



### The English Baccalaureate

#### THE WRONG ANSWER FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

Over one million young people in the UK, who currently receive a maximum of £2.8m in additional academic subjects, do not study the combination of a baccalaureate that is considered to be the best preparation for the 21st century.

When launched in 2010, the EBacc allowed parents to track their children's progress at their secondary schools. It was a landmark moment in the history of the UK's education system. It was a landmark moment in the history of the UK's education system. It was a landmark moment in the history of the UK's education system.

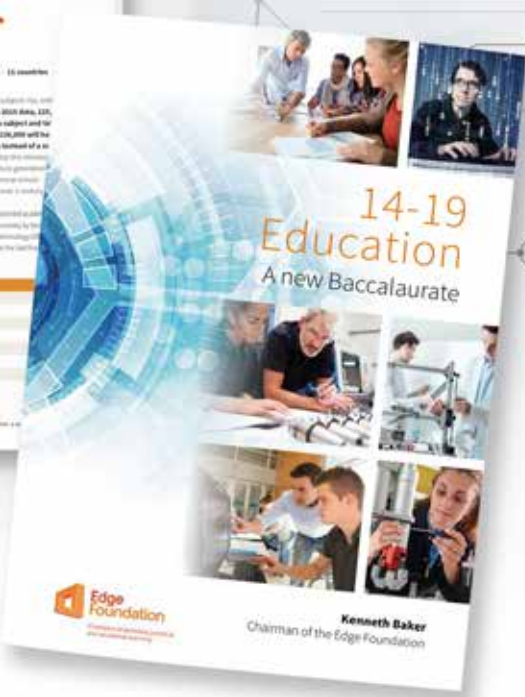
It is not the only way to support young people to succeed in the 21st century. All students should be encouraged to study a range of subjects, including those that are considered to be the best preparation for the 21st century.

However, secondary schools should be encouraged to offer a range of subjects, including those that are considered to be the best preparation for the 21st century.

As more young people are directed towards the university route, the risk of disengagement will increase. The symptoms of disengagement start with boredom, but can develop into disaffection, disaffection and finally, the point has already been made by the Social Mobility Commission.

**Where does technical education start in other countries?**

Country	Start Age
Denmark	Age 14
Finland	Age 14
Germany	Age 14
France	Age 14
Italy	Age 14
Spain	Age 14
Sweden	Age 14
Switzerland	Age 14
Netherlands	Age 14
Australia	Age 14
USA	Age 14
Canada	Age 14
South Africa	Age 14
India	Age 14
China	Age 14
Japan	Age 14
South Korea	Age 14
Singapore	Age 14
Malaysia	Age 14
Indonesia	Age 14
Brazil	Age 14
Argentina	Age 14
Chile	Age 14
Colombia	Age 14
Venezuela	Age 14
Peru	Age 14
Ecuador	Age 14
Bolivia	Age 14
Paraguay	Age 14
Uruguay	Age 14
Cuba	Age 14
Puerto Rico	Age 14
Dominican Republic	Age 14
Honduras	Age 14
Nicaragua	Age 14
Costa Rica	Age 14
Panama	Age 14
Guatemala	Age 14
El Salvador	Age 14
Haiti	Age 14
Jamaica	Age 14
Trinidad and Tobago	Age 14
Suriname	Age 14
Guayana Francesa	Age 14
Aruba	Age 14
Curaçao	Age 14
Bonaire	Age 14
Greenland	Age 14
Faroe Islands	Age 14
Åland	Age 14



# 14-19 EDUCATION

## A New Baccalaureate

*“With hindsight, I now wish I had ended the National Curriculum at 14. We had assumed that our curriculum would meet the needs of all 14-16 year olds. Experience proved that we had been too prescriptive”*

Kenneth Baker

A landmark paper making the case for a broad and balanced baccalaureate by Lord Kenneth Baker, former Secretary of State for Education.

Lord Baker sets out compelling international, historical and economic evidence to support the creation of a broad baccalaureate incorporating creative and technical education and recognising the achievements of all young people.

14-19 Education: A New Baccalaureate and many other Edge Foundation reports are available to download free of charge from [www.edge.co.uk/research](http://www.edge.co.uk/research).



Champion of technical, practical and vocational learning

# 14-19 EDUCATION

A New Baccalaureate

**English**

**Maths**

**Two Sciences**

(e.g. Chemistry,  
Computer Science)

**Humanity**

(e.g. History,  
Foreign Language)

**Creative**

(e.g. Art, Music, Drama)

**Technical**

(e.g. D&T, BTEC)



**The government is proposing that 90% of 14-16 year olds take the English Baccalaureate (EBacc)**, currently defined with a narrow academic focus on English literature, English language, maths, at least two sciences, a foreign language and either history or geography.

**This is an old fashioned curriculum**, almost identical to regulations introduced in 1904. Even these allowed for part-time technical education from the age of 12.

**The value of technical and vocational education has never been in doubt in our continental competitors** and is growing in importance in areas like New York and Canada. We are going in the opposite direction.

**The Government's main argument for the narrow EBacc is** 'to ensure that all young people take the combination of GCSEs that are taken by young people in the most privileged schools'. It is simply not the case that if something works for the most privileged it works for all.

**On average, young people take 8.1 GCSEs (5.8 for lower attainers).** EBacc will become the whole curriculum for many young people with little space for any wider creative or technical education.

**The EBacc measure has already encouraged a 10% drop in Design and Technology entries in the last year.** Based on 2015 data, 225,000 more young people will need to drop a subject to take up a foreign language – yet less than one in ten who take a language GCSE continues to A-Level.

**Focusing on a narrow set of subjects automatically devalues others** and sends a signal that bright capable young people should actively avoid technical and creative subjects – the very ones that help them develop the skills that employers will need in the future.

**We must broaden the definition of EBacc**, offering a solid academic core alongside creative and technical subjects, supporting the government's own Progress-8 school performance measure more effectively and driving forward social mobility.

**Then in time we must remove the artificial divide at 16 between academic and technical education**, just as we already do in University Technical Colleges. An overarching award, combining GCSEs, A-Levels and technical qualifications, should become the new measure of success at the end of a unified 14-19 phase of education.

**This will ensure that we value the talents of all young people** and help them develop the skills and behaviour required for the workforce in the age of digital revolution.



Champion of technical, practical  
and vocational learning

**Edge Foundation**

4 Millbank, London SW1P 3JA  
020 7960 1540  
www.edge.co.uk