

Definitions of literacy, levels of literacy, global scale. Main reasons of different literacy in EU and global scale





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What does it means literacy to you?

- What Does it Mean to be Literate in the 21st Century? Is an important and relevant issue that invites dialogue from all practicing educators who work with youth. The world is changing and education is required to make those changes necessary to help people become fully competent, critical, and thoughtful citizens in the world they live in.



Definitions of literacy

- It is not easy to find definition of literacy, on the world exist a lot of definitions. In general is literacy the ability to read and write, but it is not all.
- Evolving definitions of literacy often include all the symbol systems relevant to a particular community.



Definitions of literacy (1)

- Terms such as literacy, literacy practices, basic literacy, initial or advanced literacy, functional literacy and post –literacy are used with widely different and sometimes unclear meanings in policy, programme and academic context.



Definitions of literacy (2)

- In a technological society, the concept of literacy is expanding to include the media and electronic text, in addition to alphabetic and number systems. These abilities vary in different social and cultural contexts according to need, demand and education.



Definitions of literacy (3)

- The primary sense of literacy still represents the lifelong, intellectual process of gaining meaning from a critical interpretation of the written or printed text. Key to all literacy is reading development, a progression of skills that begins with the ability to understand spoken words and decode written words, and culminates in the deep understanding of text.



Definitions of literacy (4)

- UNESCO defines literacy as the "ability to identify, understand, interpret, create, communicate and compute, using printed and written materials associated with varying contexts. Literacy involves a continuum of learning in enabling individuals to achieve their goals, to develop their knowledge and potential, and to participate fully in their community and wider society".



Definitions of literacy (5)

Active, successful participants in this 21st century global society must be able to:

- Develop proficiency and fluency with the tools of technology;
- Build intentional cross-cultural connections and relationships with others so to pose and solve problems collaboratively and strengthen independent thought;
- Design and share information for global communities to meet a variety of purposes;
- Manage, analyze, and synthesize multiple streams of simultaneous information;
- Create, critique, analyze, and evaluate multimedia texts;
- Attend to the ethical responsibilities required by these complex environments.



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Definitions of literacy (6)

- Literacy is the ability to use available symbol systems that are fundamental to learning and teaching – for the purposes of comprehending and composing—for the purposes of making and communicating meaning and knowledge.



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Being literate

- Being literate is at the heart of learning in every subject area. Being literate is necessary for learning. As student's progress through school and engage with subject areas more deeply, concepts become more challenging.



Levels of literacy (OECD)

- **Level 1 – Very poor literacy skills**
- An individual at this level may, for example, be unable to determine from a package label the correct amount of medicine to give a child.
- **Level 2 – A capacity to deal only with simple, clear material involving uncomplicated tasks.**
- People at this level may develop everyday coping skills, but their poor literacy skills make it hard to conquer challenges such as learning new job skills,
- **Level 3 – Adequate to cope with the demands of everyday life and work in an advanced society**
- This roughly denotes the skill level required for successful high school completion and college entry
- **Level 4 and 5 – Strong skills**
- Individuals at these levels can process information of a complex and demanding nature.



Levels of literacy (UNESCO)

Level 1:(Basic Level)

- read and understand simple printed paragraphs;
- write simple letters;
- count and recognize figures 1-1000

Level 2:(Middle Level)

- read and comprehend stories, songs, directions, instructions and simple parts of newspapers;
- write simple notes and letters;
- demonstrate proficiency in adding and subtracting

Level 3: (Self-Learning Level)

- analyse and synthesize main ideas of what they read;
- write one/two pages on certain topics;
- add and subtract large numbers with accuracy and speed.



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Why is it important to seek higher level of adult literacy

- All citizens of Europe shall be literate, so as to achieve their aspirations as individuals, family members, workers and citizens.
- Radically improved literacy will boost innovation, prosperity and cohesion in society, as well as the wellbeing, social participation and employability of all citizens.
- The strong literacy skills are closely linked to the probability of having a good job, decent earnings, and access to training opportunities. Individuals with weak literacy skills are more likely to be unemployed or, if employed, to be in jobs that pay little or that offer poor hours or working conditions.



Main reasons of different literacy

- Development of country, political situation
- Religion
- School system and his development
- Emigration of educated individuals, immigration
- Location
- Financial situation
- Attitude towards learning
- Individual disabilities
- Gender problems