

# Lessons learned from a year of teaching in China

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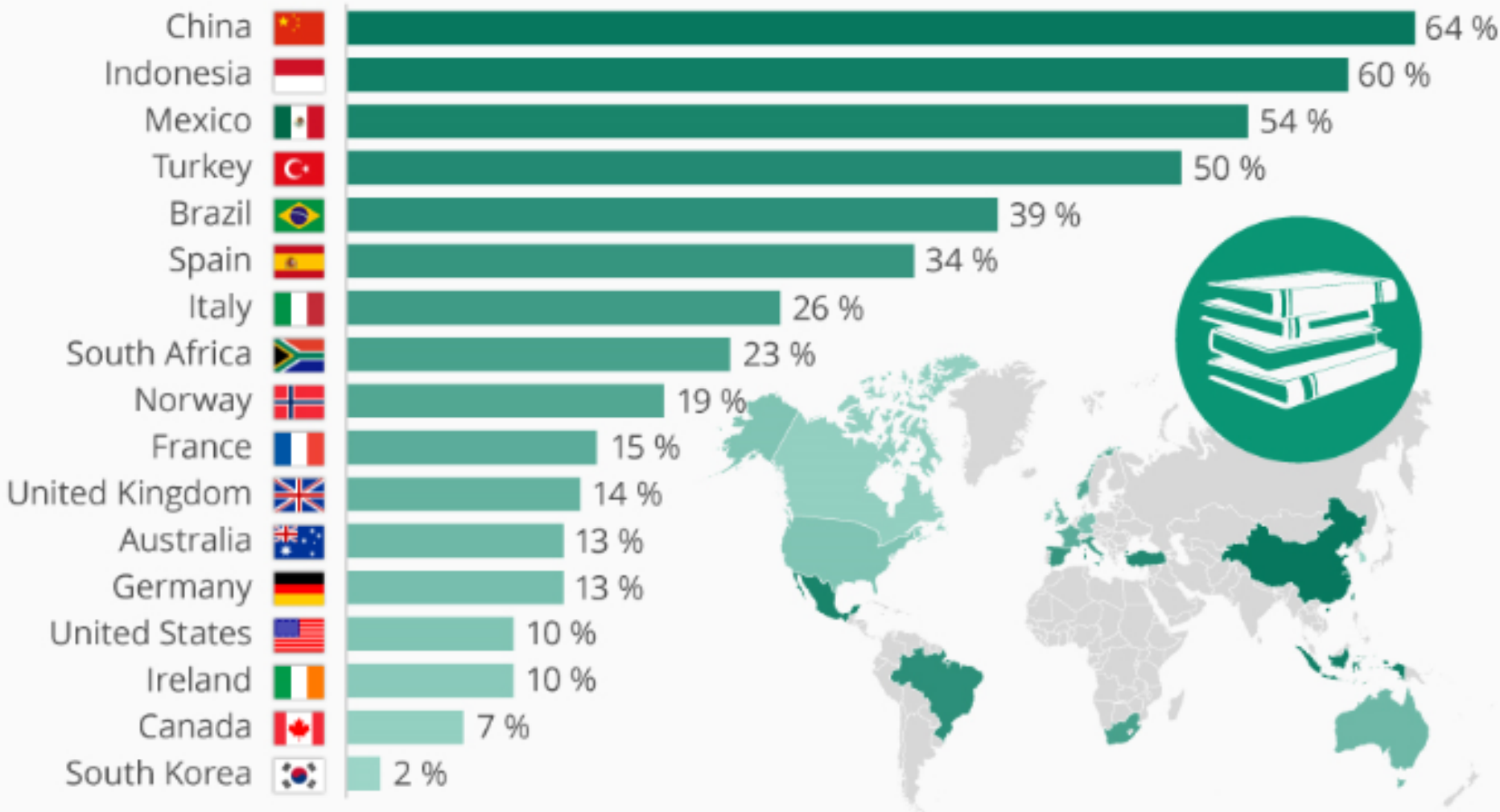
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# Where Do People Fail To Attain A High School Qualification?

% of 25-34 year-olds with an education level below upper secondary in selected countries\*



\*2014 or latest year - upper secondary education corresponds to the final stage of secondary education in most OECD countries.



# Education in China

Students work hard from the very beginning.



# It is all about the Gaokao



The paper reads "6933 days until GaoKao."



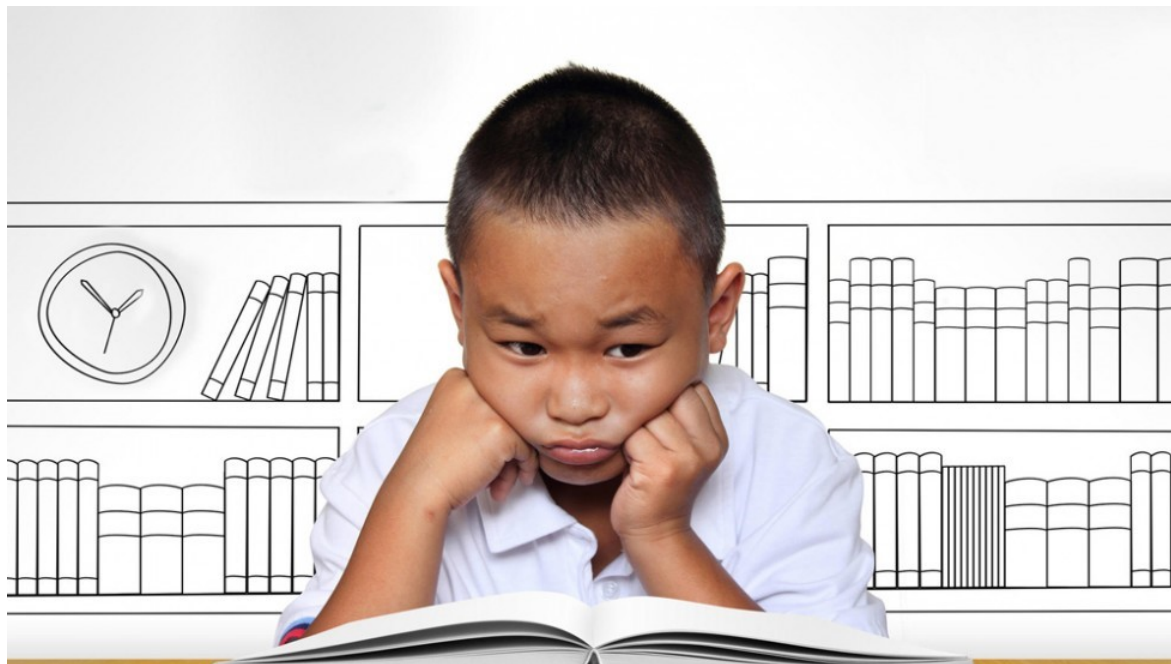
The *Gaokao* creates considerable pressure for students, parents and teacher.

*Why?* It is a life-changing evaluation.

*How?* Cramming including memorization and practice

*Concerns?*

- No strong focus on critical thinking.
- Lack of consideration for students' emotions, values and personalities.



# English Language Abilities

Students learn to read, write and listen to English. They often do not have as much practice speaking English.

Beijing will hold English listening comprehension test twice a year for students who take part in the Gaokao starting from 2017 and include oral English tests into the exam from 2021, Beijing News reports.

Beijing also plans to include oral English starting from 2021, with the score for oral and listening components totaling 50 points.

The Ministry of Education has been pushing for reforms in the national exam, especially for the English language.



# How are the students different?

# gross generalizations

Identified from personal observation, interviews with eleven American faculty teaching in China, and from discussions with twenty-four post-secondary Chinese students at Renmin University.

- Patience
- Focus on memorization and structured problem solving.
- Critical thinking skills
- Revere instructor
- Hesitant to share diverse points of view orally.
- Expectations
  - “talk and chalk” lecture
  - All about academics



# Instructional Strategies

Know your students and work to develop a personal relationship with them.

Experiences, Goals



# Instructional Strategies

Be true to your teaching style  
but provide clear guidance on classroom and  
learning expectations.

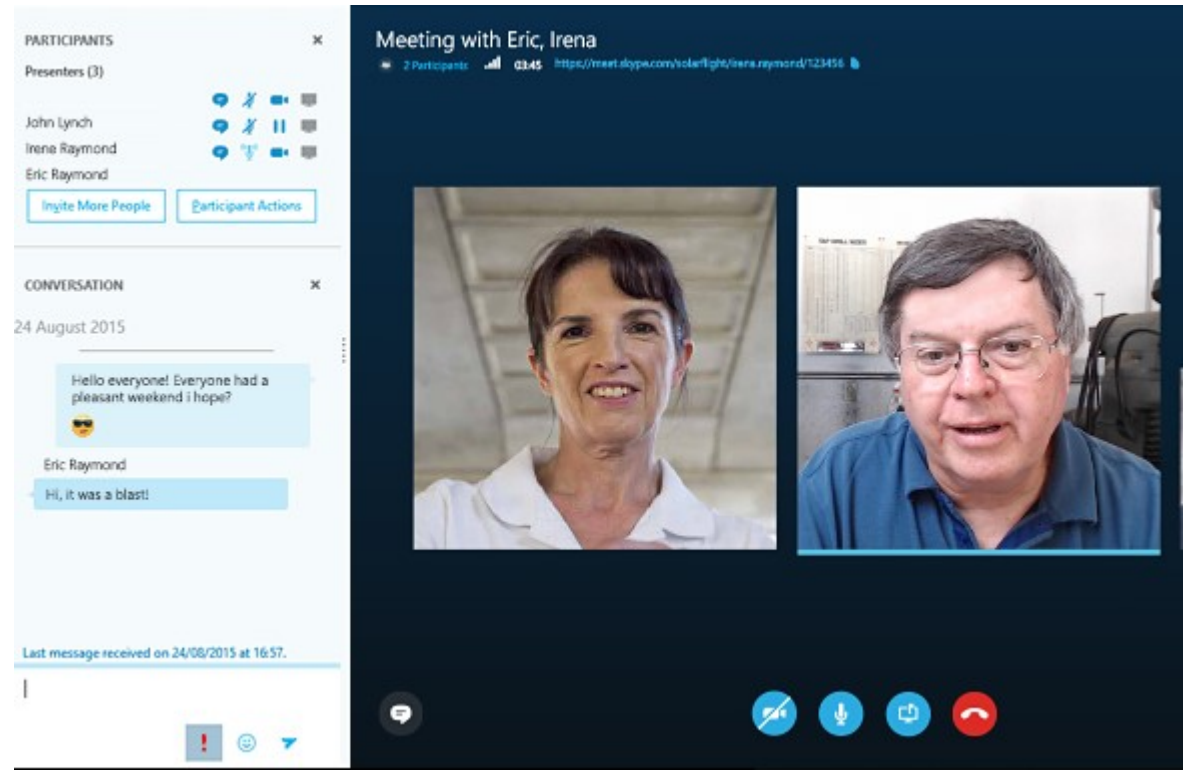
Ease into  
controversial topic  
discussion through  
anonymous  
commenting  
technology.



# Instructional Strategies

Use foreign experts

Encourage, expect self-reflection



The image shows a screenshot of a Zoom meeting interface. On the left, a chat window is open, displaying a conversation from August 24, 2015. The chat history shows a message from an unnamed participant: "Hello everyone! Everyone had a pleasant weekend i hope?" followed by a smiley face emoji. A response from Eric Raymond follows: "Hi, it was a blast!". The chat window also shows a list of participants under the heading "PARTICIPANTS", including John Lynch, Irene Raymond, and Eric Raymond. On the right, the main meeting area shows a video call with two participants: a woman on the left and a man on the right. The meeting title is "Meeting with Eric, Irena" and it shows 2 participants. The bottom of the screen features a control bar with icons for mute, video, chat, and end call.

Other strategies?

