

Top 9 Future Skills Categories



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DIGITAL
EDUCATION
FUTURES
INITIATIVE
CAMBRIDGE



Higher order thinking skills

Refers to cognitive tasks requiring the synthesis of multiple pieces of information. This category describes skills that individuals must have to exert agency in complex systems. Decision-making, problem solving, and systems thinking are common skills used in reference to this category.



Decision-making



Problem-solving



Critical thinking

Dialogue skills

Allows individuals to develop productive and meaningful relationships with others. An individual with high proficiency in interpersonal skills can demonstrate an ability to listen, observe, communicate effectively, and collaborate with others.



Collaboration



Communication



Listening

Digital and STEM Literacy

Information communication technology encompasses the skills needed to navigate in a digital world. This includes computational thinking, which refers to programming skills and the ability to develop digital content. Individuals will also need to understand how to stay safe online.



Computational thinking



Digital literacy



Online safety

Values

Refers to moral principles within an individual that guide their behaviour. Individuals should exhibit a knowledge of their responsibilities as citizens and demonstrate a global awareness. Global awareness refers to a willingness to embrace diversity and to act in a way that ensures the sustainability of the environment.



Citizenship



Sustainability



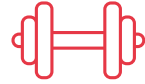
Global awareness

Self-management

This category refers to individuals' ability to regulate their own emotions, actions and work, including their attitudes about themselves and their goal-setting efforts and progress. In this way, this category encompasses aspects such as resilience, emotional intelligence, self-discipline and self-confidence.



**Intra-personal
skills**



Resilience



Positive attitudes



**Emotional
intelligence**

Lifelong Learning

Active, lifelong learning is concerned with individuals' ability to reflect on their own learning and cognitive processes, and their willingness to learn throughout their lifetime. Relevant skills include metacognition and active learning.



Learning to learn



Metacognition



Willingness to learn

Leadership

People must be able to lead both within their personal lives and in their vocation. Leadership skills include being able to set goals, having a sense of purpose, planning and organisation skills, responsibility, assertiveness, context awareness, vision, and autonomy. When working with others, leaders delegate responsibilities, help others develop and can manage projects.



Sense of purpose



Goal oriented



Responsibility

Enterprise skills

More than half of the reviewed frameworks mentioned a term related to innovation and creativity. This category refers to the individual's ability to creatively think and apply their knowledge and imagination to develop new ideas, concepts, solutions, content, and even business ventures. Furthermore, it requires being courageous to take the risk in doing so.



Curiosity



Inquiry



Courage

Flexibility

In response to the rapidly changing world, people are expected to easily adapt to new situations and circumstances. In this regard, flexibility, agility, learning agility, improvisation, multi-tasking, and adaptability were skills mentioned in more than 15 frameworks.



**Executive
function**



Multi-tasking



Agility