

A Comparative Study of British and American Education

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Abstract: Education plays an important role in our life. In the world, Britain is the earliest country who has an educational system in the world, whose educational system has a big influence on many countries. In detail, part 1, we have a broad introduction of education about these two countries including their learning phrases, essential examinations which determine their whole life, some changes on educational systems, some actions for better education, a variety of different kinds of schools, famous universities. Part 2 mainly tells the similarities and differences of Education in Britain and America. Part 3 is the further understanding about each country's educational system and we are going to introduce some sources of American educational system. On the basis of these details, it is convenient for us to acknowledge the history of their educational system. Through this part, it is a helpful tool to make us be acquaint with the origin and development of our country.

Keywords: Comparison; English Education; American Education

1. Introduction

With the rapid development of globalization, education is highly valued in the whole world, especially in America, England which educational system is focused more by people around the world. Thus, more and more people prepared to go a further study on both countries. Education generally is defined as an activity which increases people's skills of knowledge and has a potential influence on people's thoughts. Narrowly speaking, it only refers to school education, that is, educators exert physical and mental influence on the educated in a purposefully planned and organized way, according to social demands and developments needs of the educated, so as to cultivate people in certain social needs. By comparing and contrasting culture of these two countries, and using data and historical evidence, we will acknowledge their similarities and differences. Education system is a general frame for the educational development of a country including preschool education, primary education, secondary education and higher education. This study is to explore and analyze the cultural factor for education in both the UK and USA.

2. Brief Introduction of British and American Education

The UK and the USA have the same education system in mature. Both of them have four stages of education, that is, preschool education, primary education, secondary education and higher education. Nevertheless, there are some differences in their educational systems.

In Britain, the nineteenth-century is a crucial period in the history of Britain. Dickens looked at 19th-century Britain and said, "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times." Indeed, the 19th century is destined to be one of the most significant in Britain's history. Britain, which was the first country to complete the Industrial Revolution and reached the peak of the world, had already experienced a rapid change from tradition to modernization during this one hundred year. In this century, various aspects emerged in Britain, including politics, economy, society and culture, which were worth reconsidering and studying by us.

In Britain, people consider the school where you are educated is essential to your future and it is a reflection of your social class. Thus, when the policy—"children should go to the school nearest to you" is published, a quantity of British parents who belong to middle class urgently begin to move their house to a place which has high quality education.

From a historical perspective, the British educational system has some changes. It is managed by church in the beginning, then by government in the Industrial Revolution and by the state nowadays. In addition, more and more people have an opportunity to receive education.