

# Teaching the Condensed Curriculum for Better and Accelerated Learning ©



*Summary: Curricula the world over suffer from excessive, decontextualized, fact-heavy content that threatens meaningful learning. By condensing curricula, learning can be richer and stronger because there is time to: make content relevant, apply lessons in an integrated way; conduct true formative assessment; and actively cultivate learners' personal competencies. The condensed curriculum permits effective accelerated education, such as Speed School, but can also elevate learning for all students.*



# Key elements of condensed curriculum

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Identify & focus on  
**CRITICAL  
LEARNING  
OBJECTIVES**

Link lessons  
& learning to  
**LOCAL  
CONTEXT**

Use lessons also  
to cultivate  
**PERSONAL  
COMPETENCES**

- Condensed Curriculum: lessen content by discipline for stronger learning
  - Integrated lessons
  - Adapted evaluation, formative & continuous; ...
- Draw lesson content from local context
  - Have pupils apply lessons practically
  - Orient pupils to life & livelihood; ...
- Student-centered instructional methods
  - Practical learning
  - Opportunities for pupils to cultivate personal skills & to evaluate these; ...

# Critical learning outcomes: Lightened curriculum (1)

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Remove from the curriculum all content that is redundant, outdated, & that is better learned when contextualized



... free up class time to ...

... introduce content from local context

... allow the application of lessons

... conduct continuous formative assessment

... cultivate pupils' personal competencies

# Critical learning outcomes: Lightened curriculum (2)

Replace standard examples & illustrations of the key concepts & techniques

- The local environment: forests, water, structures, ...
- Government & civil society institutions & services
- Local history, stories, & culture, ...
- Prevalent local diseases
- The local economy
- ...

It is essential to respect the ...

CORE  
LEARNING  
OBJECTIVES

But, one can  
(and should)  
look to the local  
context to .....

Apply fundamental concepts & techniques

- Identify & analyze local resources
- Advocate for a cause with local authorities
- Organize a cultural, artistic, or recreational event
- Conduct an awareness campaign
- Launch a business; ...

# Critical outcomes: Integrated instruction



This is the antidote to the classic isolation of academic disciplines in siloed domains

Lets pupils learn the content from the curriculum in the same ways they will **use it in life**; that is, in an integrated manner.

For example:

Language: vocabulary; reports; speeches; ...

History: politics; impacts on the environment; ...

A scientific concept

Math: statistics, calculations; measurement; ...

Civics: customs; institutions; debate; roles; ...

# Critical outcomes: Learning assessment (1)

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Concerned by:

Assessment **OF**  
learning

Summative: To measure the acquisition, understanding, & retention of content

Assessment **FOR**  
learning

Continuous:  
Feedback & remediation to consolidate learning

Assessment **AS**  
learning

Continuous: Assessment as a pedagogic method – learning by testing & verifying

To  
evaluate:

KNOWING

+

KNOWING  
HOW

+

KNOWING  
TO BE

# Critical outcomes: Learning assessment (2)

## Assessment of understanding:

Ask pupils to explain the impacts of different factors on the water cycle

## Assessment of contextual understanding:

Ask pupils to analyze and describe the water cycle in their local setting

## Illustration:

Describe the water cycle in the local environment

## Classic Assessment:

Test pupils' ability to draw the water cycle & explain each phase

## Assessment of integration

?

## Assessment of ability to apply knowledge:

Ask pupils to propose strategies to improve local water quality & access

## Assessment of personal skills:

Assign pupils a task to complete that requires creativity, collaboration, planning, ...

# Critical outcomes: Daily life

To link lessons to daily life, it is necessary that they be ...

## Contextualized

- Draw examples from the local setting
- Make lessons relevant to pupils' personal, family and community lives
- Explore the practical impacts on the lives of different groups
- ...

## Practical / Applicable

- Find practical applications from the local context
- Assign tasks that require pupils to use one or more concepts or techniques
- Give interdisciplinary tasks to complete
- ...

## Forward-looking

- Guide pupils to explore the theme in the world of work
- Create interactions between pupils and practitioners
- Assign projects that simulate real-life applications
- ...



# Critical outcomes: Personal competencies

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To cultivate pupils' personal competencies, it is necessary to ...

Specify for each lesson (or group of lessons) 1 or 2 particular personal competencies to have the pupils practice & assess

Assign tasks & create learning conditions the require pupils to practice a specific competency or set of competencies

Review precisely with the pupils the behaviors, actions, & attitudes that correspond to each specific personal competency

Assess (& have pupils self-assess) how each pupil exhibits different specific competencies

Teachers from different subjects coordinate learning tasks so pupils can practice specific competencies

# Thank You

