

Name: _____ Class: _____ ()

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Hong Kong students are less prepared for the future than their counterparts from Singapore, Japan, and South Korea

Study by Economist Intelligence Unit says Hong Kong's education policy doesn't prepare students for the economy of the future and locals may lose out on jobs as a result

Hong Kong came in 14th – behind Singapore, Japan and South Korea – in an Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) index released on Tuesday that assessed how well a country's education system prepares people aged 15 to 24 for the future.

A major problem for Hong Kong is its education policy, according to the study, where it was ranked 22nd. Singapore ranked first. In particular, the **recourses** for local Stem students are not as good as they are for students studying arts.

“A lot of my friends who study science had to self-study before they went to England,” said 18-year-old Ernest Leung, a former La Salle College student. “The local curriculum covers less than the British **equivalent**.”

“This is really a call to action,” said Trisha Suresh, a senior consultant at the EIU. Suresh said the countries that did not prepare students for the economy of the future “just won't be as competitive”.

Leung, who is starting at the University of Oxford in Britain next month, said that the way education **is conducted** in Hong Kong isn't **beneficial** to those who end up going overseas for their studies, where they might end up having to adjust to an entirely different way of learning.

“In England, where the tutorial system is quite common, it can be tough for students to adjust to a more discussion-based learning system.”

Yang Rui, a Professor of Education at the University of Hong Kong, agreed. “Our students often lack healthy attitudes towards learning and, to a great extent, **ignore** other major aspects of learning, such as the intellectual, the social and the attitudinal ... and attach great importance to **pragmatism**.”

The countries ranked on the index make up 77 per cent of the global population. The study assessed how well the countries were preparing students for a world in which they will need interdisciplinary, creative, analytical, **entrepreneurial**, leadership, digital and technical skills, as well as **global** awareness and civic education.

“Hong Kong lacks a **comprehensive** policy when it comes to equipping youth with skills for the future,” Suresh said, but added that the city has started making efforts in that direction.

However, Professor Yang stressed that “while policymakers and researchers are **overwhelmingly** interested in educational reforms, they have been far more political and economic than educational and cultural”.

Questions to think about:



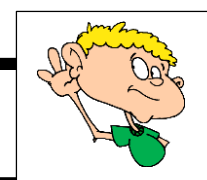
- Do you agree with the view of Hong Kong students represented here? / Do you agree with the view that our student population are not being prepared for the future?
- What changes would you like to see in the Hong Kong education system?
- Where do you see yourself in the future? / What do you see yourself doing in the future? / What goals have you set yourself in the future?
- How do you think Hong Kong's younger generation need to change their mindset? How would you react if someone said they have a 'mentality of losers'?

I: Vocabulary and understanding meaning: Match the meaning and/or synonym (words with a similar or the same meaning) to the words which have been highlighted in bold in the article.

Column A: Word from text	Letter	Column B: Meaning or synonym
1. recourses (n)		A: organise and carry out
2. equivalent (adj)		B: to a great degree, very much so
3. conduct (v)		C: taking risks to try something new and usually associated with business
4. beneficial (adj)		D: the same
5. ignore (v)		E: dealing with or covering everything (you need)
6. pragmatism (n)		F: a source of help in a difficult situation
7. entrepreneurial (adj)		G: not pay attention to, refuse to take notice of
8. global (adj)		H: being practical
9. comprehensive (adj)		I: advantageous, resulting in something good/positive
10. overwhelmingly (adv)		J: worldwide

II: Usage of vocabulary: Choose the most appropriate word from the table above to fill in the missing words of the sentences below making sure your answers are grammatically correct.

1. Surveys are often _____ to find out information.
2. Some people _____ typhoon warnings and go out, and as a result, can be injured.
3. Mark Zuckerberg is indeed an _____. He was willing to take risks to set up Facebook.
4. In Hong Kong, having a good knowledge of English, in fact, having a thorough knowledge of the three languages of Cantonese, Putonghua and English _____ for your job prospects. It can really help you get a good job.
5. The student was very _____ about the choices open to him. He had not studied very hard, so he had to make do with what he could get.
6. With all the methods of communication open to us these days, we can keep in touch with people all over the _____.
7. The vote _____ in favour of the new proposal. Only 5% were against it.
8. When getting medical insurance, make sure you get _____ cover, in other words, that the insurance covers all possibilities.
9. Everyone should be given the same rights and be viewed as _____.
10. When there is a problem or conflict, violence should not be the first _____, there are other ways to solve the problem or conflict.



Challenge of the week: Listen to Ms Roberts

ENGLISH CORNER CAFÉ IS ALWAYS OPEN ON A TUESDAY FOR DRINKS, SNACKS, CONVERSATION & GAMES

See Ms Roberts for prizes if you know the answer!