

TEXT: Less school - More work

“With every decade, the length of schooling has increased, until a thoughtful person must ask whether society can conceive of no other way for youth to come into adulthood” so writes sociologist James Coleman, chairman of the panel on youth of the President’s Science Advisory Committee. Coleman 47, is a long time student of American youth. In a new report, he and his team of nine social scientists and educators recommend more work and less school for young Americans aged 14 to 24.

The trouble with school, argues Coleman, is that its focus is too narrow. At their best, schools equip the young with basic skills, some knowledge of their heritage and a taste for learning. But schools are not designed to provide such adult necessities as the ability to manage one’s own affairs; nor are they the place of learning how to take responsibility for and work with others.

Schools not only fail to develop their capacities, says Coleman, but by monopolizing young people’s time, they also prevent them from acquiring skills elsewhere. Until about 50 years ago, a child learnt to be an adult in his life outside school, especially within his family. But the family no longer serves this function, and “school has expanded to fill the time that other activities once occupied. Today’s youngsters are saturated with information but starved for experience.

The panel says the best remedy to limit schooling and provide opportunities for young people, is to alternate study with work. The panel’s most provocative proposal is to get the young out of school earlier and get them into other organizations. Hospitals, symphony orchestra, department stores, and factories all are urged to experiment with such a plan, taking youngsters from age 16, using them for whatever labor they can perform while teaching them further skills and overseeing their formal schooling. This approach might be an even older pattern apprenticeship...

QUESTIONS (20 points)

I- READING COMPREHENSION (5 points)

A. Multiple choice questions (1 point)

Copy the complete sentence containing the correct answer.

1. According to Coleman the trouble with school is that it....

- a. is very difficult.
- b. focuses on many things.
- c. focuses on few things.
- d. focuses on nothing.

2. A child learnt to be an adult within his family....years ago.

- a. some fifteen
- b. twenty
- c. some fifty
- d. five.

B. True / False questions (2 points)

Copy the true sentences and correct the false ones.

1. The length of schooling has decreased.
2. Schools provide adult necessities.
3. School takes the time of the child's other activities.
4. A child learnt to be an adult within his family in the past.

C. Answer the following questions (2 points)

1. What is James Coleman?
2. Why does the panel propose to alternate study with work?

II- LANGUAGE (10 points)

A. Copy down each word from the list on the left with one from the right so as to make pairs of synonyms. (2 points)

A	B
Thoughtful	To concentrate
Focus	To gain
Skill	Attentive
Acquire	Expertness

B. Put the verbs in brackets into the correct tense: *present perfect* or *simple past*. (2 points)

- My son (not start) work yet. He's still at the High School.
- How long he (be) at school?
- He (be) at the High School for six years; before that he (spend) five years at the Primary School.

C. What change has recently happened in education in Mali?

Tell it in two sentences. (2 points)

D. Translate into English (2 points)

1. La réforme de 1962 a apporté un changement radical dans le système éducatif du Mali.
2. L'apprentissage est devenu plus facile grâce à l'introduction des nouvelles techniques d'information et de communication à l'école.

E. Translate into French (2 points)

Translate into French from "The trouble with school,....." to "a taste for learning."

III- COMPOSITION (5 points)

Choose one topic only.

1. Coleman says that schools not only fail to develop young people's capacities, but by monopolizing their time, they also prevent them from acquiring skills elsewhere.

Do you agree with him? Why? Give your reasons.

2. Adama Maïga 12° LL, LYMG (Gao) has passed the "Baccalauréat" exam. He wants to carry on his studies in the United States. He writes to his former English teacher Seydou Soumano LAKCC (Ségou) to ask for advice. He explains the field of studies he is interested in and his career preferences, and gives reasons.

Write Adama's letter with the appropriate layout.

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