

A Public Lecture*

- Objectives** : To enable the listeners to grasp the key details of a lecture and to remember the factual details to reflect over.
- Text** : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kcW4ABcY3zI&t=244s>
A well educated mind Vs a well formed mind: Dr. Shashi Tharoor at TEDx Gateway 2013
- Duration** : About 15 minutes.
- Preparation** : Watch/listen to as many lectures as possible, especially Ted Talks, to get exposed to great ideas.
- Procedure** : Setting the context and the task:
Dr. Shashi Tharoor was a Minister of State for Human Resource Development between 2012 -2014 and delivered this address in 2013 as a TEDx Talk in Mumbai. He, after serving at the United Nations in various capacities, has become a popular politician and considered to be a consummate speaker.

In any TEDx Talk a speaker presents his/her “great, well formed ideas in under 18 minutes”. The time limit is fixed mainly to get the total attention of the audience and the talk has to be new and has the capacity to provoke people to think.

- Task** : Answering the factual questions briefly.
- Process** : Watch/listen to the speech and while listening jot down the ideas and expressions that are important, which appeal to you besides being vital for comprehension.

Distribute the questions soon after listening to the lecture.

The fact based questions are significant to critique the current system and to evolve alternative patterns.

Answer the following questions as quickly as possible in just a few words: (not in complete sentences)

What is the focus of his talk?

What is the percentage of Indians under 35 years?

How many millions of Indians are waiting to enter into higher education?

What is the average age of Indians?

What would happen to the demographic dividend if we educate the youth wrong?

What happens to the uneducated and frustrated youth of the country?

What are the four Es he is talking about?

What is the percentage of literacy when the British left the country?

How many universities were there then?

What is the percentage of literacy today?
How many students are there in higher education now?
What is the percentage of women literacy when the British left?
Where was the IIT kharagpur set up?
How does he describe the IITs and IIMs in India?
What is that a greater percentage of employers dissatisfied with the graduates?
Whose fault is it if the kids are out of the educational system now?
Why does he refer to Chitramani?
Why are community colleges important?
How is research important to India?
How is a well formed mind different from a well filled mind?

If needed, the learners can watch it again to check their answers.

For self-reflection:

Problems with Indian innovations.

Hyper thinking.

Learning outcomes:

1. Learners realize that public lectures are a source of significant ideas and can inspire them to reflect and even turn them into actions.
2. Learners recognize that public lectures, besides being an intellectual nourishment, offer opportunities to listen to the best linguistic input.

Further practice:

Watch/listen to the experts in the area of your interest, if possible personally attending them whenever and wherever held.

***Public lecture:** “A Speech that is open to the public” and delivered by experts in the field concerned. Public lectures are usually organised in colleges and in civic societies. For journalists it is an important source of the news.

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