

History is one of the few school subjects commonly mandated in education systems throughout the world. Furthermore, the use of history textbooks to support student learning is an almost universally accepted practice. However, the widespread international presence of the humble history textbook should not disguise its ideological and cultural potency. Indeed, essential to understanding the power and importance of history textbooks is to appreciate that in any given culture they typically exist as the keepers of ideas, values and knowledge. No matter how neutral history textbooks may appear, they are ideologically important, because they often seek to inject the youth with a shared set of values, national ethos and an incontrovertible sense of political orthodoxy. Textbooks stand as cultural artefacts that embody a range of issues associated with ideology, politics and values which in themselves function at a variety of different levels of power, status and influence. Embedded in history textbooks are narratives and stories that nation states choose to tell about themselves and their relations with other nations. Typically, they represent a core of cultural knowledge which future generations are expected both to assimilate and support.

**1. According to the passage, history textbooks ----.**

- A) are now being rewritten with a more international and universal outlook to rectify past misunderstandings between nations
- B) are not appropriate for teaching history because they are always ideologically biased
- C) should be written in a neutral and unbiased way so that future generations can have a healthy understanding of history
- D) not only have educational, but also ideological functions, serving to transmit a nation state's values
- E) consist of baseless stories and narratives rather than historical facts that are more important for a nation state's survival

**2. It is stated in the passage that ----.**

- A) some countries have been more successful in producing more neutral and less ideological history textbooks than others
- B) in many nations, debates over the content and format of history textbooks continue to generate considerable political conflict
- C) nations attempt to provide future generations with particular values that will ensure the continuation of existing structures
- D) history textbooks have become more politicized after the emergence of nation states to preserve national identity
- E) many educational systems throughout the world include history in their curriculum to enhance political literacy

**3. According to the passage, regardless of how impartially they are written, history textbooks ----.**

- A) need to teach both the past and the future
- B) serve a purpose other than intended
- C) are the best options for cultural transmission
- D) affect ideologically the youth more than adults
- E) can never be completely objective and neutral

**4. It can be inferred from the passage that the author ----.**

- A) is in favour of using history textbooks to inform people about international relations
- B) sets out to emphasize the use of history textbooks to instil national values in the young generation
- C) is of the opinion that textbooks on history are easy to write
- D) believes in the necessity of locally produced history textbooks to bring about world peace
- E) is trying to persuade the reader of the importance of understanding history