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Competence in the Learning Society **New Book!**

EDITED BY JOHN RAVEN AND JOHN STEPHENSON

This book has been developed to show that, despite the accuracy of the critiques of those forms of the international "competence education and testing movement" that promote narrow approaches to education based on delivering and testing prepackaged knowledge and simplistic and practically ineffective models of competence, the development of a better framework for thinking about the nature, development, release, and assessment of competence is vital.

The book explores the kinds of competence that are needed if our society is to survive the impending environmental and social collapse. It makes a case for a renewed understanding of competence which is not only about doing a job effectively, but also about ensuring that the job is making an effective contribution by going beyond its boundaries and influencing the system in which it operates. It also describes the kind of educational and societal systems that are needed to develop and nurture high-level competence.

The book offers both an argument and a collection. It presents the work of some of the leading researchers in the field of competence over the last 20 years, includes chapters on some of the most notable and successful attempts to introduce competence-based curricula in higher education, and offers a range of conceptual perspectives on competence and learning. These contributions are integrated into a cohesive structure around a central core of papers by the editors, following through the cogent and provocative argument introduced in the opening chapter.

The book can therefore be approached both as a collection of papers grouped around different themes, and as an argument for change which draws on a breadth of international research and experience.

John Raven is an independent researcher and consultant on the nature, development, assessment, and release of competence. He is particularly interested in the personal, organizational, and social consequences of alternative patterns of motivation in different social contexts. He is based in Edinburgh, United Kingdom.

John Stephenson is head of the International Centre for Learner Managed Learning in Middlesex University, and was previously Director of Higher Education for Capability and Head of the School for Independent Study at the University of East London. He is advisor on computer-based, work-based learning for the UK Government's University for Industry project.

PAPERBACK • \$32.95 (US) • 560 PAGES • ISBN 0-8204-51649 • SEPTEMBER 2001
COUNTERPOINTS: STUDIES IN THE POSTMODERN THEORY OF EDUCATION, VOL. 166

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