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www.athrofa.cymru

An introduction to the Curriculum



Our expectations...

- ❑ Make good use of the University facilities and resources.
- ❑ Attend and participate in sessions.
- ❑ Act responsibly.
Trainee teachers = professional
Facebook/twitter (mindful)
- ❑ Meet assignment deadlines.
- ❑ Engage fully in all sessions.



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Key focus:

- To develop your knowledge and understanding of curriculum requirements and teaching responsibilities in the primary school.

In a nutshell...what you should be teaching... and possible ways to teach it!

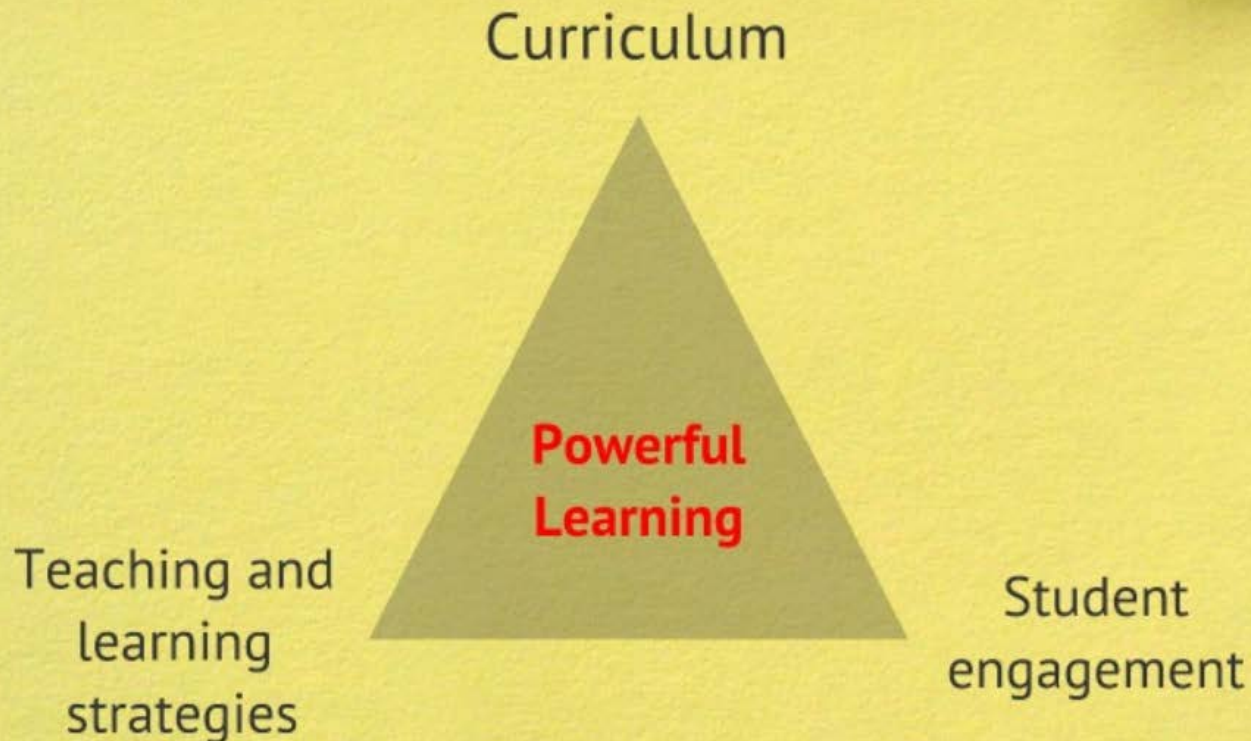


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The Instructional Core



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Summary

The module ECAD6008 has been designed to introduce you to key principles of primary teaching and learning in an evolving curriculum.



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You will be given an introduction to the play based approach to the Foundation Phase and the seven areas of learning.

Do you know what these are?



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The teaching of Key Stage 2 subjects will be considered:

- Language/s
- Mathematics
- Science
- History
- Geography
- Art
- Physical Education
- Design Technology
- ICT
- Music

Also Religious Education.

Anything special about this subject?



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Let's take a look at the session overview



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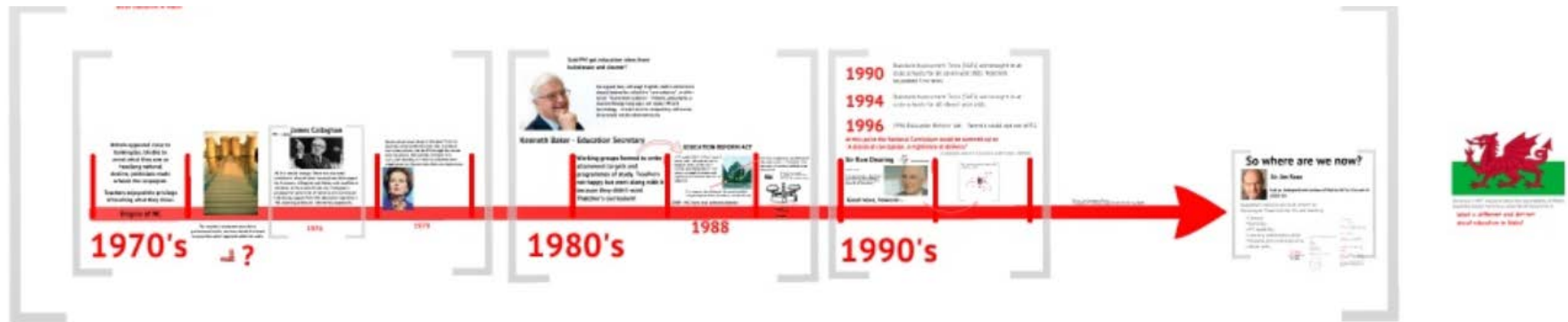


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A Brief History of the National Curriculum.



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Britain appeared close to bankruptcy. Unable to arrest what they saw as headlong national decline, politicians made schools the scapegoat.

Teachers enjoyed the privilege of teaching what they chose.

Origins of NC



1970's

The teacher's classroom was then a professional castle, and even heads hesitated to prescribe what happened within its walls.



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James Callaghan

PM - Labour



All this should change. There was too much variation in what children learned, too little regard for the basics of English and Maths, and insufficient attention to the needs of industry. Callaghan's proposal for some kind of national core curriculum had strong support from the education department. The teaching profession vehemently opposed it.

1976



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Conservatives returned under Margaret Thatcher. Local education authorities were told to produce curriculum policies, but the PM thought the results were too woolly. She wanted a national core curriculum with English, Maths and Science with simple pencil-and-paper tests that were compulsory.



1979



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**Said PM got education ideas from
hairdresser and cleaner!**



He argued that, although English, maths and science should indeed be called the "core subjects", another seven "foundation subjects" - history, geography, a modern foreign language, art, music, PE and technology - should also be compulsory; otherwise, they would not be taken seriously

Kenneth Baker - Education Secretary

EDUCATION REFORM ACT

**Working groups formed to write
attainment targets and
programmes of study. Teachers
not happy but went along with it
because they didn't want
Thatcher's curriculum!**

A 10 -subject National Curriculum is introduced in all state schools in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, prescribing what children should be taught to ensure each pupil is given the same standard of education.



The monster that followed - the most detailed and prescriptive national curriculum in the world!

1989 - NC intro into primary schools

1980's

1988

Government

The Tory traditionalists who wanted knowledge and old-fashioned exercises - grammar in English, long division in maths, dates in history, "capes and bays" in geography.



Kenneth Baker

= wanted poetry by heart.



Kenneth Clarke

= wanted Jazz in music.



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Teachers

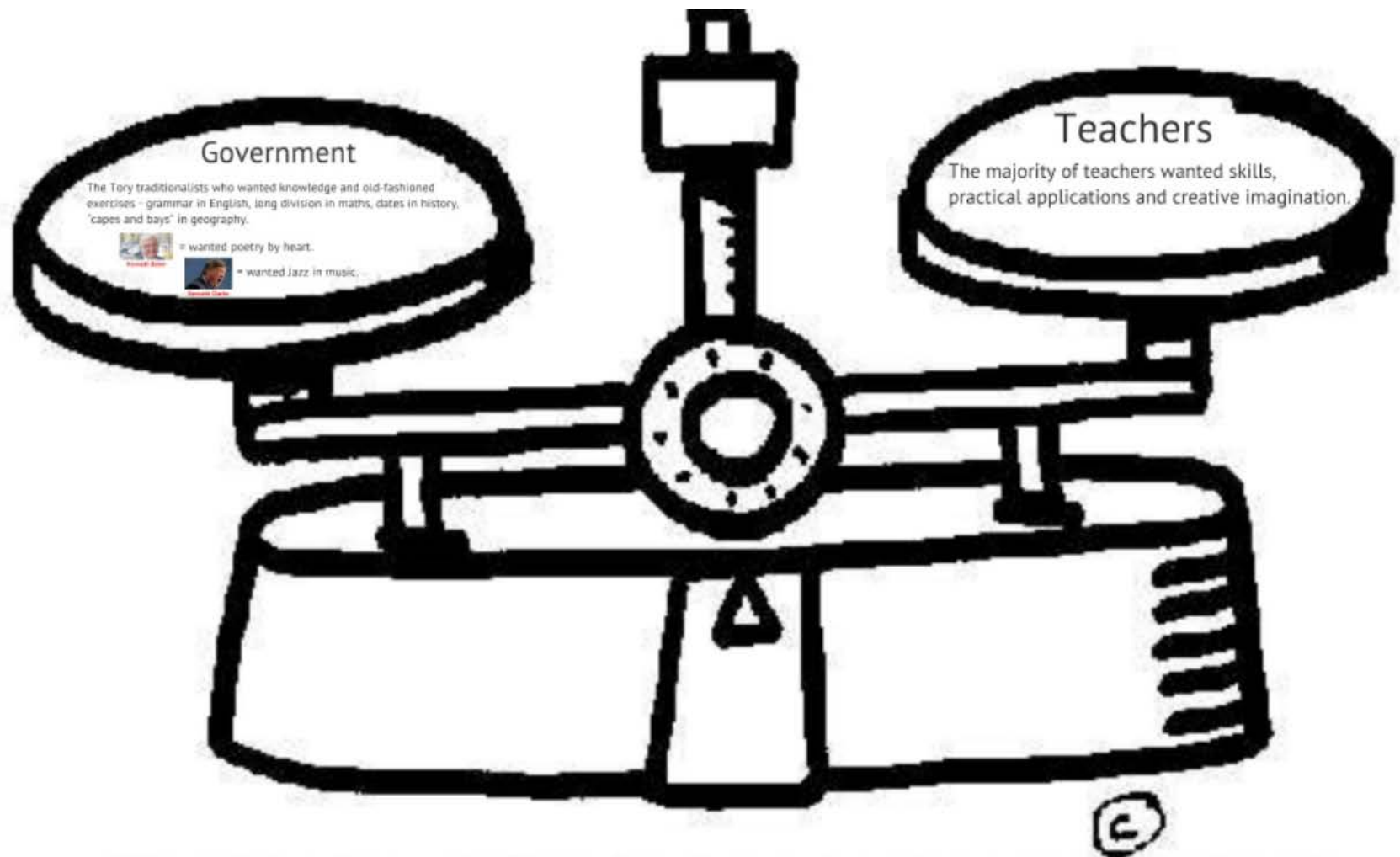
The majority of teachers wanted skills,
practical applications and creative imagination.



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The National Curriculum had to satisfy both.



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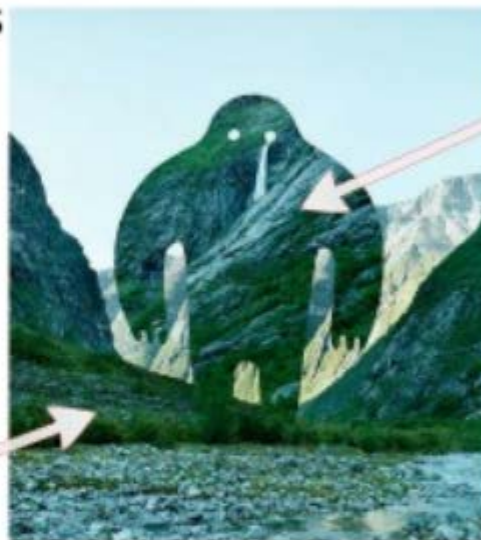
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1990's

1990

Standard Assessment Tests (SATs) are brought in at state schools for all seven year olds. Teachers boycotted first tests.

1994

Standard Assessment Tests (SATs) are brought in at state schools for all eleven year olds.

1996

1996 Education Reform Act - Parent's could opt out of RE.

**At this point the National Curriculum could be summed up as
"A dream at conception, a nightmare at delivery"**

(Campbell, cited in Alexander and Flutter, 2009:6).

Sir Ron Dearing



Gov. trouble shooter

Ron did a review.

On his recommendation, study programmes were simplified and schools told that, in theory, they could use 20 per cent of the timetable at their own discretion.



Good news, however...



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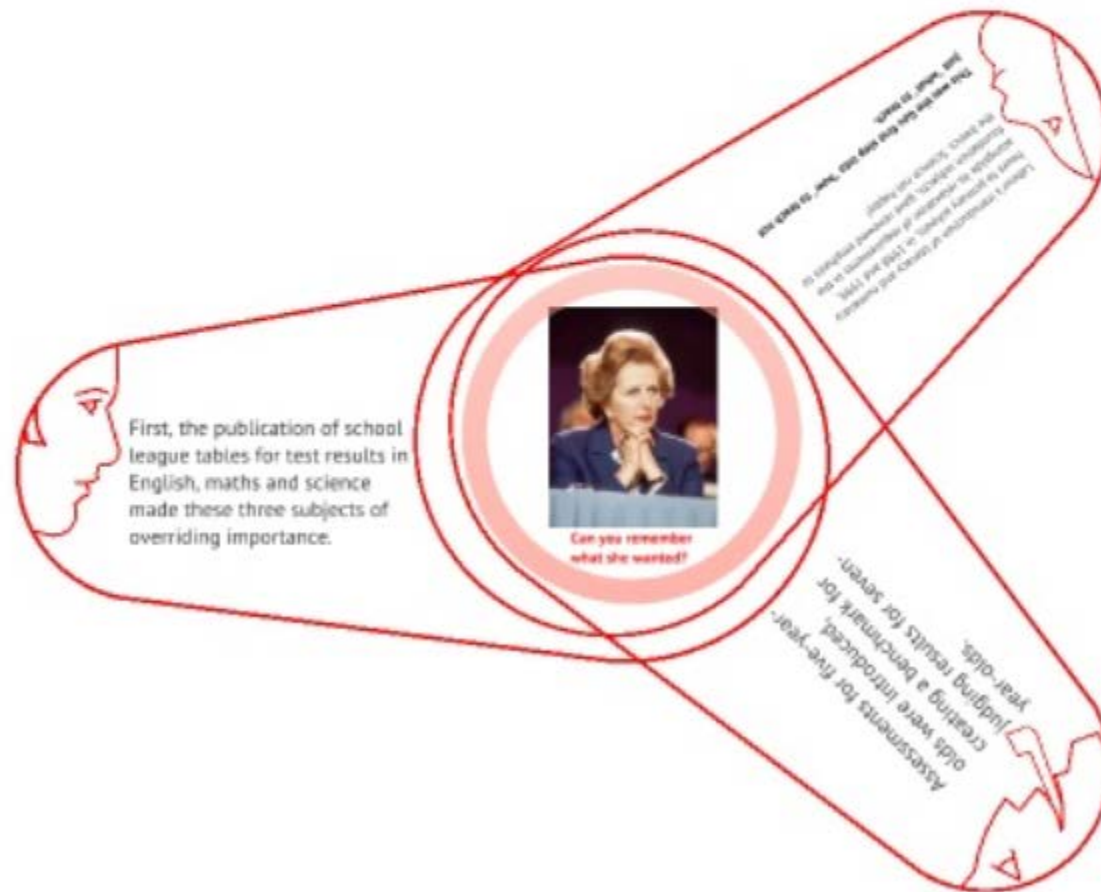


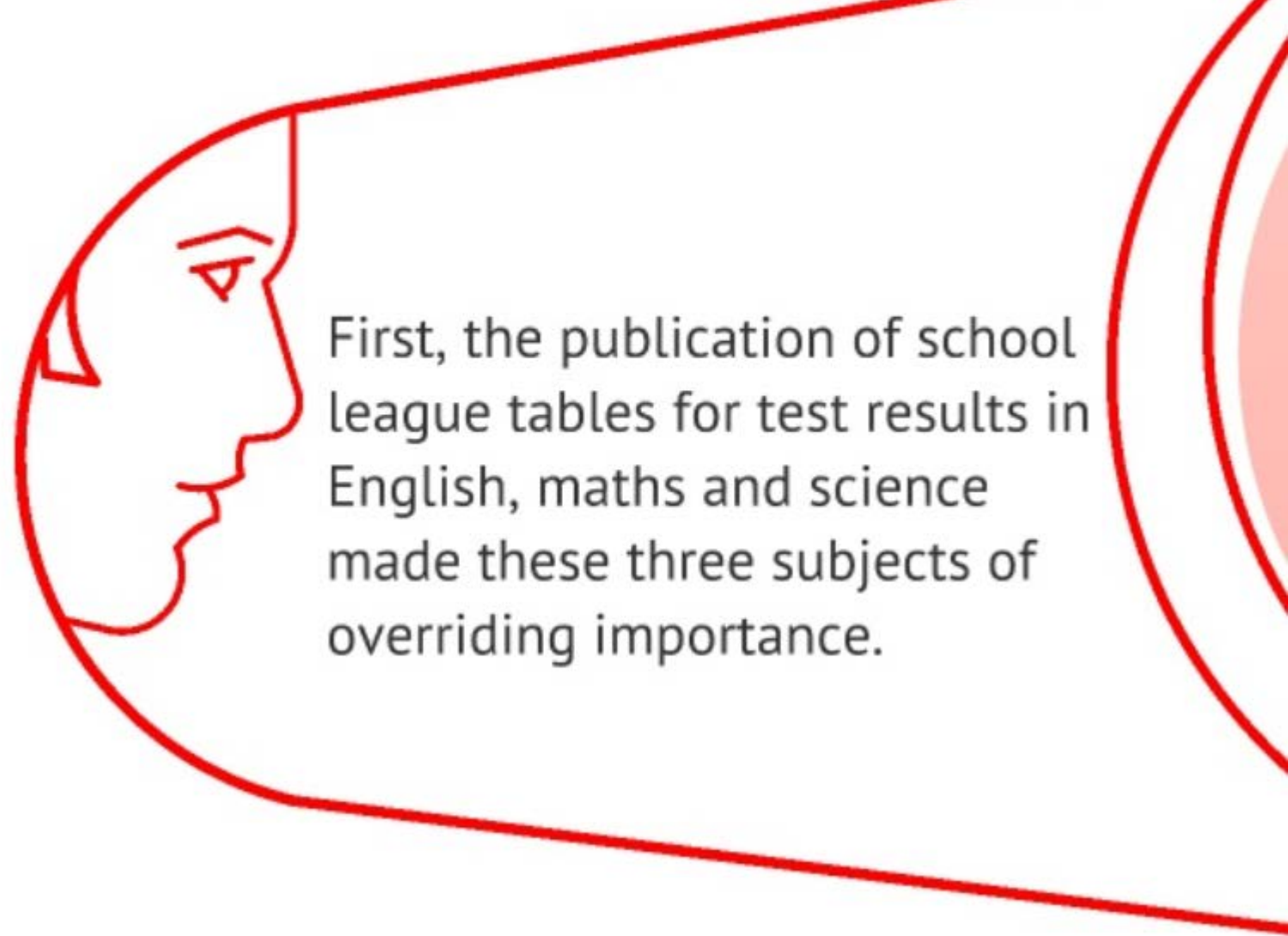
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3 things happened to bring the curriculum closer to what this lady wanted!





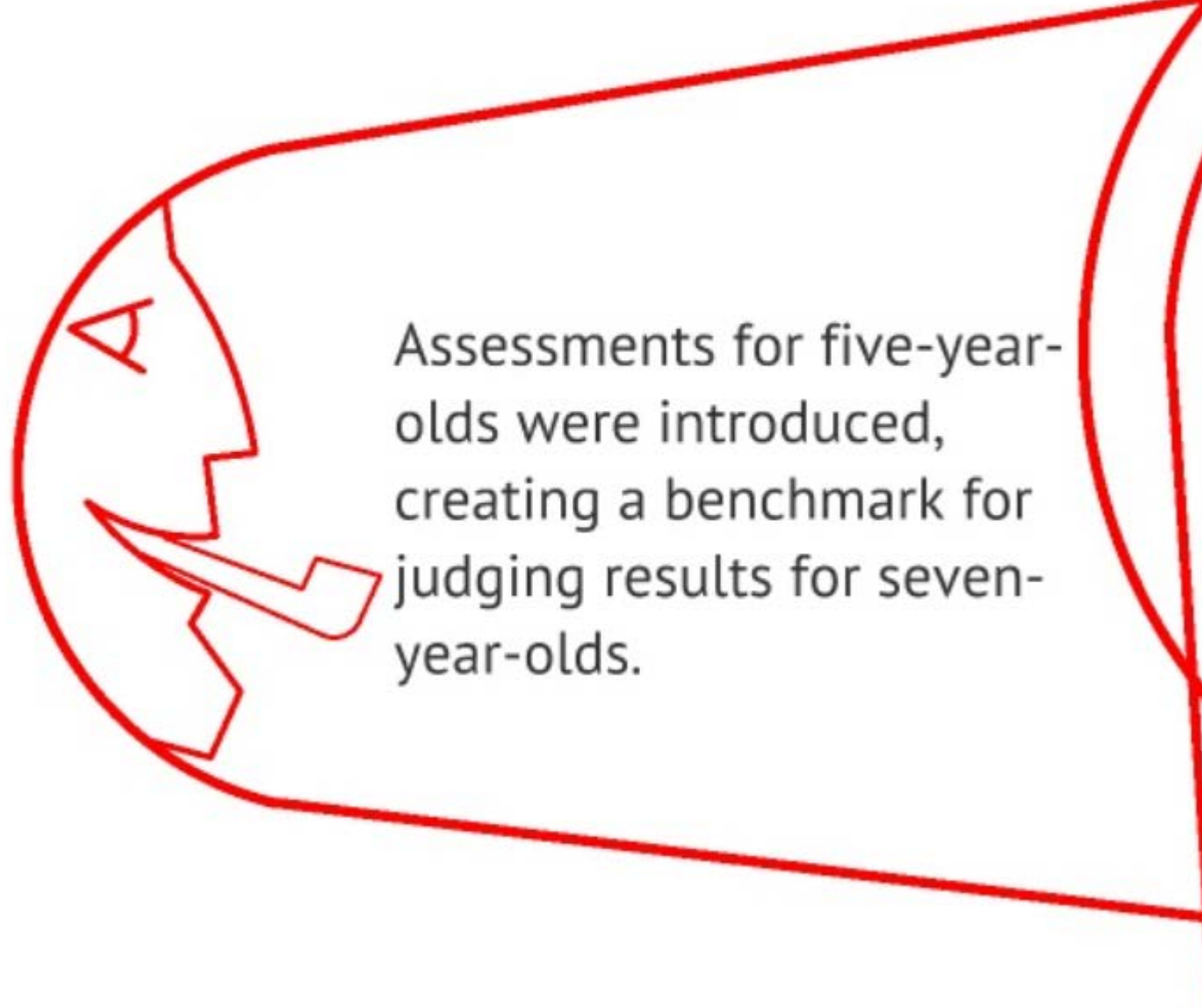
First, the publication of school league tables for test results in English, maths and science made these three subjects of overriding importance.



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Labour's introduction of literacy and numeracy hours to primary schools, in 1998 and 1999, alongside its relaxation of requirements in the foundation subjects, gave renewed emphasis to the basics. Science not happy!

This was the Gov first step into "how" to teach not just "what" to teach.



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**We have come a long way in 40 years.
The ramparts of the professional castle have been well and truly stormed.**



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Devolution 1997: education becomes responsibility of Welsh Assembly Government (now called Welsh Government)

**What is different and distinct
about education in Wales?**



Examples:

- Welsh language and culture.
- Phasing out of SATs (2002-2005)
- Introduction of National Tests for Literacy and Numeracy in 2013
- Teachers writing the new curriculum



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Over to you!

What is our current curriculum?

Subjects? How is it divided by age?

Areas of learning? Key skills?

Key Stage 2 curriculum?

Cross-cutting themes?

ESDGC? LNF? DCF? Thinking Curriculum
Skills? Cymreig?



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