Top 5 - Education Policies

**Vocationalism 1979**
A range of policies that targeted the needs of the economy through developing courses and YTS (Youth Training Schemes) to target rapid rise in youth unemployment – paid training on the job whilst going to college.

**GNVQs – 1995 onwards**
Vocational qualifications, similar to BTECs that were delivered in workplaces and intended to provide a vocation equivalent to GCSEs and A levels. Rebranded at vocational GCSEs and A levels in 2001, including catering, sports science, textiles, health and social care etc.

**Reforms to FE and Apprenticeships**
Under coalition and conservative governments there has been reduced funding for Further Education and a growth in Apprenticeships including the Apprenticeship Levy on businesses to make them access young talent. To date, the government has recouped £3 billion more from the Levy than it has paid out. BTECs also being replaced with T levels from 2020 to create greater parity of esteem.

**NVQs – 1986 onwards**
Vocational qualifications, similar to BTECs, and intended to standardise vocational qualifications such as plumbing, carpentry, electrics etc.

**Changes to Post-16 Education**
Started under New Labour with raising of school leaving age in 2010 and taken on by the Conservatives, the requirement for students to complete GCSE Maths and English until they achieve a Grade C (or 4) has impacted on the number of students remaining in education. This tackled the problem of increasing 16-18 year olds being NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training in the early part of 21st Century.

**How far have these been successful?**
Increased university admissions, but academic deflation – degree worth less than it used to – reserve army of labour?

Serving the needs of the economy