POLICY LIST - EDUCATION

I was asked for a list of education policies – but there are SO many at every level. Please tell me what I’ve forgotten.

Wikipedia can be especially useful if you want detail and I’d especially recommend the later parts of <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_education_in_England>

You should also look for those crazy timelines from the beginning of the course.

I would suggest that you consider

1. Whether you would describe each or any of these as inspired by Social Democratic/Welfare State ideas or the New Right (especially tricky under the 1997-2010 Labour government)
2. How might these perspectives respond or how have they responded?

* functionalist
* Marxist
* Feminist

1. Whether these have benefited or harmed

* the working class and/or the poor
* Boys
* Girls
* BAME students

These sections might be considered in order of importance, but are NOT a timeline (at least at the moment)

I’ve avoided listing by law (e.g., the 1944 Education Act, the 1988 Education Act, the 2000 Learning and Skills Act, etc.

1. Some big trends in Education Policy

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Comprehensivisation | Move towards mixed ability education and away from the tripartite system |
| Marketization | Introducing competition between state education providers |
| Privatization | Placing education into the hands of private companies – also aspects of schooling (e.g., careers work, cleaning and catering, etc.) |
| Vocationalism | Refocusing on non-academic education – specific skills for the job market |
| Compensatory Education | Education to compensate for what is seen as cultural deprivation |
| Positive Discrimination | Providing support for disadvantaged groups, e.g., in access to higher education |
| Credentialism | Belief in paper qualifications being extended to all aspects of education (and work?) |

2. Some Recent Government Policies

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Public/Private Partnerships | Inviting private companies into state education system. For example, using private finance in school building, for example, so that the public then lease back the building (Private Finance Initiative – PFI) |
| Specialist Schools | Encouraging state schools to specialise in particular areas for further funding – a move away from the uniformity of the “bog standard comprehensive” (Blair) |
| Sure Start | Locally based programmes focusing on improvement of childcare, early education, health and family support, with emphasis on outreach and community development Begun 1998 with local Sure Start centres. |
| Examination Reforms | Various e.g the creation of GCSE from GCE O level and CSE in 1988, the creation of modular A levels in 2000, the ending of modular A levels from 2015, the new “numbered” GCSE from 2016, etc. |
| National Curriculum | From the 1988 Education Act focusing on key subjects (these have varied) and SATs to be used at various key stages to assess the effectiveness of schools |
| Assisted Places Scheme | From 1980 – scheme for children providing free or subsidised places to fee-paying independent schools - if able to score within the top 10-15% of applicants  Abolished 1997 |
| Ofsted | Reconstituted from HMI (Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Schools) in 1992, inspecting and **publishing reports** on all state schools Expanded responsibilities include local services, childminding, child day care, children's centres, children's social care, the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service, state schools, independent schools and teacher training, colleges, and learning and skills providers in England. It also oversees the Independent School Inspectorate. |
| Educational Maintenance Allowance | From 2003 means tested financial support offered for level 3 courses (FE and SFC) to students – abolished (in England only) in 2010 |
| Pupil Premium | Replaced EMA – financial support for schools based on numbers eligible for FSM and paid directly to the school |
| Education Action Zones | Deprived areas run by an action forum of people within that area with the intention of making that area's schools better usually with private as well as public financial support |
| Grammar Schools / 11+ | Selective education based on entrance exams – still survive in several LAs and part of Conservative manifesto in 2017 (since modified) |
| Faith Schools | Schools which could be state (voluntary aided, voluntary controlled) or private and fee paying based on a particular faith community. Much more likely to be some faith communities than others. |
| Coursework assessment | As an alternative to end of course or end of unit examinations. Increasingly unpopular in GCSE and A level assessment and now being challenged in BTEC and other vocational qualifications |
| City Technology Colleges | State funded all-ability secondary school (not fee-paying) but is independent of LA control. 1/5 of capital costs are met by private business sponsors, who own or lease the buildings, rest by state. NC but specializing in STEM and related subjects. |
| (City) Academies | (2000 – 2010) Schools freed from LA control in difficult inner city areas using private sponsors replacing existing schools (under 2000 Act)  (2010 onward) conversion available / encouraged for all state schools as an aspect of increased marketization – no private sponsor required but still out of control of LAS |
| Free Schools | A type of academy, not for profit, independent, state-funded **school – free** to attend but not controlled by a local authority (2010 onward) |
| Equal Opportunities initiatives | Various policies aimed at supporting people from groups disadvantaged in particular areas , e.g., WISE or GIST |

3.

Also don’t neglect policies inside individual schools e.g.,

|  |
| --- |
| Anti-Bullying Policies |
| Mixed Ability Teaching |
| Streaming/Setting/Banding |
| Homework policies |
| Recruitment / Enrolment |
| Cream-skimming |
| Silt-shifting |

And finally the very existence of fee-paying independent schools has been a matter of challenge and policy for several governments over the years