

# The Right to an Education

## 1 **Children's rights**

In 1989, governments around the world agreed to protect the rights of children and young people. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) lists 54 rights that all children have. These include important rights, for example the right to life and to the best possible health; the right to have a name and a nationality; the right to believe what you want to believe and to have privacy; the right to have time to relax and play, and time to go to school.

## 8 **The right to an education**

Articles 28 and 29 in the UNCRC say that every child has the right to an education, and this education should try to develop each child's personality, talents and abilities.

## 11 **No chance to go to school**

There are over 65 million primary-school-aged children in the world who can't go to school, so they may not have the opportunity to find out what they are good at. Many of these children are working to help to feed their families; others are homeless or are travelling with their families and trying to find a better or a safer place to live.

16 In some countries, children walk for over two hours to get to school. Children who live even further than that from their nearest school may never get the chance to go. Why might it matter if all these children don't go to school?

## 19 **No resources**

In some countries there may be buildings for schools, but no teachers. Or perhaps there is no water and no toilets. Or it may be there is no chalk or no blackboards for teachers to write on, or no paper or pencils for children to write with.

23 In these schools, books may be in short supply; 14 or 15 children may have to share the same maths book or there may be one reading book for the whole class to share.

25 In countries where there are a lot of poor people, one class may have up to 100 children of all ages sitting in the shade of a big tree, or crammed onto benches in a stuffy classroom. Do you think these children are receiving an education that develops their personality, talents and abilities?

## 29 **Why is an education important?**

We should all care that so many children aren't in school because, without an education, their talents may be wasted and they may never know what they are good at. The best way for poor countries to become richer is for their children to be educated.

33 Children who go to school and learn to read, write and do arithmetic are more likely to have better lives than children who don't go to school. Children who go to school become adults who are more likely to have jobs and are more likely to send their own children to school. In many countries around the world, school is seen as a privilege. Without education, people often don't have the chance to develop their personality, talents and abilities.

## 38 **What can you do?**

You are lucky. You can help others to have some of the same chances that you have by supporting your school's charitable fundraising days and ask that collections at events like class assemblies or school concerts go to education charities around the world.

42 You can also take your old clothes, books and toys to charity shops. The charities will either send them to schools in poorer countries, or sell the things and give the money to the schools. Find out about charities that you can support which work to get children around the world into a school, and that will help children to develop their personalities, talents and abilities.

<b>Name:</b>	<b>Class:</b>	<b>Date:</b>
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- 1 List **four** rights from the text that are included in the UNCRC.

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2b

1 mark

- 2 In the UNCRC, what is the purpose of education?

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2b

1 mark

- 3 “*crammed onto benches in a stuffy classroom*” (paragraph 7). What is the impact of this kind of language in this text?

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2g

1 mark

- 4 At the end of paragraph 7, the writer asks: “*Do you think these children are receiving an education that develops their personality, talents and abilities?*”

Use ideas and facts from the text to give and to explain your answer to the question.

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2d

2 marks

- 5 “*In many countries around the world, school is seen as a privilege.*” (Paragraph 9)

In this sentence, what does the word “*privilege*” mean? Tick **one**.

- a special opportunity that should be valued  a rule that only rich people can follow   
 a talent or ability that everyone already has  somewhere you go to meet your friends

2a

1 mark

- 6 In paragraph 10, why do you think the writer says “*You are lucky?*” Use ideas from the text in your answer.

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2d

1 mark

- 7 Tick **one** message that is the same in the section called “***No chance to go to school***” and the section called “***Why is an education important?***”.

65 million children don’t go to school for very good reasons.

Children value school enough to walk for two hours to get there.

Children may have to work to feed their families.

Without education, children may not develop their talents.

- 8 Why do you think the author uses questions throughout this text?

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2h

1 mark

2g

1 mark

- 9 What is the main message of this text? Tick **one**.

100 children in a class is too many.

People with no education can never have good lives.

We should all try to make sure that children can go to school.

You can help by taking your old books and toys to charity shops.

2c

1 mark