

In 2020 compulsory schooling is holding society back and creating identical students lacking creativity.



“factory schools” is a phrase that is often used to describe the current schooling system as it describes the environment that is common within schools. The current schooling system was created in the early 19th century, originating in Prussia. Where children were placed in grades based on their age and taught in an impersonal, efficient, and standardised, in other words, a very industrial approach was taken. This is because during the 19th century the industrial revolution was at its height, and the school systems aim was to create standardised workers that would not ask questions and would function perfectly in a factory environment. 200 years later and this is still the case, even though the world has drastically changed, the schooling system has remained outdated and based around a factory environment.

The purpose of schooling is to create a “educated” people who will be fully equipped to function in the workforce and in society after 12+ years of compulsory schooling is completed. the definition of educated also involves artistic and physical activities, as well as basic life skills such as learning how to pay taxes and take out a home loan, however, these skills and activities are often overlooked by the education system, resulting in huge gaps in students knowledge. This shows that the school system is failing students and society by failing to include key areas of study in student’s education. The Australian school system is also failing in respect to the decline in students opting to study languages, this creates a monolingual society, which in todays world is a major issue as international relationships and traveling for work and study is becoming more of a norm. a study done in NSW in 2013 showed that only 8% of HSC students were studying a foreign language, this is the lowest

rate recorded. This is a growing issue as many other countries have strengthened their student's skill set by teaching multiple languages, a skill that is becoming more favourable for employers and universities as well as in personal life. The Australian education system is struggling to properly equip its students in with skills that are necessary in a competitive international society. Furthermore, in a growing multicultural country communication skills are a necessity which many students lack as a result of a monolingual education system.

As society progresses more and more career pathways have been emerging, many of which do not require a formal education, meaning that for many, going to school for up to 12 years is a waste of time and talent. Schools often focus heavily on English, maths, and sciences, for many students this means that their talents and interests are being ignored and wasted as they are forced to learn about things that they have no use or interest in.

Compulsory school has often been used in the same sentence as the phrase "dumbing us down" this references the outdated subjects that the school curriculum consists of. It also addresses the idea that the school curriculum is lacking in many areas, as many freshly graduated high school students lack basic life skills.

Standardized testing is another area of concern within the school system. While it has many benefits such as:

- Providing a benchmark
- Highlighting problem areas
- Prevents subjective grading
- Provides guidelines for the school's curriculum

Its also cons such as:

- It can be a major source of stress which can result in risk factors for the student's mental health, causing long term issues within both the students educational and personal life.
- External factors are not taken into consideration
- Only measures a students skill level in certain areas such as English, math and sciences, ignoring soft skills and creating a limited scope of success.
- It can create a negative space within the classroom as teachers often "teach to the test" rather than teaching all aspects of the subject in detail

While it is debatable whether the pros out way the cons, there must be a better way of evaluating a student's knowledge without causing immense amounts of stress and creating a limited understanding of what success is. Michel Hickoy, a Professor at Monash University noted that "The real problem with our education system is that it tests memorization skills, not learning or intelligence." This explores the issues within the education system that it is not properly preparing student for there futures and is only testing short term achievements such as memory skills, not long term requirements such as intelligence and learning, skills that the education system should be prioritising and testing for. This furthermore highlights the issue with standardised testing as it does not consider all

important aspects of learning and only benefits students with good memory skills, not students with intelligence.

In conclusion compulsory schooling has no place in today's society. A society that thrives on creativity and ingenuity. A society that has many different career paths, many of which do not require a formal education. Compulsory school creates a stressful, competitive, and standardised environment that encourages students to spend the majority of their time and energy focusing on subjects that most of them won't have any use for in their life. The school system also overlooks many students' talents and interests, squashing them into an "all size fits all" model. While compulsory schooling definitely has an effective purpose, the school system and curriculum itself needs to be remodelled to create students with a rounded education, including arts, sports and general life skills that are essential to function in today's society. In the 19th century the schooling system had a drastic remodel, its time for a 200-year-old system to be updated