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GRE
Analysis of an Issue

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Theme : Analysis of an Issue

Taken from :

https://www.ets.org/gre/revised_general/prepare/analytical_writing/issue/pool

Text :

A nation should require all of its students to study the same national curriculum until they enter college.

Answer :

The issue whether all students in a country should study a common curriculum until they enter college is a debatable one.

If all students in a country study a common curriculum until they enter college they have same opportunities when they are trying to go to college. When you have specialized schools, it is less fair to all students. Students from specialized mathematical schools have more chances to go to faculty where mathematical subjects are main. With medicine specialized schools it is easier for those students to enter to medical faculty (university). There are a lot of similar examples. Also, first and maybe second year of college (faculty) is easier for these students, because they have more knowledge in that area than other students. Also, the same curriculum means that students from all over the country have the same opportunities to enter the specific college (faculty). Students from small towns or villages where you don't have specialized schools can get the same amount of knowledge as students from metropolises or big cities.

However there are a few pitfalls associated with this proposed measure. For one, more advanced boards may not want to temper their curriculums. For example the Faculty of Mathematics or Faculty of Electrical Engineering lays emphasis on rigorous curriculum. If those faculties boards had to reduce the workload of its curriculum to be on par with other non rigorous faculty boards, the value of achieving their diploma would seriously diminish.

Another shortcoming of this measure is seen in multiple languages countries and countries with different traditions and nationalities. For example the education board in one regions would want its students to study the local dialect. The education board in another region may want students to study their local language. This would be very difficult, maybe even impossible with the same national curriculum.