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ABSTRACT

This brief pamphlet provides a description of the obligatory and optional subjects taught in all 10 forms of the "Folkeskole," as of August 1976. Those subjects include: (1) Danish; (2) Arithmetic/Mathematics; (3) Physical Education and Sport; (4) Christian Studies (compulsory school, i.e. 1st-9th forms); (5) Christian Studies/Religious Education (10th form); (6) Creative Art; (7) Music; (8) History; (9) Geography; (10) Biology; (11) Contemporary Studies; (12) Needlework; (13) Woodwork; (14) Home Economics; (15) English; (16) Physics/Chemistry; (17) German; (18) French; and (19) Latin. Brief goals and objectives for each of the subjects are listed. (EH)

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THE AIMS OF THE SUBJECTS TAUGHT IN THE FOLKESKOLE  
IN DENMARK

(Ministry of Education Executive Order of 24 September 1975)

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**Ministry of Education Executive Order of 24 September 1975 on  
the Aims of the Subjects taught in the Folkeskole**

Pursuant to 4 (5) and 7 (3) of Act No. 313 of 26 June 1975 on the Folkeskole, in force from 1 August 1976, the following regulations shall apply as to the aims of the obligatory and the optional subjects taught in all 10 forms of the Folkeskole.

**Danish**

1. (1) The aim of the instruction is to strengthen the pupils' possibilities of playing their role in a many-sided linguistic community.

(2) The instruction shall further the pupils' possibilities of evaluating, committing themselves, and acting. The instruction shall aim at giving the pupils a vehicle for perceiving their own situation and that of other people, a vehicle for acquiring knowledge; it shall furthermore aim at supporting their conceptualization and giving them a tool for establishing contacts and for communicating.

(3) The pupils shall acquire such proficiency in listening to, speaking, reading, and writing Danish that they are able to perceive and to express themselves in a precise and varied way.

**Arithmetic/Mathematics**

2. (1) The aim of the instruction is that the pupils shall master fundamental mathematical concepts and acquire an insight into selected fields of the subject.

(2) The instruction shall enable the pupils to understand the role of the subject as a descriptive instrument and the importance of logical reasoning in Arithmetic/Mathematics. The pupils shall become familiar with the development of conceptual fields or systems within the subject.

(3) It is furthermore the aim that the pupils shall master working methods that will enable them, on the one hand, to work individually as well as collectively with the perception, formulation, and solution of problems and, on the other hand, to increase their knowledge.

(4) The instruction shall contribute to increasing the pupils' proficiency in using Arithmetic/Mathematics as descriptive instruments and for solving practical problems.

### **Physical Education and Sport**

3. (1) The aim is to motivate the pupils for physical activity and to further their physical, mental, and social development.

### **Christian Studies (compulsory school, i.e. 1st - 9th forms)**

4. (1) The aim of the instruction is to convey to the pupils knowledge of Christianity and its background.

(2) The pupils shall learn to understand biblical texts and to evaluate statements based on such texts.

(3) The instruction shall contribute to giving the pupils an understanding of religious concepts and problems and thus a better basis for perceiving vital human issues, whether of an individual or of a social nature, and for forming opinions in such issues.

### **Christian Studies/Religious Education (10th form)**

5. (1) The aim of the instruction is to increase the pupils' knowledge of Christianity and its background and of the major non-Christian religions.

(2) The pupils shall learn to understand and to evaluate statements that have a religious bias.

(3) The instruction shall contribute to giving the pupils an understanding of religious concepts and problems and thus a better basis for perceiving vital human issues, whether of an individual or of a social nature, and for forming opinions in such issues.

### **Creative Art**

6. (1) The aim of the instruction is to develop the pupils' ability and desire to express experiences and ideas figuratively.

(2) The pupils shall acquire creative skills in the subjects which can be of value to them also in their leisure-time.

(3) The instruction shall contribute to extending the pupils' understanding of the figurative forms of expression and thus their possibilities of making independent evaluations of such expressions.

### **Music**

7. (1) The aim of the instruction is to develop the pupils musical skills and to keep up their desire to engage in musical activities.

(2) The pupils shall be given the opportunity of developing, both as listeners and as practising musicians, an active approach to various forms of musical expression and, through the music, be allowed to cooperate with others and to attain an understanding of foreign environments and cultures.

(3) The instruction shall contribute to familiarizing the pupils with those Danish songs and hymns that form part of the traditions of the Danish people.

### **History**

8. (1) The aim of the instruction is to convey to the pupils knowledge of the conditions of life, the ideas and mentality, and the social conditions prevailing in earlier times. They shall be given an opportunity to see the connection between the present and the past and to observe the changes that have occurred in man's opportunities for development.

(2) The pupils shall be familiarized with the traditions on which the Danish social and cultural life is based and which form the basis of change as well as further development.

(3) The instruction shall contribute to training the pupils to listen to and read general historical accounts, and to evaluate them as explanatory accounts of phenomena that they do not know from their own immediate field of experience.

### **Geography**

9. (1) The aim of the instruction is to convey to the pupils knowledge of geographical concepts and models which will enable them to form a comprehensive view and to draw general conclusions.

(2) It is furthermore the aim to encourage the pupils' interest in - and to some extent to train them in - using the geographical concepts, models, and methods and, in this connection, to find, select, analyse, and evaluate available information.

(3) The instruction shall contribute to giving the pupils an understanding of the importance of natural and man-made factors

that will enable them to arrive at well-motivated attitudes to problems in their own and in other societies.

### **Biology**

10. (1) The aim of the instruction is to convey to the pupils knowledge of the interaction between organisms and their physical environment and between different organisms.

(2) It shall furthermore be the aim to teach the pupils to observe and describe plants and animals and their most important reactions. They shall learn to perceive and formulate biological problems.

(3) The instruction shall contribute to giving the pupils an understanding of man's conditions and possibilities and thereby lay the foundation for their commitment to local and global environmental problems.

### **Contemporary Studies**

11. (1) The aim of the instruction is to give the pupils insight into some essential local, national, and global problems of our time.

(2) It shall furthermore be the aim to develop in the pupils some skills in evaluating political, economic, and ideological statements.

(3) The instruction shall contribute to developing the pupils' interest in political phenomena, thus encouraging them to try to clarify the historical preconditions and the basic values underlying their own and other people's statements and actions.

(4) The instruction shall also contribute to acquainting the pupils with some of the factors underlying conflicts in contemporary society and acquainting them with ways of trying to solve such conflicts. It shall also be explained how the individual, alone or in cooperation with others, can influence on the decisions made in society.

### **Needlework**

12. (1) The aim of the instruction is to convey to the pupils a basic knowledge of practices which can be adopted when working with textiles as well as knowledge of tools and materials used for needlework.

(2) The pupils shall be encouraged, through working with shapes, colours, and techniques, to develop their creative skills, initiative, and independent taste.

(3) The instruction shall contribute to developing in the pupils an appraising attitude from which they can benefit as consumers, and to familiarizing them with those features of textile creation that are associated with different cultures and habits.

#### **Woodwork**

13. (1) The aim of the instruction is that the pupils shall master craftsmanlike working methods and techniques which will give them practical experience of the materials and tools used for woodwork.

(2) The pupils shall be encouraged to develop their creative skills and initiative and learn to take pleasure in manual work.

(3) The instruction shall contribute to developing in the pupils an appraising attitude from which they can benefit as consumers.

#### **Home Economics**

14. (1) The aim of the instruction is to convey to the pupils knowledge of and experience in fields that may be of importance to them as consumers and when planning and carrying out work in the home.

(2) It shall furthermore be the aim that the pupils shall master techniques and working processes by means of which work in the home can be rationalized, and that they are taught to work individually as well as collectively in planning and carrying out this work.

(3) The instruction shall contribute to furthering the pupils' understanding of the importance of the correct composition of a diet, and also to developing in the pupils an esthetic attitude with regard to hygienics and to the interior decoration and maintenance of the home.

#### **English**

15. (1) The aim of the instruction is that the pupils acquire a certain proficiency in understanding the spoken language, speaking it, catching the meaning of an English text, and a proficiency in using the written language.

(2) Learning the language shall give the pupils an additional opportunity of obtaining information about the conditions of life and the culture of the English-speaking world and thus a better background for understanding international relations.

(3) The instruction shall contribute to stimulating the pupils' inclination to use the language and encourage them to perfect their knowledge of it.

### **Physics/Chemistry**

16. (1) The aim of the instruction is to convey to the pupils some basic physical and chemical concepts and insight into selected fields of the two subjects.

(2) It shall furthermore be the aim to give the pupils an understanding of the importance of the subjects in the description of the Universe. They shall be acquainted with the devising, testing, and development of the conceptual systems of the two subjects through an interplay between theory and practical experiments.

(3) The pupils shall acquire insight into scientific working methods and be encouraged to acquire additional knowledge, and to perceive, formulate, and solve practical problems both individually and collectively.

(4) The instruction shall contribute to furthering the pupils' understanding of the importance of the natural sciences to the development of society both in the fields of the humanities and of technology.

### **German**

17. (1) The aim of the instruction is that the pupils acquire a certain proficiency in understanding spoken German, speaking the language, catching the meaning of a German text, and a proficiency in using the written language.

(2) Learning the language shall give the pupils an additional possibility of obtaining information about the conditions of life and the culture of those countries where the spoken language is German, and thus a better background for understanding international relations.

(3) The instruction shall contribute to stimulating the pupils' inclination to use the language and encourage them to perfect their knowledge of it.



## French

18. (1) The aim of the instruction is to lay the foundations for understanding the spoken language, for speaking French, for comprehending the contents of a French text and for using the written language.

(2) Learning the language shall give the pupils an additional possibility of obtaining information about the conditions of life and the culture of the French-speaking world and thus a better background for understanding international relations.

(3) The instruction shall contribute to stimulating the pupils' inclination to use the language and encourage them to perfect their knowledge of it.

## Latin

19. (1) The aim of the instruction is to enable the pupils to comprehend easy texts in Latin and to acquire a fundamental vocabulary and a linguistic working method which goes beyond the Latin language as such.

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