

ГОСУДАРСТВЕННЫЙ СОЦИАЛЬНО-ГУМАНИТАРНЫЙ
УНИВЕРСИТЕТ

Командный конкурс эссе

“Единство в различии”

Исследовательская работа (эссе)

**“СХОДСТВА И РАЗЛИЧИЯ ОБРАЗОВАТЕЛЬНЫХ ТРАДИЦИЙ
РАЗНЫХ СТРАН”**

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Group essay contest

**“Unity in Diversity: Russia and the English-Speaking World. Time for
Equal Opportunities”**

Research work (essay)

**“Educational traditions from around the globe: similarities and
differences”**

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Theses

- The purpose of education.
- The Education level index is the indicator which showed the achieved level of education in the countries.
- The main aim of education in Singapore.
- Studying in primary and secondary school.
- Studying after postsecondary school.
- The main purpose of education in the United States of America.
- From elementary to secondary school.
- A typical school curriculum in the United States.
- Higher education in the USA.
- Grade Point Average is the system of assessment.
- The consequences of a comparative analysis of educational systems.

Essay

Educational traditions from around the globe: similarities and differences

Intelligence plus character – that is the goal of true education. – Martin Luther King.

Admittedly, education is a major resource for both individuals and society as a whole. We think of going to school as a universal experience, but it varies greatly depending on where in the world you are.

School education relies on the history and culture of the country. Some people may say that the purpose of education is to learn valuable facts. Others argue that it is primarily about becoming an effective critical thinker. Others still see it as a process of creating citizens and workers of the future.

Most of us certainly perceive this as a combination of acquiring knowledge, skills and abilities altogether, but what country you live in is an important factor in determining what aspect will have priority in the educational process.

There are also less fundamental differences such as the duration of the academic year, the number of hours students have to work, and how much the students are expected to be involved in the life of their school.

In our essay, we will compare how school education systems are arranged in various countries of the world, how they are similar and how they differ paying special attention to both quantitative and qualitative indicators of the level of education.

The United Nations Development Program (UNDP) has a combined indicator called the Education level index which studies the academic performance of a country in terms of the achieved level of education of its population.

The data on the level of education of the world's population comes from the official results of national population censuses and is compared with the

indicators calculated by the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UNESCO Institute for Statistics). Currently, the Index covers the UN member states.

Studying this list, our attention was attracted by two countries whose indices were almost the same: the United States of America and Singapore, which are on the 17th and 31st places in the list according to the 2022 research. At first glance it may seem that the educational systems of these countries are identical but here is what you should know about them.

Singapore

The most significant aim of education of Singapore is to help pupils discover and make the best of their talents and develop a passion for lifelong learning.

The Educational system is controlled by the Ministry of Education and has a special structure that includes four parts: Pre-School, Primary, Secondary and Post-Secondary. Studying in Pre – School introduces the children to colours, animals, basic manners; however, this part of education is not mandatory.

The six-year-old boys and girls go to Primary School that lasts for six years and consists of two stages: foundation and orientation. The learners study eight subject areas, as well as character and citizenship education. At the end of Primary School pupils take the PSLE (Primary School Leaving Examination) in Mathematics, mother tongue, science and English. In fact, the scores on the PSLE influence on a choice of the stream in Secondary School.

In Secondary School students take one of three bands or streams: Express, Normal (Academic), and Normal (Technical). These streams have many similarities while Express is more accelerated, Normal (Technical) is directed at applied work. In addition, the range of subjects is different, for instance in Normal (Academic) humanitarian disciplines are studied, meanwhile in Normal (Technical) computer technology and physics are taught. Under these circumstances, secondary education varies depending on the type of the program. After four years in Secondary School students take O – level or N –

level exams. Young people who are going to apply for university take A – level exams after additional two years of study.

If students do not want to go to university, they have a plenty of postsecondary options such as Polytechnics, Arts Institutions and the Institute of Technical Education. In other case, the students who passed A - level exams, get an opportunity to submit their documents to National University of Singapore (Appendix 1) or Nanyang Technological University (Appendix 2).

The United States of America

The main purpose of education in the United States of America is to assist children in getting knowledge and possessing skills that will help them to become successful members of society, grow into talented individuals in their field of work and prepare for global competitiveness.

This purpose means the lifelong studying as the awareness of the new knowledge, especially in the chosen occupation, which makes a person a qualified professional and an important member of the society. Likewise, never-ending learning and potential self-development are important in US education.

As for the US educational system, here the government's intervention is weak and K–12 is accepted. K–12 includes a kindergarten, elementary, middle, high or secondary school and the last stage is higher education. Similarly, kindergarten is optional. The children become elementary school pupils at the age of six and go into languages, arts, mathematics, science and social studies.

By comparison with Singapore education, secondary school in the USA is divided into middle and high school. Moreover, learners have to finish all courses in the curriculum. For example, they have three – year mathematics course and can separate it for semesters, which in the sum give three years.

A typical school curriculum includes the following courses: English, history, arts, mathematics, science, foreign language, computer science and business education. Furthermore, schoolchildren have an opportunity to choose the electives, connected with sports, arts, science, as well as economics.

If a young person wishes to pursue higher education, they need to pass the Scholastic Aptitude Test or the American College Test since the results of these exams are required by the most universities and colleges.

In addition, it should be noted that in the United States and in Singapore there exists the same system of assessment. It is called Grade Point Average. GPA demonstrates the student's average result of learning in all classes and help schools to overall achievement for each student.

Thus, we have reviewed and compared the education systems in Singapore and the USA and can conclude that there are several differences, however, there are also a lot of similarities as well as benefits and drawbacks. Nevertheless, in these two countries, education is developed at a high level and few people will want to argue with this.

We would like to note that thanks to such a comparative analysis of various education systems, it becomes possible to highlight the negative and positive aspects of each of them and to modernize education in the future.

Appendix

Appendix 1



National University of Singapore

Appendix 2



Nanyang Technological University

References

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