually shapes our views on what it is to teach and to learn, and to be a student or a teacher, or a parent, in today's schools and ECH centres.
- The determination of education policy is a values-laden, political act and, in that context, can be seen to be driven increasingly by economic imperatives and agendas.

What are some of the policy issues that are hot topics in the media or online relating to education?

- Funding of schools
- Literacy and numeracy standards for HSC
- New HSC
- NAPLAN
- Teaching standards need to be improved
- Australia's declining rank on international numeracy and literacy results

EDUCATION VS SCHOOLING**WHAT IS LEARNING?**

Learning is the act of obtaining and developing knowledge, skills and understanding from, experiences, other individuals, and the environment.

WHAT IS EDUCATION?

Education is the medium of learning.

More about a holistic person

WHAT IS SCHOOL?

A specific form of education.

Relates to conventional ideas.

- More result orientated

Specific to enhancing ideas of what we need to know.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF EDUCATION

Periods of educational history

Pre-historic

- Imitation learning
 - o Tool construction
 - o Development of stone materials was the first form of cross-generational teaching
 - Needed to acquire ability through being deliberately taught
 - Deliberate engagement in cross-generational teaching
 - Can produce something like a society or culture.
 - o An animal that does this deliberately is a crow.
- Language
 - o Talk about things that aren't physically present spatially or in time.
 - o Some theories suggest the development of language co-developed with the need to hunt and gather.
- Narratives
 - o Creation of myths by every culture that we know about.
 - o About themselves in relation to their creation and environment.
 - o Many structured around hunting, gathering and creating.

Ancient

- The academy

- First lecture notes
 - Evidence suggests that aristotles writings are a form of lecture notes
 - His prompts to deliver lectures.
 - A way of thinking about things.
- Writing to learn from people who aren't there.
- Roman schools
 - Skills and socialisation
 - Interested primarily in war
 - War – fighting and leading – military schools
- Formal examinations in china
 - Allow you to enter the government
- Buddhist “universities”
 - Buddhist tradition in India
 - Development of formal systems that confer degrees.
 - People have titles such as lecturer.

Medieval

- Bologna – 1088 – first western university??
- Universities - France, Italy and England
 - Considered the oldest continuous formal institutions in the world.
- Lectures – transmission from source books.
 - Much of the education was from traditional or religious texts
 - Only way learning occurred was through these being read to you
 - The lecturer was simply a form of translator.
 - Knowledge is stored in the texts but there was no way to reproduce the text and they were worth too much money to lend to students.

Renaissance

- Professional education
 - Law and medicine (very early version of medicine)
- Humanities
- Science

- Many universities were created
- Coincides with the invention of the printing press.

Modern

- State sponsored schools emerge
- Australia:
 - o First school 1789
 - o State sponsored by 1800s
 - o Lachlan Macquarie:
 - All children should have access to school
 - o Board of national education by 1850s

The net

- Internet destroys the notion of space
 - o Knowledge is now instant and free.
- Coincides with the development of MOOCS

NB: Five years from now, on the web for free, you'll be able to find the best lectures in the world. It will be better than any single university – Bill Gates, 2010.

Transitions

Language → writing → printing → the net

2 critics sets of concepts

FREE

- Everyone wants things to be free
- Digital technology → file sharing for free.
 - o With protection from prosecution
 - o E.g. pirate bay.
- Wikipedia
 - o Freedom to contribute regardless of your professional level.