

International comparisons of social mobility: policy implications for the UK

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Social Mobility and Education

- Mobility (and education) in the UK compared with other countries
- Forthcoming studies
- Emerging (education) policies?



Social Mobility

- Different measures – income, education, class, occupation
- Relative/absolute
- Non-linearities
- Comparisons: time and place

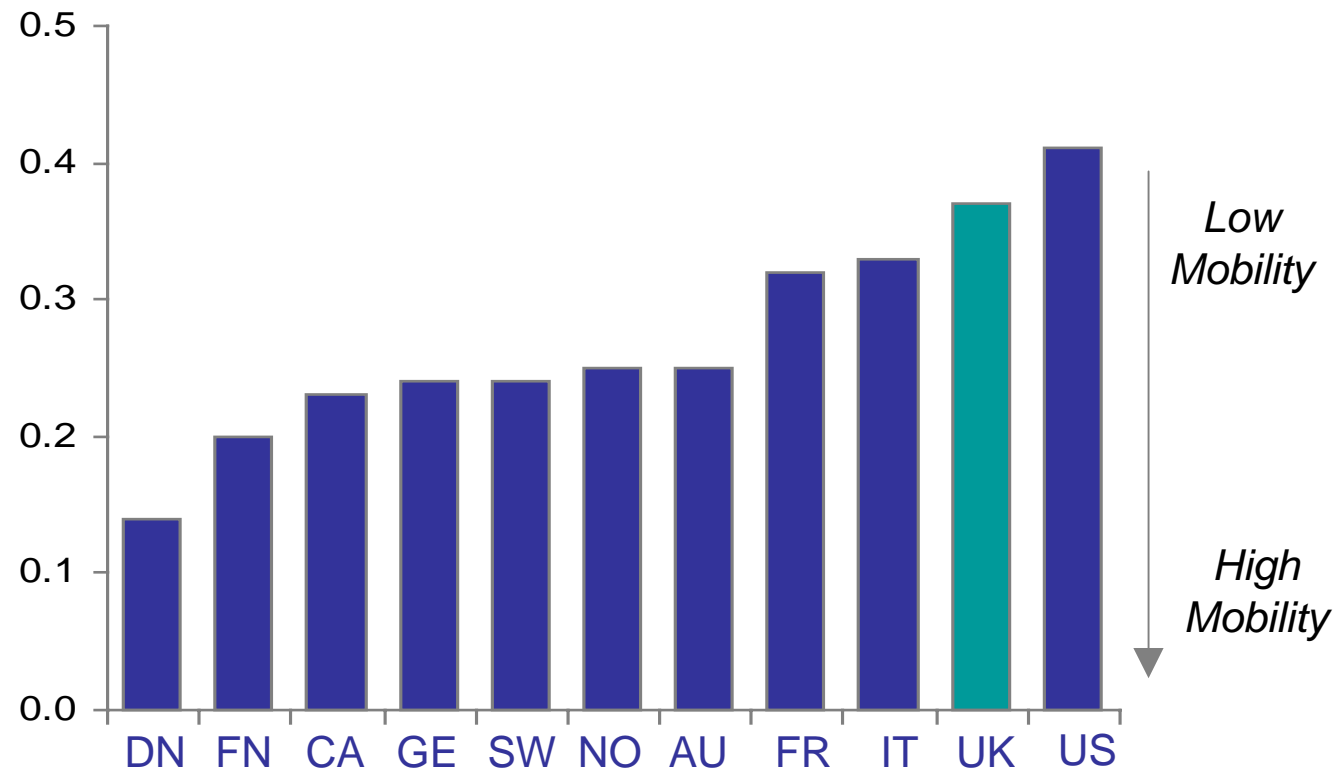


Social Mobility is Low in the UK

- 2004 LSE study - relative income for previous generations (1958 and 1970)
- Mobility had declined in UK
- Found UK & US low compared with Nordic countries and Canada
- Overwhelming weight of evidence - OECD, Corak, Jantti, Hertz.

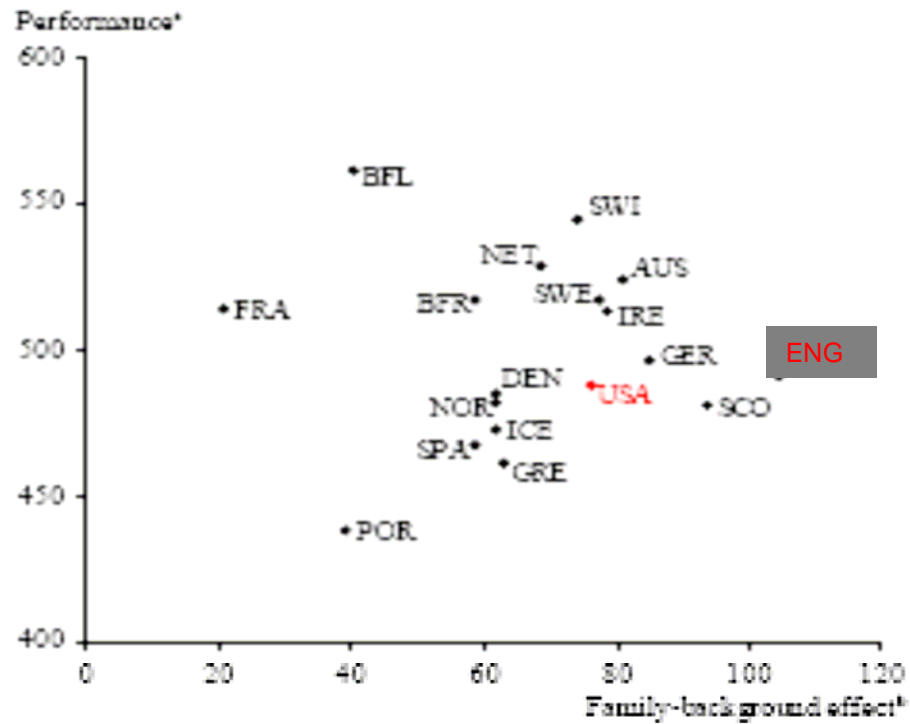


Income mobility comparisons



Education 'mobility' comparisons

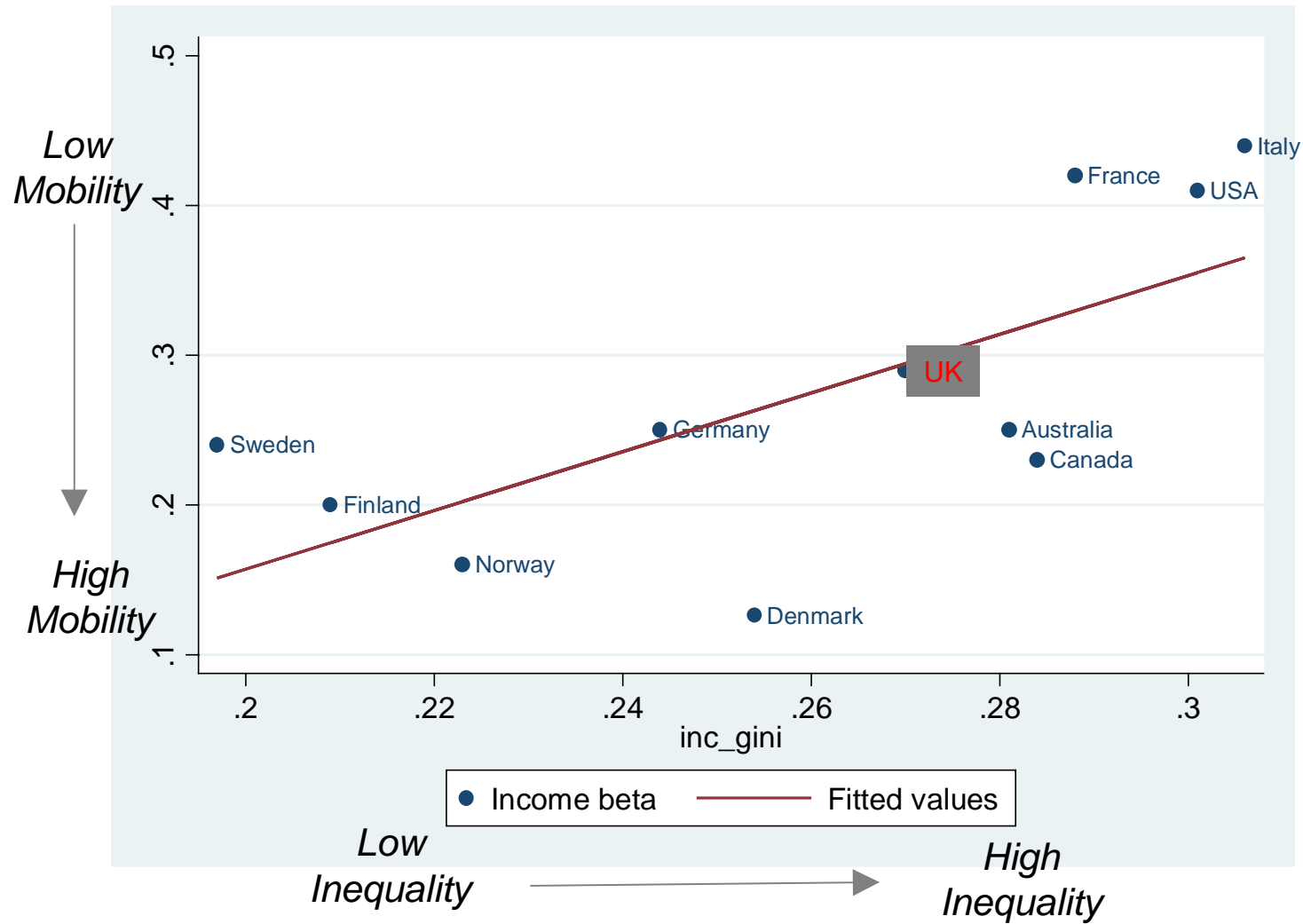
Figure 2: Family-Background Effects and Mean Performance



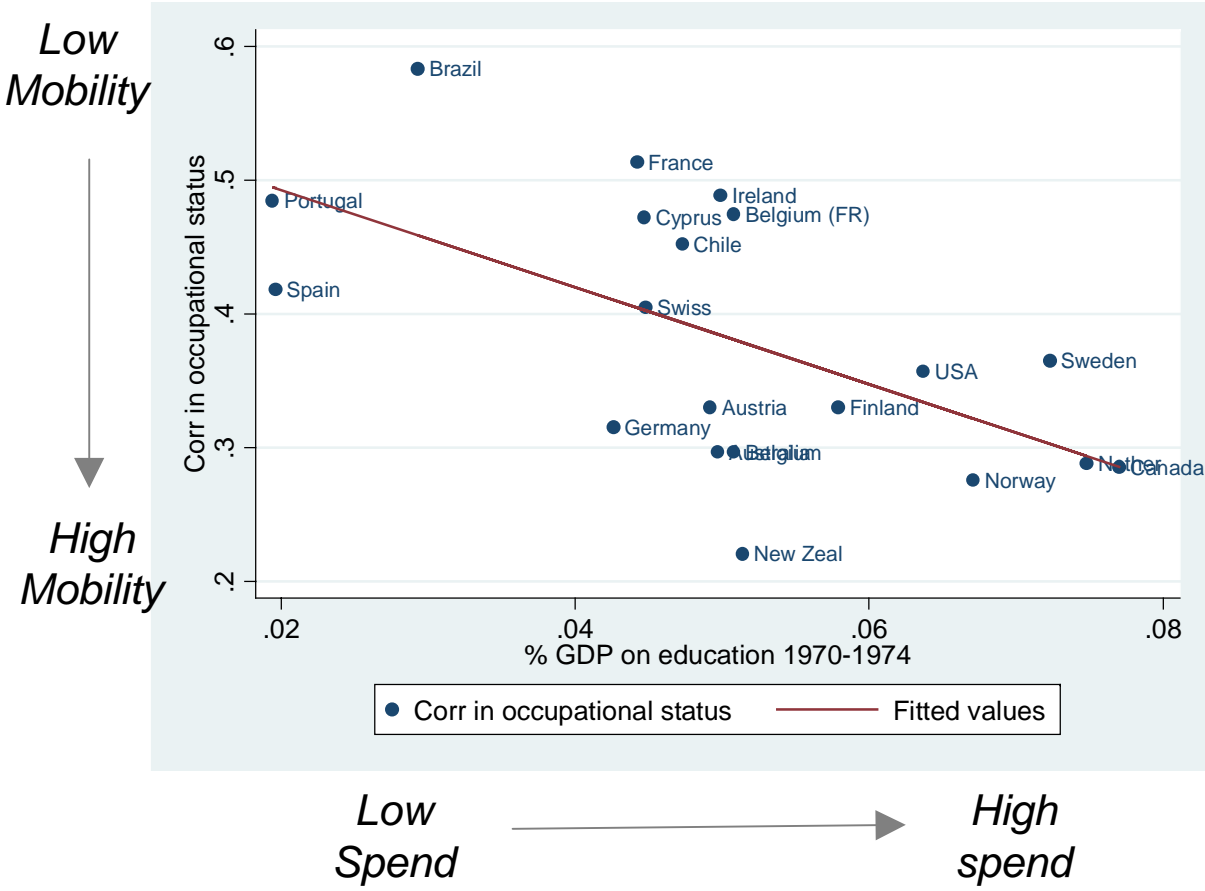
High
Mobility

Low
Mobility

Low mobility, high inequality



Higher mobility associated with higher education spend



Forthcoming studies

- Mobility trends for today's children
- Inequality over lifecourse
- Costs of low mobility in the UK
- Absolute mobility comparisons



Education is key

"In England, education produces no effect whatsoever. If it did, it would prove a serious danger to the upper classes"

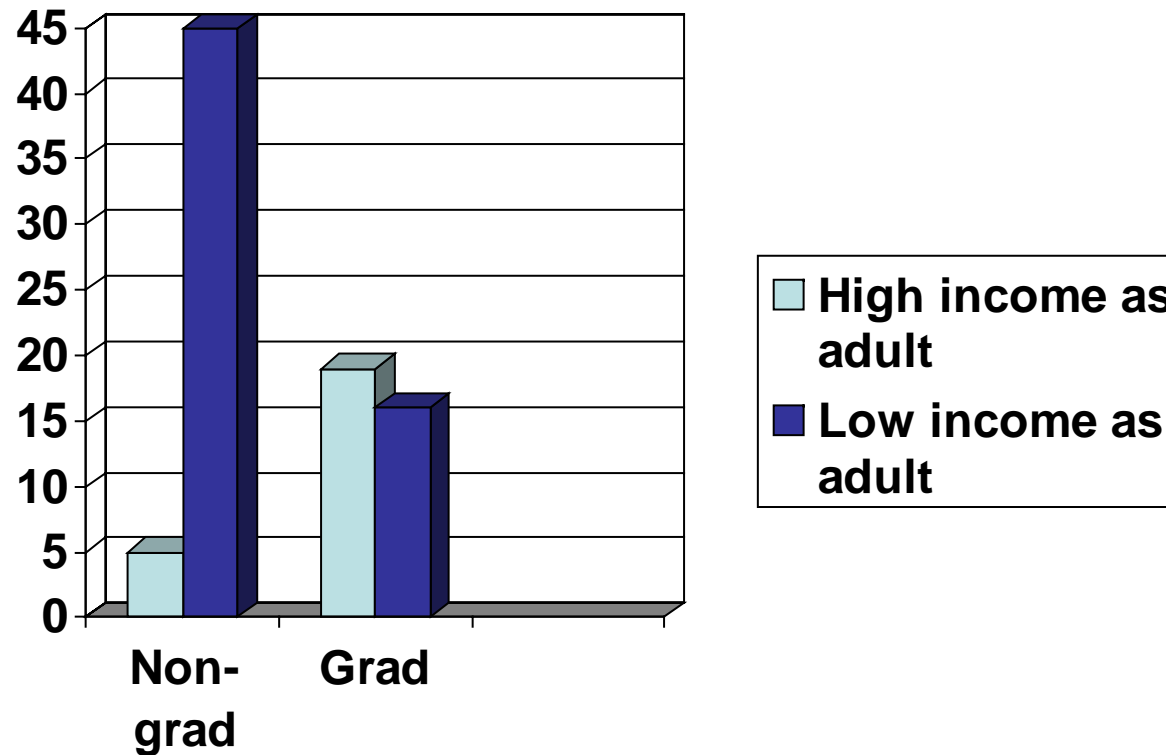
Oscar Wilde

"People tell me you won't solve education until you solve poverty; I say you won't solve poverty until you solve education."

Joel Klein, New York Schools Chancellor



Chances of low income children climbing social ladder with and without degrees (USA)



Education comparisons: Performance Gap Between Independent and State Schools in Different Countries

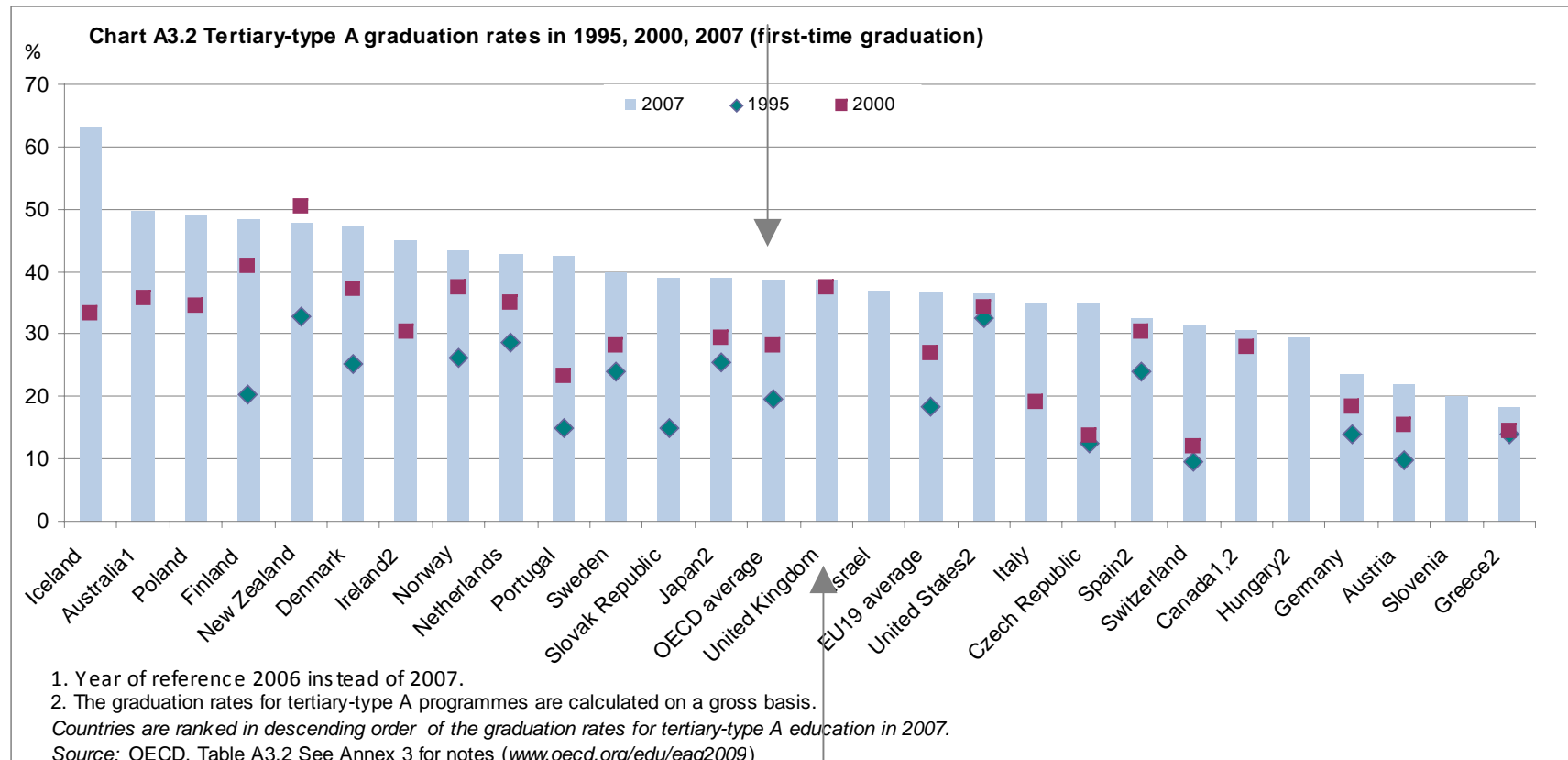
Country	Independent	Government	Difference
Korea	593	527	66
UK	589	503	86
New Zealand	579	522	57
Macao-China	529	483	46
Spain	520	472	48
Japan	513	544	-31
USA	507	483	24
Uruguay	501	409	92
Switzerland	497	528	-31
Brazil	454	342	112
Italy	452	468	-16
Mexico	430	375	55
Thailand	428	416	12
Indonesia	345	373	-28

Source: PISA (2004)



International graduation rates

OECD
average

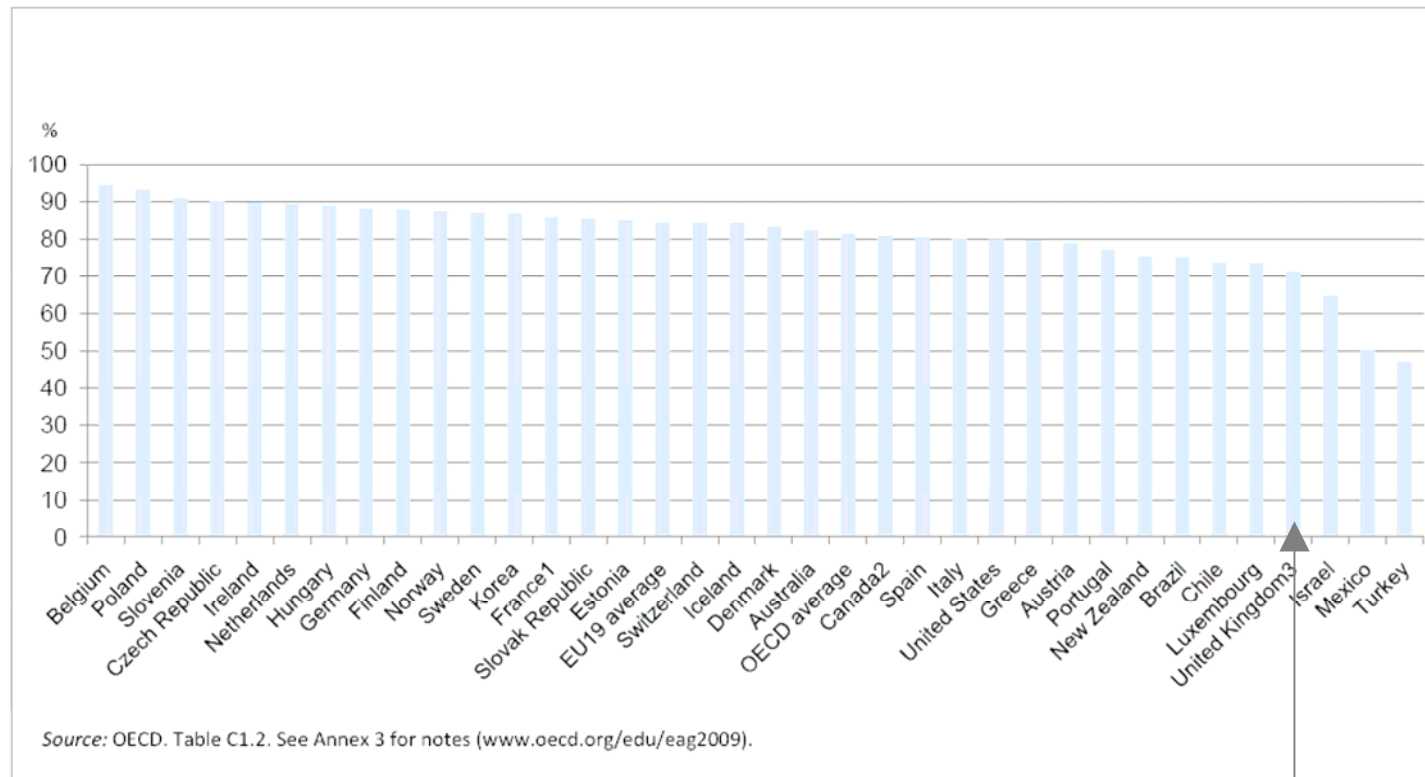


UK



International post-16 rates

Figure 1: OECD full time and part time participation in education at age 15-19 in 2007



UK

Education reforms overseas

Obama's \$90bn stimulus package

“We know that education is everything to our children's future. We know that they will no longer just compete for good jobs with children from Indiana, but children from India and China and all over the world.”



Early years policy

- Targeted Sure start
- Parenting programmes
- Home visits
- Conditional links?



Schools policy

- School admissions -- ballots, banding and behavioural economics
- Out of school inequalities – KIPP schools, summer camps
- More pay for teachers in disadvantaged schools?



University policy

- Contextual admissions
- Trust's Percent scheme
- Raise aspirations at end of Primary school
- Improve advice in state schools



Knowledge is Power

