



The Iraqi education system

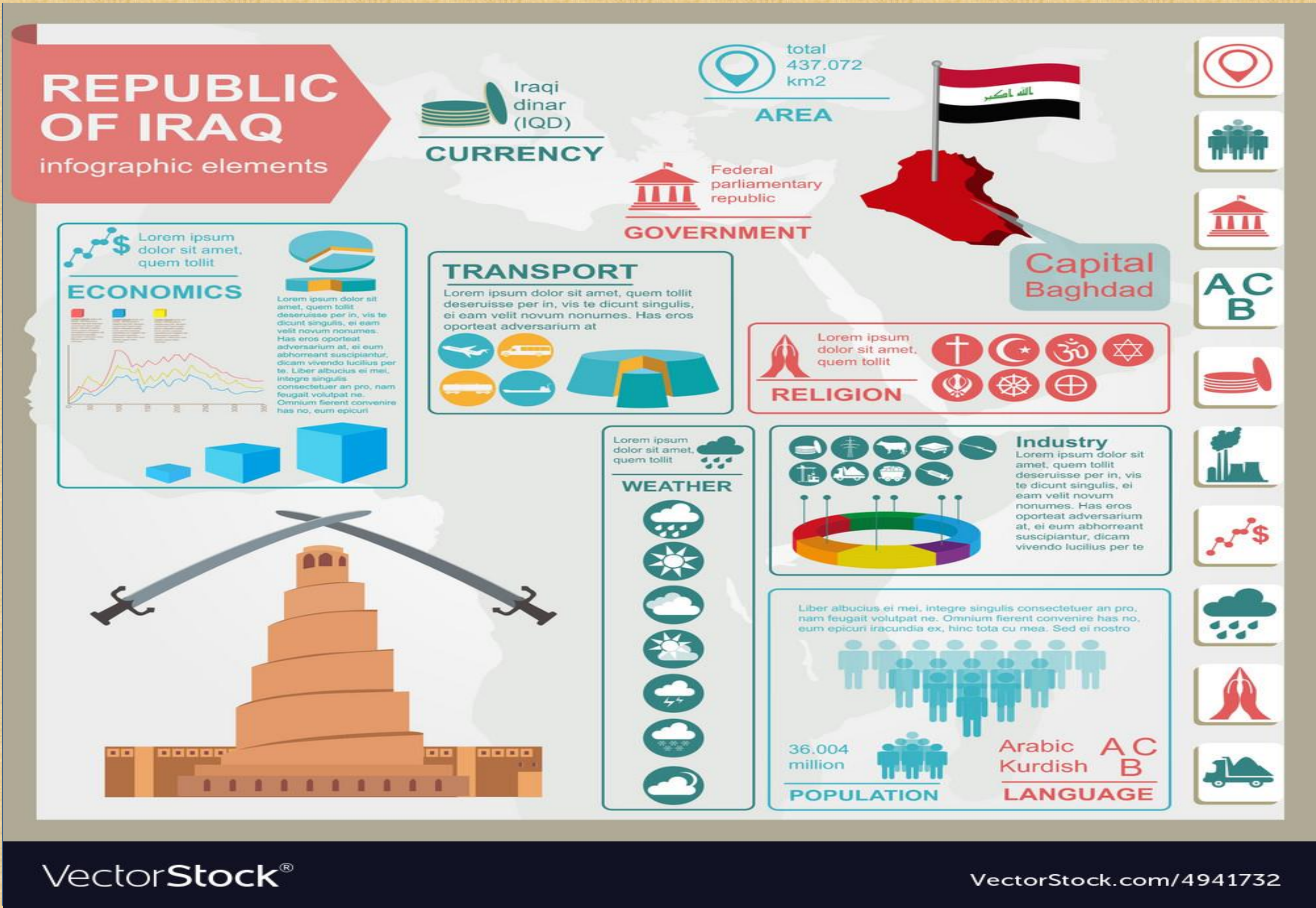
Case study of Iraq

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Introduction

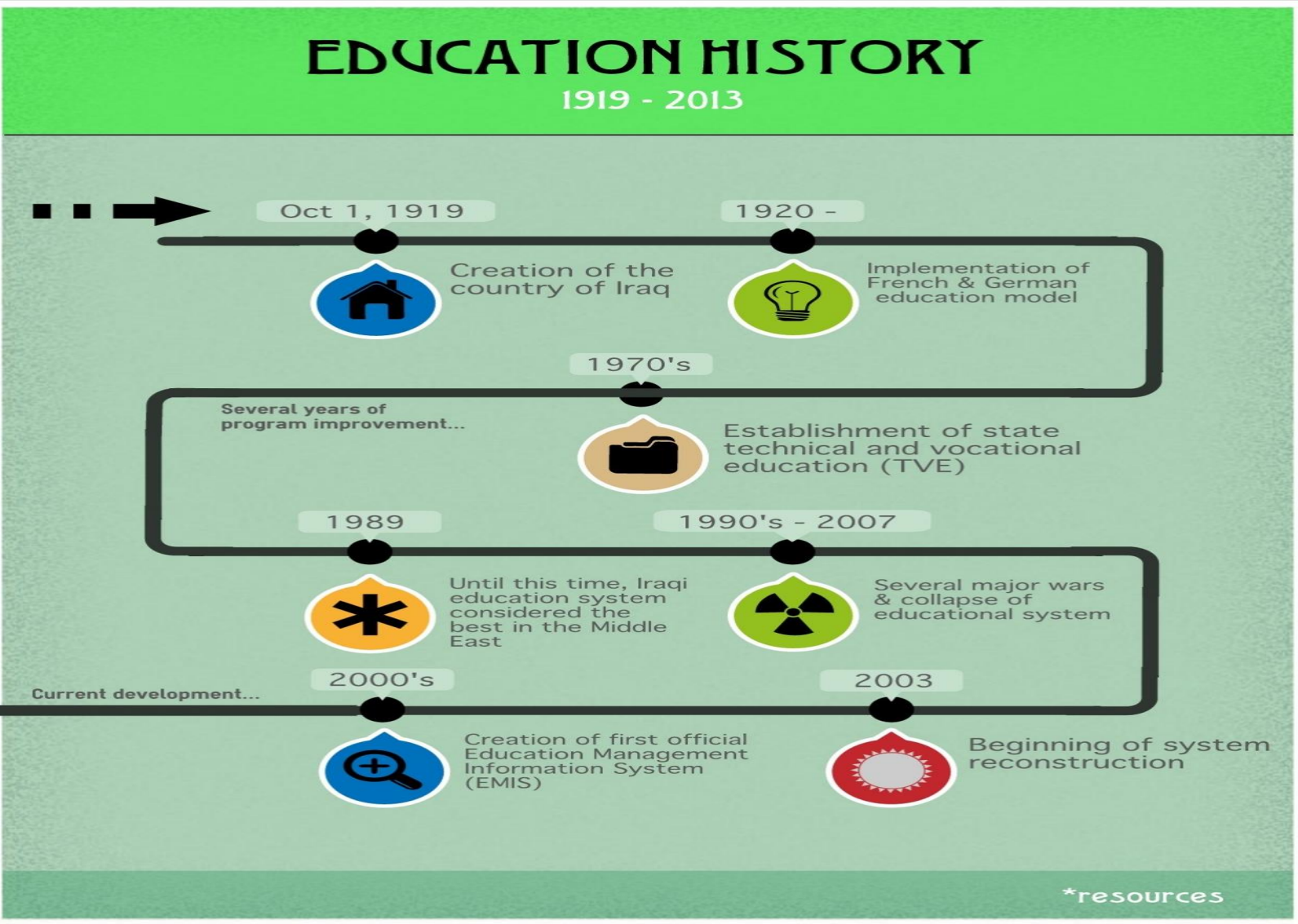
Iraq is a fast-growing multi-ethnic country with a population of 37.2 million (2016, World Bank) bordered by Jordan, Syria, Turkey, Iran, Kuwait, and Saudi Arabia. Iraq inhabited by Arabs (75 to 80%), Kurds (15 to 20%), Turkmen, Assyrians, Shabaks, and Yazidis (5% combined). The dominant religion is Islam (Shia, 55 to 60%, Sunna 40%), and the most widely spoken languages are Arabic and Kurdish, followed by Turkmen and Syriac. (New Aramaic) and Armenian, which are used only, in the areas inhabited by these minorities, which are predominantly in northern Iraq.

During the 1970s and 1980s, Iraq had one of the most advanced educational systems in the Middle East. Despite repression and terrorism in the state of President Saddam Hussein, the former regime managed to make significant progress in the educational system. The government approached literacy in the 1980s and achieved some of the best enrollment rates, dropout rates, and repetition rates in the Middle East while increasing government spending on education to (6%) of the gross domestic product of oil revenues in (1984) despite Iraq the Iranian war at that time. In the early 1990s and Iraq’s occupation of Kuwait, war, international sanctions, and economic crises reversed many developments. The crisis exacerbated by the entry of US forces into Iraq (2003). Educational conditions worsened more than ever. The illiteracy rate among Iraqis between the ages of 15 and 24 exceeded 18 percent in 2015.



History of education in Iraq

- 1- education was in alkatateb in the early ottoman era
- 2- the Governor of Namik Pasha (1882-1902) and the school of girls named the girls of Rushdie Maktabi.
- 2- foreign schools have opened in Iraq, and the Dominican fathers are among the oldest missionary missionaries that came to Mosul in 1750.
- 3- 1856 (Alliance Jewish Society, which was in Paris, founded a school in Baghdad in which it taught foreign sciences and languages (French, English, and Turkish).
- 4- In the year 1921, the British authorities reopened the College of Law in Baghdad



- 5- King Faisal , I tried to create an educational balance between the various sects. In 1921, he established the University of (Al-Bayt) in Baghdad
- 6- At the request of Father Edmund1932 opened a secondary school (Baghdad College)
- 7- Female education witnessed during the era of King Faisal 1 a clear development(1921- 1933).
- 8- Vocational education appeared in Iraq for the first time in the 1940s.
- 9- After the overthrow of the monarchy 1958 and its replacement with the republican system, free education began to appear in Iraq
- 10-In the early 1970s, education became public and free at all levels, and compulsory at the primary level.
- 11- The Golden Years: 1970-1984 The education system in Iraq was one of the best in the region during this period, and organizations and systems highly praise it.
- 12- The second half of the 1980s saw the decline in education spending caused by the war with Iran, which in turn diverted many public resources toward military spending.
- 13- the 1990s resulting from the First Gulf War and the 13-year economic sanctions have weakened educational institutions in Ir

In 2003, the main problems hindering the system have emerged, including lack of resources, the politicization of the educational system, immigration, and internal displacement of teachers and students, security threats, and corruption. The illiteracy rate among Iraqis between the ages of 15 and 24 reached more than 18 percent in 2015, and the Iraqi government's spending on education is currently among the lowest in the Middle East, accounting for only 5.7 percent of total government spending in 2016,

Education System Administration: Baghdad The Federal Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research in Baghdad are the two administrative bodies responsible for overseeing education in all Iraqi governorates

Iraqi education system and grading

Pre-primary Education

Preschools serve children of age 4 to 5 years. The Ministry of Education is responsible for setting the educational policy for kindergarten, planning it, and supervising it technically

Primary education

Public education in Iraq is free at all levels. The Ministry of Education provides all teaching materials in elementary and secondary schools, oversees teacher training, and develops curricula for each stage of schooling. Education is compulsory until age 12 (grade 6).

The school year consists of two semesters of 16 weeks each, and the Ministry of Education provides for a minimum of 30 hours per week. Students attend school six days a week, from Saturday to Thursday, with an average study load of 5 hours per day. Classes are usually 45 minutes long.

The grade scales used in primary education are: First 4 years (1st grade - 4th grade): 0-10 (5 or higher passing score) Last two years (fifth grade - sixth grade): 0 - 100 (50 or higher passing score).

Secondary schools

Access to secondary education requires an elementary certificate. The length of the secondary stage is six years (from 12 to 18 years old) and is divided into two stages of three years: middle school (12 to 15 years old) and middle school (15 to 18 years old). Each stage ends with a national test administered by the Ministry of Education. After passing the national exam at the end of the third intermediate year. Students obtain an intermediate certificate (transitive certificate), also called the intermediate baccalaureate (compliant baccalaureate degree).

Grading Scale (Secondary Education)		
NUMERIC	DESCRIPTION	WES EQUIVALENTS
80-100	Excellent/Very Good	A
60-79	Good/Medium	B
50-59	Pass	C
0-49	Fail	F

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upper secondary school

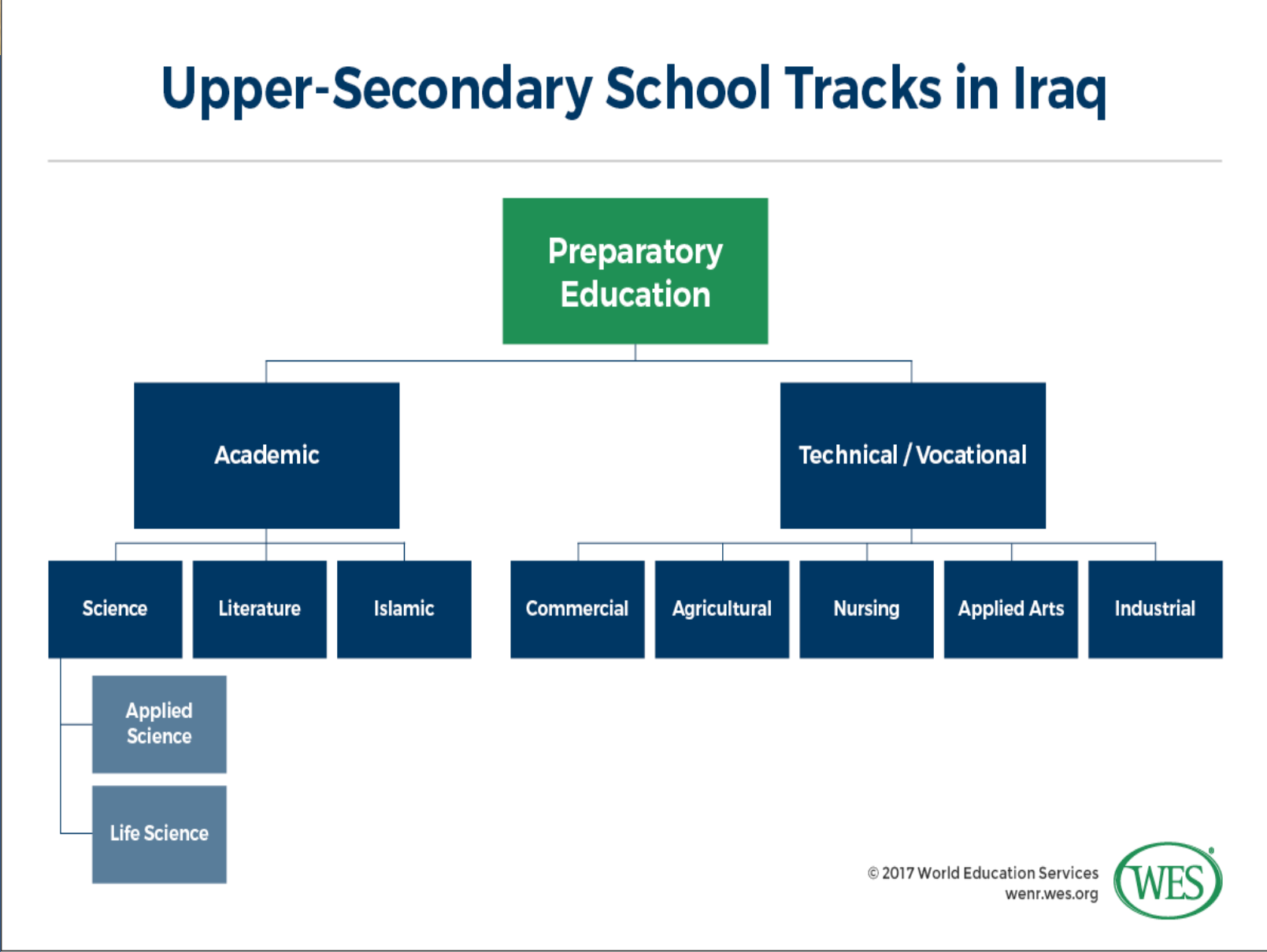
In 2015, the Ministry of Education divided the science stream into two separate parts: Applied and Life Sciences. In addition to the literary and Islamic sections. As for vocational institutes, there are agricultural, commercial, industrial, nursing, and applied arts. The student can attend them instead of high school after graduation from lower secondary school.

Curriculum in Iraqi education system

primary schools: Subjects studied in the sixth grade include Arabic, English, Mathematics, Science, History, Geography, Islamic Studies, and National Education.

Secondary schools: Islamic education, Arabic language, English, Science (Physics, Chemistry and Biology), history, geography, social studies, mathematics, fine art education, and military physical education.

Upper secondary schools: Arabic, English, Islamic Studies, Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, and Biology in the science stream; Arabic, English, Islamic Studies, History, Geography, and Economics in the literature stream.



Teacher education

Training: The traditional teacher training program in Iraq relies on independent training institutes that future teachers join after completing secondary school. Primary school teachers attend a five-year course after secondary school. Courses lead to a diploma. There are also two-year training institutes where students accepted after completing high school. Most of these institutes have transferred to teacher colleges for four years at the university level. Colleges of Education operating in the universities of Baghdad, Mosul, Basra, Al-Mustansiriya, and Salah al-Din are training secondary school teachers. They offer a four-year Bachelor of Arts degree program.

Private high schools

Until 2003, there were no private high schools in Iraq. Since then, a large and growing number of private schools have established, with 38,100 of about 1.1 million students(2015-2016) enrolled in upper secondary school. Although these expensive schools may provide additional classes, students study the national curriculum and have to sit For national exams at the end of the intermediate and preparatory levels.

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