

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

1. (2:00) How many school children in Ireland fail to complete secondary education every year? **9,000**
2. (3:15) Why were the 1950s a “grey time” in Irish History? **There was an economic downturn and John A Costello’s government were implementing “savage austerity measures”.**
3. (3:50) What was the ‘miracle’ that occurred in 1967 that meant that Joe Duffy could attend secondary school? **Fianna Fáil Minister for Education Donogh O’Malley introduced free secondary education into Ireland in 1967**
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!!!) **An unqualified scheme of secondary education for all would be both financially impractical and educationally unsound. Only a minority would be capable of benefiting of from such education and standards would fall. The voluntary system worked well and preserves a sense of the value of education.”**
5. (5:30) What, according to Diarmaid Ferriter, was the “dark stain” on the national conscience? **It was the 17,500 children who were leaving primary schools without access to further education. It was about “social justice” (another key phrase on our course).**
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? **25%**
  - b. What % of children in ‘middle class’ areas go on to 3<sup>rd</sup> Level? **80%**
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?
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 \_\_\_\_\_ **“eradicating the poverty and disadvantage in the first place.”**
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? **(socio-economic factor, accommodation costs, transport costs)**
10. (15:40) What percentage of students miss college lectures in order to work to pay the cost of college? **23%**
11. (18:15) According to Kathleen Lynch, what is the poverty rate amongst students in higher education? **32%**
12. (18:25) Why is Lynch opposed to using college loans as a means to bridge this financial gap? **Debt impairs choice and as in England, they will leave college with €50,000 in debt**
13. (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).
14. (23:20) Summarize the arguments in favour & against the state paying teachers in ‘private’ schools.
15. (25:05) What does Emer Smyth of the ESRI say about the impact of parental resources and activities outside school? **Huge participation in other formal structured activities like music, drama, art classes. They all contribute to the student’s academic activity.**

16. (25:45) How does Senator Lynn Ruane illustrate the idea of “cultural and social capital”? **If her daughter is struggling in Spanish, she can just pick up the phone and get a Spanish student in Trinity to give her grinds. Other families just don’t have that option.**
17. (28:00) What is the goal of TAP (Trinity Access Programmes)? **A range of programmes aiming to get students from low progression rates into higher education.**
18. (28:40) What is the role of the ‘Foundation Year’ in TAP? **Gives students time to test certain areas, make decisions, and get used to the university environment.**
19. (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?
20. (32:10) In what ways do the contributors say that the Leaving Cert compounds the inequality? Anne Looney – **When an exam carries high stakes it carries high power.** Lynch - **It’s heavily “Resource Dependent” if the school and parents are well resourced that enables you to do well.** Emer Smyth – **need a comprehensive system. The over reliance on exam-based assessment.** Ruairí Quinn (former Minister for Education)– **it isn’t “fit for purpose”.**
21. (33:20) How have the progress of the DEIS school, St Joseph’s in Rush, Co. Dublin changed over the last 10 years? **It has gone from 15% to 85% in the last 10 years.**
22. What changes did they make in St Josephs that has helped to bring about this change? **They abandoned ‘streaming’ and made classes ‘mix-ability’. They connect with as many people and organization as possible (such as TAP). The school can help, but the students must show up and do their bit. “High Expectations + No Excuses = College Success. All students are mentored. Peer Mentoring and teacher mentoring.**
23. (37:30) How does the apprenticeship system work for the company “Atlantic Aviation”? **Candidates are brought in straight from Leaving Cert. They’re introduced to the company. One year on the floor, one year in college. Hands on experience with good college support. This gets people from LC to productive much faster.**
24. (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 \_\_\_\_\_” **into a second class standard and something that was not going to bring you to a middle class lifestyle and therefore was frowned upon.**
25. (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.
26. (44:00) What does the role of “parental partnership” have in the success of young students?
27. (46:15) Why does Senator Lynn Ruane think there should be a long-range policy (20-30 year goal)? **It needs to be there so that the policies don’t fall when the government falls.**
28. (46:40) Complete the quote from Diarmaid Ferriter: “You’ve got to make sure that your investment in education is not just \_\_\_\_\_” **making the rich richer.**
29. (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?”
30. (50:20) Complete the old joke. “How do you know if someone went to Trinity?” **They’ll tell you...**