



The Guardian View on Arts Education: A Creativity Crisis

《卫报》评艺术教育：创造力面临危机

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At Winchester college, students can take classes in wood carving and sculpture, perform on a **proscenium** stage at the school's 240-seat theatre, or make use of the 2,000 books in its art library. The story is very different at state schools, which have seen a **steep** reduction in arts **provision** over the last decade. Activities such as art and music are the **highlight** of the week for a lot of pupils, but they're the first to go when resources are short.

在温彻斯特学院（英国一所贵族寄宿制学校），学生们可以学习木雕和雕塑课程，在拥有 240 个座位的学校剧院的舞台上表演，还可以利用学校艺术图书馆里的 2000 本书。公立学校的情况则截然不同，过去 10 年里，公立学校提供的艺术类资源大幅减少。对很多学生来说，艺术和音乐等活动是一周中最有趣的活动，但在资源短缺的情况下，这些活动是最先被取消的。

English state schools are facing a creativity crisis. Since 2010, enrolment in arts **GCSEs** has fallen by 40% and the number of arts teachers has fallen by 23%. This shift is most **pronounced** among state schools in **deprived** areas, where pupils are far less likely to sing in a choir or play in an **orchestra**. Meanwhile, private schools have invested substantial resources in art and music provision, according to research from Warwick University. This depressing trend is part of a wider and self-reinforcing pattern. As fewer state students have the opportunity to engage with arts or music, fewer go on to study these subjects at **A-level** or university. The risk is that arts subjects will be restricted to a **privileged** few, **shrinking** the

proscenium [prə'si:niəm] *n.* 舞台前部，幕布前的舞台

steep [sti:p] *adj.* 突然的，急剧的；陡峭的 | a steep rise in oil prices 油价急剧上涨

provision [prə'vɪʒn] *n.* 提供，供给；（为将来做的）准备；规定，条款 | The government is responsible for the provision of health care. 政府负责提供医疗服务。

highlight ['haɪlaɪt] *n.* 最好（或最精彩、最激动人心）的部份 *v.* 突出，强调 | The highlight of the trip was visiting the Great Wall of China. 这次旅程最令人难忘的是参观中国的万里长城。

GCSE 普通中等教育证书考试（英格兰和威尔士年龄通常为 15 或 16 岁的学生参加的多学科考试），普通中等教育证书

pronounced [prə'naʊnst] *adj.* 明显的，显著的 | She still has a pronounced German accent. 她仍然带着明显的德国口音。

deprived [dɪ'praɪvd] *adj.* 贫穷的，贫困的 | people living in deprived areas 生活在贫困地区的人们

orchestra ['ɔ:rkɪstrə] *n.* 管弦乐

cultural horizons of everyone but the elite.

英国公立学校正面临着一场创造力危机。自 2010 年以来，参加艺术类普通中等教育证书考试的人数下降了 40%，艺术类教师的数量下降了 23%。这种转变在贫困地区的公立学校最为明显，那里的学生不太可能参加合唱团或管弦乐队演出。与此同时，华威大学的研究显示，私立学校在艺术和音乐方面投入了大量资源。这种令人沮丧的趋势是更广泛的自我强化模式的一部分。由于有机会接触艺术或音乐的公立学校学生越来越少，在高级程度考试或大学里继续学习这些学科的人也越来越少。这样做的风险在于，艺术学科将被限制在少数享有特权的人手中，从而缩小了除精英阶层之外所有人的文化视野。

Art makes a person **broadier-minded** and more imaginative. Yet the government's **bleakly utilitarian** attitude to education has narrowed the opportunities available to state school students. Artists and teachers have long **railed** against the **English baccalaureate**, the system introduced without consultation under the former education secretary Michael Gove in 2010. The Ebacc excludes all arts subjects. This gives schools an **incentive** to focus on “core” subjects – English, maths and sciences. Independent schools are not bound by these rules, and are free to do what they deem best for their pupils.

艺术使人心胸更开阔，想象力更丰富。然而政府对教育持悲观的功利主义态度，缩小了公立学校学生接触艺术的机会。艺术家和教师长期以来一直反对英国文凭证书考试制度。这一制度于 2010 年由前教育大臣迈克尔·戈夫在未经协商的情况下推出。英国文凭证书考试制度不包括所有艺术科目。这促使学校专注于“核心”科目——英语、数学和科学。而私立学校不受这些规则的约束，可以自由地做它们认为对学生最有利的东西。

Cuts have made this picture worse. In the 10 years after 2009, spending per pupil in England fell by nearly 10% **in real terms**. As support staff have been cut, **overstretched** teachers have less capacity to run choirs or put on school plays. Although the government announced an additional £2.3bn in school funding in last year's autumn statement, most of this will be

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队

A-level (英格兰和威尔士中学生通常在 18 岁参加的)高级程度考试

privileged ['prɪvəlɪdʒd] *adj.* 有特权的，受特别优待的 | Only the privileged few can afford private education. 只有享有特权的少数人才能上得起私立学校。

shrink [ʃrɪŋk] *v.* 缩小，减少 | The treatment will shrink the tumour. 这一疗法可以使肿瘤缩小。

broadier-minded *adj.* 心胸开阔的，宽宏大量的

bleakly ['bli:kli] *adv.* 沮丧地，没有希望地

utilitarian [ju:'tɪlɪ'terɪən] *adj.* 功利主义的，实利主义的

rail [reɪl] *v.* 谴责，抱怨 *n.* 铁轨 | His articles rail against the decline of culture in American society. 他的文章对美国社会的文化衰败表达了强烈不满。

◇ 背景知识

English baccalaureate

英国文凭证书考试。2010 年以卡梅伦为首的英国联合政府面向英国公立学校推行被称之为“英国文凭证书”的新的考试制度——EBacc (English Baccalaureate)。该考试制度以强化英语、数学、史地、科学、外语为主要特点，旨在培养学术型人才，削弱了艺术类课程，使其无论在师资、经费的投入、课时的安排，还是在学生课程的选择上，艺术类课程都受到了极大的冲击，这

eaten up by the growth in school costs. Because arts subjects require space and resources, they are often most **vulnerable** to budget cuts.

削减开支使情况变得更糟。在 2009 年之后的十年里，对英格兰每个学生的实际支出下降了近 10%。由于支持人员被削减，不堪重负的教师们更腾不出手来管理唱诗班或排演学校戏剧了。尽管政府在去年的秋季预算报告中宣布为学校增加 23 亿英镑的资金，但其中大部分将被学校成本的增长所消耗。由于艺术类学科需要空间和资源，它们往往最容易受到预算削减的影响。

The investment that private schools have made in arts provision **refutes** the notion, favoured by Conservative ministers, that education is simply a training ground for the labour market. But even on a purely economic basis, the government's approach to arts education is **self-defeating**. In a recent speech, the chancellor, Jeremy Hunt, noted that the cultural industries had grown at twice the rate of the UK's economy over the last decade. Tackling the creativity crisis in state schools is a matter of urgency, both for pupils and for the country as a whole.

私立学校在艺术方面的投资驳斥了保守党部长们所青睐的观点，即学校只是劳动力市场的训练场。但即使单从经济角度来看，政府对待艺术教育的方式最终会弄巧成拙。在最近的一次演讲中，英国财政大臣杰里米·亨特指出，在过去十年里，文化产业的增长速度是英国经济增长速度的两倍。无论是对学生还是对整个国家来说，解决公立学校的创造力危机都是一件迫在眉睫的事情。

样的情况引起了英国艺术教育界相关人士的极大的不满。

incentive [ɪn'sentɪv] *n.* 刺激，鼓励 | We want to give people incentives to use public transport. 我们想鼓励民众使用公共交通工具。

in real terms 实际上 | Rail fares have fallen 17 per cent in real terms. 火车票价实际上降低了 17%。

overstretched [ˌəʊvə'stretʃt] *adj.* 超负荷运转的，硬撑着的

vulnerable ['vʌlnərəbl] *adj.* 脆弱的，易受……伤害的 | Old people are particularly vulnerable members of our society. 老年人是社会中尤为明显的弱势群体。

refute [rɪ'fju:t] *v.* 反驳，否认 | She refutes any suggestion that she behaved unprofessionally. 谁要是表示她不在行，她都予以反驳。

self-defeating *adj.* 自我拆台的，弄巧成拙的，适得其反的 | Dishonesty is ultimately self-defeating. 弄虚作假最终会自食其果。

► 脉络梳理

Para. 1 对比私立学校和公立学校艺术类资源的差距

Para. 2 指出公立学校面临“创造力危机”，会导致精英阶层外的普通人文化视野受限

Para. 3-4 分析公立学校不重视艺术课程的原因：考试制度使学校只重视“核心科目”的教育；预算不足

Para. 5 指出长远后果：影响文化产业发展，强调应采取措施解决“创造力危机”

► 长难句拆解

The investment that private schools have made in arts provision refutes the notion, favoured by Conservative ministers, that education is simply a training ground for the labour market.

Diagram illustrating the sentence structure:

- 主语 (Subject): The investment
- 定语从句, 修饰 investment (Attributive Clause, modifying investment): that private schools have made in arts provision
- 谓语+宾语 (Predicate + Object): refutes the notion,
- 后置定语, 修饰 notion (Post-modifier, modifying notion): favoured by Conservative ministers,
- 同位语从句, 解释说明 notion (Appositive Clause, explaining notion): that education is simply a training ground for the labour market.