



Education: Past, Present, Future

1944 Education Act



1938 Spens Report

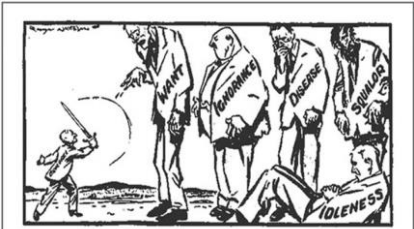
- Accepted principle of free secondary education and higher leaving age
- 'Tripartite division' – modern, technical and grammar
- Encourage 'progressive methods' – curiosity, exam focus
- 'Widely applauded by teaching profession'
- Conservative view of Board of Education and threat and outbreak of war a brake on reform
- Spens also recommended that the school leaving age should be raised to 16. Not implemented until 1973



By 1939

- Free places were up from one third to $\frac{1}{2}$
- Total numbers up from 200,000 to nearly 1/2m
- Total spending stayed about 6% of government expenditure
- Local authorities doubled expenditure and paid for about 50% of education

Beveridge and the 5 Giants of Evil



How to address these

- Education (1944-5)
- Health (1946)
- Social Security (1946)
- Housing (1947)
- Employment (1948)

Selection at age 11?

- 1944 Butler Act
- Tripartite system created – secondary modern, grammar schools and technical colleges
- Question: can you think of any benefits/criticisms of selection at age 11?



Would you pass the 11+ exam?



<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/magazine/7773974.stm>



1944-1976

- Quality of secondary education up until this point was highly variable
- Existence of small independent grammar schools
- Schooling at the time very much a reflection of society

1950s-1960s

- Widespread criticism of the new 'bi-parlile' system
- Series of government reports emerged – references to 'wasted talent'
- The rise of the middle classes
- The gradual rise of the comprehensive school
- By 1958 – 26 in London, 22 in Wales
- By 1960 – 120 in total across the UK

The emergence of the comprehensive system

- Changes in technology and advances in the economy required new skills and a more diverse workforce
- Research findings on links between opportunity and social class
- A growing critique of IQ testing and negative effects of segregation.

Adapted from Simon and Rubenstein 1969

The Comprehensive system

- 1945 Labour government requested local education authorities to submit plans for comprehensive reorganisation
- Standards between different comprehensive schools were often significant and highly varied
- Generally seen as a fault with the Labour government at the time
- Change lacked significant progress and was poorly supported, created a poor view of the comprehensive schools

The Black Papers (1969-1977)

- Heavily influenced 1970s and 1980s Conservative education policy
- 1969 *Fight for Education: A Black Paper*
- 1969 *Black Paper Two: The Crisis in Education*
- 1970 *Black Paper Three: Goodbye Mr Short*
- 1975 *Black Paper 1975: The Fight for Education*
- 1977 *Black Paper 1977*

The Ruskin Speech

- Analyse the speech and look for key themes and important discussion points
- The seeds of many policy debates, decisions and initiatives are contained in the speech. Try to identify as many contemporary policy debates or developments as you can in the text of the speech.
- The Callaghan Speech is often viewed as very controversial, why do you think that might be?
