

## Issues of Education

Put each of the following words or phrases in its correct place in the passage.

<b>elite</b>	<b>divisive</b>	<b>potential</b>	<b>gifted</b>
<b>classless</b>	<b>spontaneity</b>	<b>cram</b>	<b>streaming</b>
<b>conventional</b>	<b>labelled</b>	<b>privileged</b>	<b>inferiority complex</b>

It is interesting that in some countries which are socialist and therefore supposedly (a) \_\_\_\_\_, the educational system is based on (b) \_\_\_\_\_, which means that children are educated according to their ability, with the more (c) \_\_\_\_\_ children separated from the others. Supporters of this system say that more intelligent children will be helped to achieve their full (d) \_\_\_\_\_ in this way and that these children will be held back if they have to share lessons with less clever pupils. Opponents of this system, on the other hand, maintain that it creates an educated (e) \_\_\_\_\_, a special class of (f) \_\_\_\_\_ people who are encouraged to think of themselves as superior to the others. Similarly the others may, as a result of being (g) \_\_\_\_\_ second-rate, develop some kind of (h) \_\_\_\_\_. In a word, such a system is (i) \_\_\_\_\_, since it creates a division between people. Another important question in education is the amount of freedom and choice children should be given at school. The conservative view is that a (j) \_\_\_\_\_ system of strict rules is best. However, critics of this attitude say it causes regimentation, as in the army, and discourages children's natural imagination and (k) \_\_\_\_\_. We must ask ourselves what the purpose of education is: to (l) \_\_\_\_\_ children's heads with facts or to encourage them to develop their natural abilities in their own way?

## How Much Freedom Should Children Have?

Put each of the following words or phrases in its correct place below.

<b>possessive</b>	<b>upbringing</b>	<b>permissive</b>	<b>rebelliousness</b>
<b>suppress</b>	<b>formative</b>	<b>adolescence</b>	<b>run wild</b>
<b>inhibited</b>	<b>authoritarian</b>	<b>juvenile delinquency</b>	

It is often said that we live in a (a) \_\_\_\_\_ age, one in which people are allowed to do almost anything they like. Is this good for children? They are going through their (b) \_\_\_\_\_, which is a very (c) \_\_\_\_\_ stage of their development since their final adult characters are beginning to take shape. Some parents think it is good for children to be allowed to (d) \_\_\_\_\_, without control or supervision. They say that this enables children's personalities to develop naturally and that they will learn to be responsible by the mistakes they make. However, this might lead to (e) \_\_\_\_\_, with the children ending up in the courts, or it might simply make children self-centred, without any consideration for others. Other parents believe in being strict, but taken to extremes this can produce a too (f) \_\_\_\_\_ atmosphere in the home, with the children being dominated and ruled by their parents. Parents can also be very (g) \_\_\_\_\_ and try to keep their children dependent on them. These last two attitudes can encourage (h) \_\_\_\_\_ (against parents, school, authority) in a child, or, conversely, (i) \_\_\_\_\_ a child's natural sense of adventure and curiosity. A strict (j) \_\_\_\_\_ by over-caring parents can make a child so timid and (k) \_\_\_\_\_ that he or she is unable to express freely his or her emotions and form mature relationships. To bring up children to be normal, well-adjusted human beings requires great wisdom, and perhaps a bit of luck.