

ACTIVATE

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The Newsletter of the Association of CSPE Teachers (ACT)
Supporting Citizenship Education in Ireland

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www.cspeteachers.ie

Conference 2010



Our **Annual Conference and AGM** for 2010 will take place on Saturday Nov 6th in the [Hilton Hotel, Kilmainham](#). Keynote speaker is Fergus Finlay, Chief Executive of Barnardos. Workshops include - Homelessness – Focus Ireland, CSPE and the Environment – Sustainable Energy Ireland, Age Issues in the Constitution – Pat Cahill, Oireachtas Outreach as Action Project, CSPE and IT Resources and Methodologies and our usual workshops on managing and reporting on Action Projects. Brochures for the Conference have been sent to schools, and are available to download (pdf document), from the news page of our website – www.cspeteachers.ie/news.html . An

application form is included with this mailing as well. Please pass the word on to your colleagues e.g. by copying the forms and passing them on. This year applications can also be emailed directly to act@esatclear.ie giving names, addresses and workshop preferences. Deadline for Application is Mon 26th Oct, but it might be worth checking for vacancies after that.

New Trócaire Resources

Trocaire's latest education resource for CSPE is now available for teachers. Entitled, "The Business of Food: Who Makes the Rules", it explores the impact of trade on global hunger and poverty. It contains classroom activities for teachers, ideas for taking action and an accompanying DVD. Based on an evaluation of our materials, this resource aims to replace Trocaire's CSPE Lent resource, with the hope that by receiving CSPE education resources in the first academic term, it will assist teachers in their yearly planning and preparation. Trocaire also has a resource for CSPE relating to the floods in Pakistan. The resource is packed full of interesting facts and activities which will allow teachers and students to explore the CSPE/Citizenship concepts of interdependence and human dignity, by bringing the issues facing Pakistan to life in the classroom.

Oireachtas Outreach

The Oireachtas Outreach programme will run again this year and volunteer schools are sought. They are limiting the number to 60/70 before Christmas and hoping that those classes availing of the workshop would intend to use them as Action Projects. They are also seeking a regional spread. They will go to the schools for the workshop and bring local TDs/representatives for "Q and A." There will be an Oireachtas Outreach workshop at the Annual Conference. For more information Contact Noel Murphy at the Oireachtas Outreach.Communications Unit Tel: 01-6184403

Membership Details

Memberships for 2010/2011 are now due. Please send €20 to our treasurer Finbar Loftus at St Peter's Community School, Passage West, Co. Cork.

News

Holocaust Education Trust

Trinity College Dublin in association with Holocaust Education Trust Ireland **Certificate in Holocaust Education** Continuous Professional Development for teachers, educators, clergy and community workers A programme comprising 4 modules A certificate in Holocaust education providing in-depth tuition on the historical significance and contemporary resonance of the Holocaust. The programme provides participants with information, tools and skills to address this subject in their areas of work, and to develop pedagogic expertise to complement their knowledge. The programme is divided into four modules, all of which must be completed by participants who wish to attain the certificate which is validated by Trinity College Dublin. For further information, please contact HETI Tel: 01 6690593 Email: info@hetireland.org

Inservice Courses

Teaching CSPE to students in need of learning support:

Target Group: A series of Evening Workshops has been organised for all teachers of Civic, Social and Political Education who wish to explore a variety of approaches, methodologies, classroom strategies and appropriate resources for use with students who require additional support

Course Aims: The workshop will look at how to teach the seven concepts, differentiating the work, teaching reading, the use of visuals, appropriate active learning methods, graphic organizers, etc. Appropriate Action Projects will also be discussed and how to tackle the reporting of these.

All courses 7 pm to 9.30 pm

Blackrock Education Centre Mon 22 Nov; Cork Education Support Centre Mon 22 Nov; Co.

Wexford Education Centre Tue 23 Nov; Athlone Education Centre Tue 23 Nov; Kilkenny

Education Centre Wed 24 Nov; Mayo Education Centre Thu 25 Nov;

Limerick Education Centre Thu 25 Nov ; Dublin West Education Centre Tue 30 Nov

Laois Education Centre Tue 30 Nov; Galway Education Centre Wed 1 Dec;

Sligo Education Centre Thu 2 Dec.

Undertaking CSPE Action Projects and Their Assessment:

Target Group: Teachers of Civic, Social and Political Education who have any concerns or who have never organised and managed Action. Projects and who wish to learn about the Report on the Action Project (RAP) and the Course-Work Assessment Book (CWAB) assessment instruments

Course Aims: This course provides teachers with a step-by-step approach to organising and managing an Action Project from beginning to end. Strategies in how to facilitate students in finding a suitable Issue will be explored. The managing of tasks/groups/committees will be discussed. Teachers will be encouraged to share their own experiences of undertaking Action Projects while experienced CSPE teachers will also be there to share examples of Action Projects they have undertaken.

Blackrock Education Centre Tue 2 Nov ; Cork Education Support Centre Tue 2 Nov ; Mayo

Education Centre Tue 2 Nov ; Donegal Education Centre Wed 3 Nov ; Navan Education Centre

Wed 3 Nov ; Clare Education Centre Thu 4 Nov ; Laois Education Centre Mon 8 Nov

Drumcondra Education Centre Tue 9 Nov ; West Cork Education Centre Tue 9 Nov ; Tralee

Education Centre Wed 10 Nov ; Kildare Education Centre Wed 10 Nov ; Kilkenny Education

Centre Thu 11 Nov.

Review of CSPE Exam Paper 2010

Response of the Association of CSPE Teachers

Overall the paper deserves a welcome - quite a good spread of topics and activities, though parts of the paper were more demanding than is usual.

Section 1: The Picture question - It was interesting to see Queen Elizabeth in combination with Mary McAleese! José Manuel Barroso was the least recognisable of the four. Students might this right by process of elimination. Some of the short questions were difficult - e.g. the question about which government department is responsible for voting and elections. Likewise the question on the Constitution (whether the "numbered points" were Acts, Clauses, Articles or Paragraphs) would have posed difficulties.

Section 2: The stimulus questions were good - a good spread of topics - Human Rights (Burma), EU, the Environment and Development issues. The colour inserts were well produced - e.g. the statistics in the Third World question were well presented visually. Some of the stimulus material however was very heavy on text, which would have been difficult for some students. The EU question, on ring-tone scams was very appropriate - showing how EU legislation can impact on young people's lives. These questions also provided plenty of opportunity for students to express their opinions, eg on the issue of some bands and movie stars supporting campaigns against human rights abuses.

Section 3: The longer questions - The question on the environment had a good variety of tasks. The question on democracy (voter turnout issue) was a good question. Again welcome for young people there were more references to mobile phones - in the context of Obama's use of text messaging in his successful campaign. The social networking question (Facebook, Bebo etc) was welcome but as it was online-safety orientated it was more appropriate for SPHE. It could have been closer to the core concepts of CSPE - eg dealing with the issue of online bullying or the creation of online communities.

Comments on CSPE Exam Paper from Cork Branch

The paper was structured so that there was something for everybody and it took account of all abilities.

Section 1 and 2 was quite challenging in places for a common level paper.

Section 3 had questions which were manageable for weaker students but also had questions for the stronger candidates in the subject.

Section 1 Question 1 was deemed to be fair

Question 2 (a) 2 answers required one mark awarded. (d) the language was a little ambiguous "Chief Law Officer"

Question 3 the layout was a little confusing keeping in mind weaker candidates (c) a very technical question on a common paper with a broad syllabus.

Section 2 Question.1 (b) requires two similar answers and 3 marks awarded (c) the language and style of question was difficult Question 2 (a) third part requires three pieces of information for one mark (c) Difficult question for common paper

Question 3 (a) five pieces of information and only 4 marks awarded. (b) three pieces of information required and only 2 marks awarded

Question 4 (b) possible to link all issues on the exemplar material. Very little space given to 'Name' and 'Explain'

Section 3 Question 3 It was felt read much easier than Question 1 and 2.

Question 4 This makes assumptions about access to Bebo and Facebook which some candidates may not have experienced.

The use of language may act as a disincentive for students to attempt question 1 and 2 in this section. 'interested in this practice' may prove difficult for weaker students. Comparing Question 2 part (a) making notes for speakers for 6 marks and Question 3 part (b) where the candidate is even given headings for paragraphs for 6 marks may highlight unfair weighting on one question over another and allow candidates to be awarded more for less effort.

Materials From Ombudsman's Office



What Do You Say? Is a new range of materials for CSPE from the Ombudsman's Office, and is downloadable from the website: www.oco.ie . A limited number of printed copies is also available. Contact oco@oco.ie or ring (01) 8656800 . Topics include "Having a Voice", "Family Care", "Wealth and Material Deprivation", "Young People and Education". The pack comes with a set of posters, suggested activities and ideas for Action Projects. From the introduction: "The purpose of this resource is to make young people more aware of children's rights and to highlight how they apply to them in their everyday lives. The materials also highlight the role and work of the Ombudsman for Children's Office".

ECO-UNESCO

ECO-UNESCO Young Environmentalist Awards 2011: Registration is now open for Ireland's most exciting environmental awards programme for young people, the ECO-UNESCO Young Environmentalist Awards. The Awards recognise and reward the achievements of young people in environmental protection and are open to any group of young people, aged 10-18, who want to take action on key environmental issues such as climate change, energy, waste, biodiversity, transport and more...Get some inspiration for projects from the clip of last May's ECO-UNESCO Young Environmentalist Awards Showcase at the Mansion house. View the clip on the blog. Contact: Aine Bird, Intern, ECO-UNESCO, 'the greenhouse', 17 St., Andrew St., Dublin 2 (T: +353 (0) 1 6625491;F: +353 (0) 1 6625493;E: interns@ecounesco.ie W: www.ecounesco.ie

PHOTO COMPETITION: Life, Camera, Action! – submission date approaching for photo & film competition. Celebrate the UN International Year of Biodiversity by taking part in ECO-UNESCO's summer photo & film exhibition! Taking part couldn't be easier. Simply send ECO-UNESCO your photos or short films on the theme of Biodiversity and be in with the chance to WIN a masterclass in wildlife documentary making, and a host of other great prizes! Find out how to take part. ALL entries will be exhibited at The Greenhouse, Dublin city centre, in the run up to the ECO-UNESCO National Youth ECO-Forum 2010 World Wild Web: Young People Exploring Biodiversity.

ECO-UNESCO's Youth for Sustainable Development Seminar 2011

Take part in ECO-UNESCO's Youth for Sustainable Development Seminar 2011

For Young People aged 15-18, Youth Workers, Youth Leaders, Teachers or Educators from Community Organisations and NGOs. Venue: ECO-UNESCO, The Greenhouse, 17 St Andrew Street, Dublin 2, 30th of March 2011 (TBC) FREE! To register, just e-mail ysd@ecounesco.ie or call+ 353 (0)1 662 54 91 . For more information contact ECO-UNESCO Youth for Sustainable Development Co-ordinator ysd@ecounesco.ie .

LawEd

LawEd is a TY course designed to inform students about the law – the Irish legal system, consumer rights, employment rights and more. More information: www.lawed.ie

Activate is published once per school term by the Association of CSPE Teachers—supporting citizenship education in Ireland. Articles and letters for publication should be sent to the editor, Brendan O'Regan, Arklow CBS, Co. Wicklow, or emailed to info@cspeteachers.ie