

Asia's school top of the class
亚洲国家占据全球最大规模学校排名前五

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全球最大规模的学校排名刚刚公布，亚洲国家占据排名前五名，非洲国家排在末尾。新加坡居榜首，香港紧随其后，加纳排在最后一位。以下是 Sean Coughlan 的报道。

It's claimed if you want to see the economy of tomorrow look at the school system of today. And that's going to be good news for some Asian countries with the world's highest performing education systems.

Here in Singapore, teenagers are at the top of the biggest ever global **comparison** of **ability** in maths and science. The country has worked hard to create a **workforce** ready for the global economy. Using English as the teaching language and investing in keeping its teachers skills **up to date**.

The league tables also show a strong **performance** by schools in Hong Kong in second place, South Korea third and Japan in fourth place. And there are some surprises – Vietnam another Asian success story – comes twelfth – racing past the United States in 29th position. But some countries are **less impressive**. Sweden, which used to be among the most successful, has declined **sharply**.

But what's the point of these league tables? Are they just about creating a global report card with some countries passing and some failing? While these league tables show how schools are performing now, their purpose is to create an economic **roadmap** for the future.

Questions

1. What language is used to teach students in Singapore?
2. Name one country that came higher than Vietnam in the global school league table?
3. True or false? *According to the league table, Sweden's schools are not as successful as they used to be.*
4. What word used in the report means 'not succeeding'?

Vocabulary and definitions

comparison	比较, 对照
ability	能力
workforce	劳动力
up to date	掌握最新信息的, 与时俱进的
performance	表现, 成绩
less impressive	稍显逊色的
sharply	急剧的, 大幅度的
roadmap	路线图, 指导方针

Answers to the questions:

1. What language is used to teach students in Singapore?
Answer: English.
2. Name one country that came higher than Vietnam in the global school league table?
Answer: Hong Kong, South Korea or Japan.
3. True or false? According to the league table, Sweden's schools are not as successful as they used to be.
Answer: True - Sweden which used to be among the most successful has declined sharply.
4. What word used in the report means 'not succeeding'?
Answer: Failing.