

The New, Progressive Direction of Education in China

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The intense Noun - Plural for learning woven into the age-old exams--not to mention a longstanding Adjective faith in literacy that still underlines Chinese culture--continue to produce stereotyped whiz-kids in math and Noun with extremely sharp memories, at least according to their performance on Adjective assessments. Shanghai students contend each year with Finnish and Singaporean peers to rank at the top on Adjective OECD education rankings (how China samples Noun remains controversial). But it's increasingly clear that Adjective teaching and regimented exams have, arguably, failed to produce young people who foster Adjective innovation or design Noun in engineering. Noun remains far behind in the arts, cultural invention, or academic research. Beyond a handful of Adjective fiction writers, many now living in exile, the country has seen few notable figures emerge in the humanities.

Didactic teaching and regimented Noun have failed to produce young people who foster technological innovation.

The nation's bulwark of Adverb has also begun to Determiner, a wake-up call to government Noun. Faced with slim odds of winning a Noun seat, the count of high-school students sitting for the national Noun has declined from 10.5 to 9.3 Number between 2008 to 2010. A rising share of top scorers Verb - Non 3rd Person Singular Present what are often arcane Chinese Noun and head Adverb, especially offspring of the growing nouveau riche. China's ambitious reform of college Noun - Plural now sends "a clear message to secondary-school students and their teachers that a narrow focus

on rote learning ... may not be enough to ensure entry to higher education," wrote John Morgan and Bin Wu,

_____ Noun - Plural on _____ Proper Noun policy, in an _____ Noun for The Conversation.

But whether the remake of _____ Noun in China will truly move _____ Noun - Plural to shift their emphasis away from drilling on facts to analysis and critical thinking isn't clear. In certain cases, this type of questioning is

exactly what the Chinese government continues to stamp out. " _____ Noun - Plural quietly talk about the

_____ Adjective uprising" at _____ Proper Noun Square in 1989, Xiaoyan, a _____ Proper Noun graduate

student told me. "But it's not asked on the _____ Adjective exam, so _____ Noun - Plural don't take it

_____ Adverb." And the shrill _____ Noun - Plural of some _____ Noun leaders continue to _____ Verb

inventive thinking inside schools. "We must, by no means, allow into our classrooms material that propagates

Western values," The New Yorker _____ Verb - Past Tense Minister of _____ Proper Noun Yuan Guiren saying

earlier this _____ Noun.

A handful of _____ Noun - Plural schools, however, already _____ Adjective Western-style _____ Noun - Plural

strategies through what are known as "learning-oriented _____ Noun - Plural." Students take on applied

_____ Coordinating conjunction or tackle neighborhood problems, and _____ Noun nurture "equal and

_____ Noun - Plural relationships _____ Noun _____ Coordinating conjunction and students," the _____ Noun

_____ Proper Noun Lifu Han told me. Meanwhile, newly minted _____ Noun - Plural seek jobs in more

autonomous "key schools," _____ Determiner are a bit like charter schools in the U.S. in that they're government

funded yet possess "the _____ Noun to determine how to _____ Verb their students," Haiyan said. These

_____ Adjective schools require students to engage in _____ Adjective topics, delve into _____ Adjective

literature,

and become fluent in Proper Noun. They Verb - Non 3rd Person Singular Present the offspring of Beijing's booming bourgeoisie, children of corporate and government elites--kids often bound for Noun overseas.

While America's policy Adverb now focuses most on what the country's Noun system should not do--don't Noun - Plural kids, don't Verb - Present Tense learning standards, and so on--China's Coordinating conjunction and parents are increasingly asking how to ready their kids for a more open society and nimble economy. And there, the Adjective debate over the core aims of education invokes both Noun and moral priorities spurred by an obviously Verb - Present Tense social fabric, as vegetable carts dodge sleek BMWs on city Noun - Plural and children of Adjective workers--families that make up one-third of Proper Noun densely packed population--are largely excluded from high-quality public schools.

This prompts calls for Chinese teachers to cultivate Noun character, for students to Adjective well-rounded, rather than being forced to walk the Adjective "one-plank bridge" over to a Noun seat, based on a single Noun score. Beijing has approved Noun - Plural aimed at lightening the burden, including one that, according to Fei Zhao, an education professor at Capital Normal University, shrinks the Noun day by two hours. Even with this easing of pressure, Chinese pupils still Verb - Non 3rd Person Singular Present one and a half hours fewer each night than their global Noun - Plural on average.

And ultimately, despite this broader Noun push, it's difficult for Chinese to to kick back when they're trying to support their children, especially when both parents must to to make ends meet.

Many pay for tutoring, Noun - Plural activities, and Noun lessons--seeking a competitive edge for their

_____ Noun - Plural . "It's so expensive to raise a child in _____ Proper Noun ," Zhao said.

Amid this swirl of fresh reforms and novel aspirations for their schools, Chinese _____ Verb - Non 3rd Person Singular

_____ Present talk about exporting a "third model" of education to other societies. One _____ Noun official pulled

me aside this fall, requesting my help in _____ Verb - Present Tense about this emerging _____ Noun for how to

enliven schools, still fortified by demanding national exams, while _____ Verb - Present Tense beyond the West's

self-centered values and the former Soviet Union's _____ Noun classrooms.

" _____ Modal can't be just like the West, we have to find a new model that we feel _____ Preposition or

_____ subordinating conjunction with," said Jiajia, a former _____ Preposition or subordinating conjunction of mine at UC Berkeley

who now prepares new _____ Preposition or subordinating conjunction outside of Shanghai. Asked what this

_____ Adjective form of schooling looks like, he _____ Verb - Past Tense wryly: "We don't know yet."