



Appropriate Age for Class 1 Admission

[Source: IE](#)

Why in News?

The issue of the appropriate age of **admission to Class 1** has been a matter of debate in India for a long time.

- There were 14 States and Union Territories, as of March 2022, that allow Class 1 admission for children **who have not completed six years**.
- However, the Union government has recently ordered all states and UTs to **make six years the minimum age** of admission for Class 1, by the [New Education Policy \(NEP\) 2020](#).

What does the NEP 2020 Say About the Minimum Age for Class 1 Admission?

- The new NEP pitches for a “5+3+3+4” design for formal schooling corresponding to the **age groups 3-8 years (foundational stage), 8-11 years (preparatory stage), 11-14 years (middle stage), and 14-18 years (secondary stage)**.
 - This brings early childhood education (also known as preschool education for children of ages **3 to 5 years**) under the ambit of formal schooling.
- This effectively means that a child should be 6 years old to be eligible for admission into Class 1, after completing three years of early childhood education.

Note:

- [Right to Education \(RTE\) Act, 2009](#) guarantees education from the **age of 6 years to 14 years**.
 - This means that a child is expected to begin elementary education (Class 1) at the age of 6 years.

What does Research Say About the Entry Age for Formal Education?

- Comparative studies in New Zealand observed groups of children starting formal literacy lessons at ages 5 and 7.
 - Children who started at **age 5 showed less positive attitudes** towards reading and exhibited poorer text comprehension compared to those who started later.
- **Global Perspective on Entry Age:**
 - Six is the standard age for primary school in East Asia and most European countries.
 - Scandinavian countries start formal education at seven.

UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Question (PYQ)

Prelims

Q. Which of the following provisions of the Constitution does India have a bearing on Education? **(2012)**

1. Directive Principles of State Policy
2. Rural and Urban Local Bodies
3. Fifth Schedule
4. Sixth Schedule
5. Seventh Schedule

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- (a)** 1 and 2 only
(b) 3, 4 and 5 only
(c) 1, 2 and 5 only
(d) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

Ans: (d)

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