

TEXT: EDUCATION FOR DEMOCRACY



Although the desire for freedom may be innate, knowledge of how democracy functions must be taught and learned. Any society that wishes to remain free needs to ensure that its citizens are all educated in the theory and practice of democracy. Part of the responsibility for such education lies with the schools, which may teach the children, not only through the formal.

Anyone who doubts the political importance of education would do well to note how vigorously authoritarian Governments work to control the information that pass through the schools, media and other sources. Those who have successfully struggled to overcome such regimes detest this practice of indoctrination and want to avoid it in the future. But the absence of totalitarian government does not magically give rise to a strong, stable, and effective democracy. Democracy does not teach itself. If the strength, benefits, and responsibilities of the democracy aren't made clear to the citizens, they will be ill-equipped to defend it. Education for democracy, therefore, must be approached in a conscious and serious manner. A focus on democracy doesn't preclude the open study of other doctrines or system of government. Nor does it seek to hide democracy's flaws. Democracy in contrast to other governments, are honest about their own shortcoming and truthful about those of other countries. If students are taught about the institutions, values, promises, and problems that have historically characterized democracy, and those that have characterized alternate forms of government, there is little doubt that they will come to appreciate and cherish the democratic political system. They will not necessarily regard it as perfect. It seldom is, but they realize that it the best system of government yet tried and perhaps the most difficult to maintain.

QUESTIONS

I.READING COMPREHENSION QUESTION

A. Multiple choice questions: Write the best answer to complete these sentences.

1. Knowledge of how democracy functions means That.....

- a-** It must be forbidden at school
- b-** it must be known well by the citizens
- c-** it must be taught and learnt

2-Democracy in contrast to other government is.....

- a- dishonest
- b- truthful
- c- untruthful**
- d- honest

B. True and false statements: Copy down the true sentences and correct the false ones.

- 1- We are being borne with the knowledge of the democracy
- 2- To achieve freedom, no citizen is allowed to remain ignore of practice
- 3- Authoritarian governments allow free access of information in school media
- 4- Democracy is regarded as the perfect form of government

C- W.H QUESTIONS: Answer the questions based on the text.

- 1-what is the responsibility of schools in the understanding of democracy?
- 2-what is political democracy?

II/ Language: Find either the definitions or synonyms of the following words (2pts)

-shortcoming –formal – indoctrination – innate

D-Translate into French: translate the first paragraph of the text into French. (2pts)

E-Translate into English (2pts)

Au Mali, nous vivons la plus mauvaise phase de la démocratie. Ni la population, ni les partis politics, ni les autorités locales, ni les chefs de tribus ne sont informés de la prise de certaines décisions par le gouvernement Malien. Dans une vraie démocratie, toutes les couches sociales doivent être au même niveau d'information.