

Citizenship Education and Islam in the Arab Countries

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At the outset, the presentation points out the importance of civics courses as compared to Islamic religion courses in K-12 public schools in the Arab countries. Prominent features of citizenship education and Islamic religious education are highlighted, particularly their diversity and relevance to democratic values and social cohesion. Subsequently, the views of the Muslim Brotherhood parties in Egypt and Tunisia regarding religious and citizenship education in schools are discussed. The presentation concludes with some thoughts on reforming Islamic religious education in the Arab countries so that it can play a significant role in promoting students' citizenship skills and values in a pluralistic society.