

## Joe Duffy Documentary– The Classroom Divide – RTÉ Player – 2017

Link: <https://www.rte.ie/player/movie/the-classroom-divide-s1-e1/103102504367>

1. (2:00) How many children in Ireland fail to complete secondary education every year? \_\_\_\_\_
2. (3:15) Why were the 1950s a “grey time” in Irish History?  
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3. (3:50) What was the ‘miracle’ that occurred in 1967 that meant that Joe Duffy could attend secondary school?  
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4. (4:20) What objections did were made in the “Council of Education Report” of 1960 against the introduction of free secondary education? (This is presented by one of our Key Thinkers, Kathleen Lynch!!!)  
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5. (5:30) What, according to Diarmaid Ferriter, was the “dark stain” on the national conscience?  
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6. (6:15) Note down the relevant figures around education in Ireland cited by Joe Duffy:
  - a. What % of children in ‘working-class’ communities go on to 3<sup>rd</sup> Level? \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. What % of children in ‘middle-class’ areas go on to 3<sup>rd</sup> Level? \_\_\_\_\_
7. (7-10:00) Pause the video. How would you summarize the attitude of Alex Fay and his mother to education? How does this contrast with how they say they are often viewed from people outside Sherriff Street?  
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8. (10:45) Complete the quotation from Senator Lynn Ruane (Senator for Trinity College). “They were all congratulating the minister, but nobody asked why are we not discussing why the school breakfast were needed in the schools... It’s plasters on the wrong end all the time. It’s always looking at trying to ease the symptoms of poverty instead of \_\_\_\_\_”
9. (12:30) The programme highlights some of the ‘Geographic’ factors that impact inequality. How does the situation of students in Abbey Vocational School illustrate this?

Include in your response, the 3 factors that mainly determine whether or not you go to 3<sup>rd</sup> level  
(socio-economic factor, accommodation costs, transport costs)

10. (15:40) What percentage of students miss lectures in order to work to pay the cost of college? \_\_\_\_\_

11. (18:15) What is the poverty rate amongst students in higher education? \_\_\_\_\_

(18:25) Why is Lynch opposed to using college loans as a means to bridge this financial gap?

12. (20:45-23:15 ) Pause the video. How do the Headmaster and students of Glenstal Abbey explain their educational philosophy?

(Include the school's slogan in your response).

Headmaster:

Students:

13. (23:20) Summarize the arguments in favour and against the state paying the salaries of teachers in 'private' schools.

Arguments In favour:

Arguments Against:

14. (25:05) What does Emer Smyth of the ESRI say about the impact of parental resources and activities outside school?

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15. (25:45) How does Senator Lynn Ruane illustrate the idea of "cultural and social capital"?

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16. (28:00) What is the goal of TAP (Trinity Access Programmes)?

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17. (28:40) What is the role of the 'Foundation Year' in TAP?

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\_\_\_\_\_

18. (30:30) Voluntary groups try to bridge the gap between what families can afford and what the state provides. How does the Edmund Rice Camps, Dublin operate?

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\_\_\_\_\_

19. (32:10) In what ways do the contributors say that the Leaving Cert compounding the inequality?

- a. Anne Looney \_\_\_\_\_
- b. Lynch \_\_\_\_\_
- c. Emer Smyth \_\_\_\_\_
- d. Ruairí Quinn (former Minister for Education) \_\_\_\_\_

20. (33:20) How have the progress of the DEIS school, St Joseph's in Rush, Co. Dublin changed over the last 10 years? \_\_\_\_\_

21. What changes did they make in St Josephs that has helped to bring about this change?

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22. (37:30) How does the apprenticeship system work for the company "Atlantic Aviation"?

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23. (40:30) Complete the quotation from Ruairí Quinn. "There was a reverence and respect for university education and academic education that really cast vocational education and apprenticeships....."

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24. (41:30) Describe the role of St Ultan's in Cherry Orchard as an initiative that aims to invest in young children and their needs.

<u>Initiatives focused on young children:</u>	<u>Initiatives across the whole community:</u>

25. (44:00) What does the role of "parental partnership" have in the success of young students?

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26. (46:15) Why does Senator Lynn Ruane think there should be a long-range policy (20-30-year goal)?

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27. (46:40) Complete the quote from Diarmaid Ferriter: "You've got to make sure that your investment in education is not just \_\_\_\_\_"

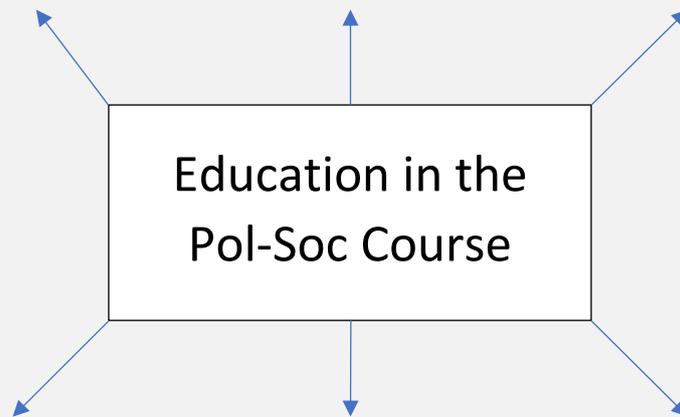
28. (47:55) Do you agree with Joe Duffy's statement that "It takes a village to raise a child, but in my mind, it takes a nation all working together?"

<u>Initiatives focused on young children:</u>	<u>Initiatives across the whole community:</u>

29. (50:20) Complete the old joke. "How do you know if someone went to Trinity?" \_\_\_\_\_

## Mind Map

Complete a mind map of how education filters into many different parts of our Politics and Society Course. Include the following areas: *Key Thinkers – Power and Decision Making – The Irish Constitution – SDG 4 – Human Rights and UNCRC – The Children’s Ombudsman – Models of Participation – Minister for Education*



Final Reflections: Has this documentary shaped how you think about contemporary education in Ireland?

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What legitimate criticisms could you make about this documentary? (Remember ‘critical evaluation’!!!)

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