

Lesson 1: The British at School



In this lesson you will learn about the education system in Britain in the 1950s. We will explore the different approaches to the education of boys and girls in both primary and secondary schools.



You will develop your skills with *source inference*.





Do you think school's should
be setted according to a
student's
ability?



Saint Thomas A
ROOM 4
1950



Pose, Paws, Pounce!

Saint Thomas Aquinas
ROOM 4
1950



Once it looked like Britain was going to win the war the government began to look at ways it could improve the lives of all Britains.

In 1944 they introduced the Education Act in order to replace the different types of schools available with a national system which would ensure all children would receive a proper education.

This affected  of all school pupils in the 1950s.

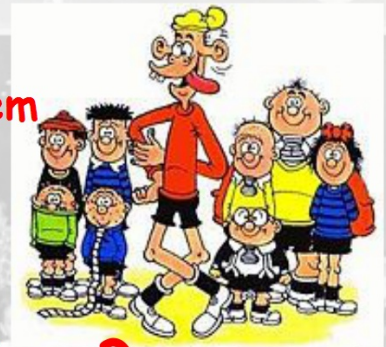
Saint Thomas Aquinas
ROOM 4
1950

Glue in the diagram of the new school system introduced by the 1944 Education Act.

Think about this new system.

Do you think it is a good system?

Can you identify some advantages or disadvantages?




5 minutes to think and discuss your ideas.
Be prepared to share your thoughts.

Saint Thomas Aquinas
ROOM 4
1950

Main




**KEEP
CALM
AND
PASS YOUR
11 PLUS**

At the heart of the new system was the Eleven Plus. This exam taken at the end of junior school decided which type of secondary school you would end up in.



The authors of the Act hoped that "*a parity of esteem*" would exist between pupils leaving the 3 different types of schools. However in reality the 11+ meant that the 80% of pupils who failed to get into Grammar School were seen as inferior.

Saint Thomas Aquinas
ROOM 4
1950

The Curriculum:

I passed my 11+ and got into Grammar School
I will have a more academic education, I will
probably go to University.



Most of my friends didn't
pass and have gone to the
local Secondary Modern. They
will get a Certificate at 15 and go into the factories.



Saint Thomas Aquinas
ROOM 1
1950



Although girls and boys studied some similar Core subjects the curriculum was sexist - boys did science and wood/metal work whilst girls did needlework and home economics.

This reflected the roles the sexes were expected to take on when they left school.



Saint Thomas Aquinas
ROOM 4
1950



Students who did better in tests sat nearer the front of the class -

"go to the top of the class"

Source C: From the Poet Michael Rosen's blog 2012. Here he remembers his experience of Junior School in the 1950s

"Every day was laced with 11-plus-ness. That's to say Miss Williams was constantly warning those of us in the middle of the class that we would fail and would have to go to a secondary modern school. I remember her standing in the middle of the class holding out her arms telling us that everyone on THIS side would pass and everyone on THAT side would fail."



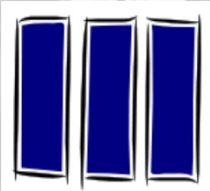
Study Source C. What can you learn from Source C about the education system in the 1950s? (6 marks)



SOURCE INFERENCE



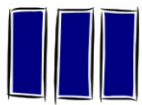
Describe one thing we can learn about the education system in the 1950s from Source C.



Find two things from Source C that tell us about the education system in the 1950s.

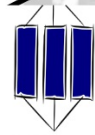


Find three inferences from Source C supported by quotes from the source that tell us what we can learn about the education system in the 1950s.

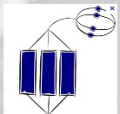


Create a mind map of what you have learned in class today.

Explain what the creators of the Act wanted to achieve with "Parity of Esteem" and whether they achieved this.



Read the Daily Mail article and identify similarities and differences between the 1950s and Ofsted's new proposals.



Saint Thomas Aquinas
ROOM 4
1950