Summary of the Teaching of Philosophy in Kazakhstan

Philosophy in the National goals of Education

According to the law of 1992 “the main task of the education system is to create the necessary conditions for bringing up and developing individuals on the basis of national and common human values, and of scientific and practical achievements.”

Philosophy related general goals are

- Civic awareness
- Individual rights and duties regarding family, society and the State
- Creative abilities
- Study culture, customs and traditions of Kazakhstan

Primary education

Primary education consists of a four year programme and is part of compulsory education. The main goals for primary education are:

- Teaching children to read and write
- To develop basic skills in numeracy and simple arithmetic operations
- Teaching the elementary basis of social and natural disciplines

The weekly time allocation for courses that can include philosophy related goals is presented below.

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The GER is used in the education sector and by the UN. According to the UNESCO Institute for Statistics the definition of the GER is the “total enrolment in a specific level of education, regardless of age, expressed as a percentage of the eligible official school-age population corresponding to the same level of education in a given school year.” Its purpose is “to show the general level of participation in a given level of education. It indicates the capacity of the education system to enrol students of a particular age group. It can also be a complementary indicator to net enrolment rate (NER) by indicating the extent of over-aged and under-aged enrolment.” It is calculated by dividing “the number of pupils (or students) enrolled in a given level of education regardless of age by the population of the age group which officially corresponds to the given level of education, and multiply the result by 100.”

5 N/A
Weekly time allocation in minutes per week per grade

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
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<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
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<tr>
<td>Fine arts</td>
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</table>

Assessment
There is no system of general examinations though some schools have examination in Kazakh or Russian language and mathematics.

Case studies of philosophy teaching in primary schools: Identified courses called “philosophy” in schools
Not available at this moment.

Case studies of philosophy teaching in primary schools: Philosophy related teaching in schools
Not available at this moment.

Secondary education
Secondary education consists of basic secondary (years 5-9) and senior secondary (years 10-11) of which the basic secondary years are compulsory.

The main goals in secondary education are:

- Laying down a common cultural and scientific basis through the compulsory general education programmes
- Social adaptation of students to life in the community
- Sense of citizenship
- Love of Motherland

Secondary education consists of a seven-year programme.

The weekly time allocation for courses that can include philosophy related goals is presented below.

| Weekly time allocation per grade in minutes per week |

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Assessment**

Student performance is being assessed by state examinations, standardized tests and traditional assessment methods.
Case studies of philosophy teaching in secondary schools: Identified courses called “philosophy” in schools
Not available at this moment.

Case studies of philosophy teaching in secondary schools: Philosophy related teaching in schools
One project promoting critical thinking in primary and secondary education in 24 countries in Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia, including Kazakhstan is the Reading and Writing for Critical Thinking (RWCT) project that is cosponsored by the International Reading Association. It introduces several key instructional methods that promote critical thinking.\(^\text{10}\)

Identified programmes to provide teaching materials in philosophy
Not available at this moment.

The Reading and Writing for Critical Thinking Project (RWCT) is based on the idea that democratic practices in schools play an important role in the transition toward more open societies. Active in 20 countries of Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, RWCT introduces research-based, instructional methods to teachers and teacher educators. These methods are designed to help students think reflectively, take ownership for their personal learning, understand the logic of arguments, listen attentively, debate confidently and become independent, life-long learners. The program can be used in all grades and subjects with existing curricula.

RWCT methods are adapted for classrooms in order to promote:
- Active Inquiry
- Student-Initiated Learning
- Problem-Solving
- Critical Thinking
- Cooperative Learning
- Writing And Reading Processes
- Alternative Assessments

The RWCT program is an initiative of the Open Society Institute (OSI), which promotes worldwide educational, social and legal reform, and the International Reading Association, a non-governmental organization of professional educators. These groups work in close collaboration with the 20 National Soros Foundations in participating countries. Faculty from the University of Northern Iowa and the College of William and Mary provide leadership and direction. In addition, RWCT enlists more that 70 professional educators who volunteer to serve in-country as workshop leaders, delivering a comprehensive series of professional activities to participants.

The Reading and Writing for Critical Thinking Project (RWCT) Website:
http://www.uni.edu/coe/rwct/project/about.html

Links

The Reading and Writing for Critical Thinking Project (RWCT) Information retrieved on 14 July 2009 from: http://www.uni.edu/coe/rwct/project/about.html

http://www.ibe.unesco.org/

\(^{10}\)http://www.questia.com/googleScholar.qst;jsessionid=Kc0TnZH2pxLTdVszQH0QX2G7syDz4PyydhGvznINh8Rf76H2Y170184580011057080025?docid=5002374866

This draft country briefing was prepared for comment by RUSHSAP, UNESCO Bangkok. Comments are welcome to rushsap.bgk@unesco.org
http://stats.uis.unesco.org/unesco/


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