

In your opinion, is it fair to have quotas or special measures for minority groups in higher education? (180 words +/- 10%)

Suggestion de plan :

I. Affirmative action aims to promote equity, not mere equality, to compensate for historical and social inequalities.

EXEMPLES

- 1961: the word “affirmative action” is used for the 1st time (executive order signed by president Kennedy). Main goal = to counter the effects of slavery, segregation and discrimination (to help African Americans) _ Quotas for Black Americans and Latinos in various universities’ admission process (before 2023): Harvard, University of California,...

- Women in science and engineering: programmes like the **MIT Women in STEM Initiative** (USA), scholarship programmes for women in engineering (in various countries, for example, university of Durham in the UK, also “British Council scholarship for women in STEM”,...)

- quotas/measures for Dalits and other marginalized castes (to compensate for centuries of exclusion) or for Maoris in New Zealand,...

II. However, critics argue that quotas contradict meritocratic principles and risk creating a new form of injustice (such measures may create reverse discrimination)

- several lawsuits in the U.S. have questioned whether affirmative action creates new forms of inequality: *Regents of the University of California v. Bakke* (1978) and *Students for Fair Admissions v. Harvard* (2023) illustrate the tension between meritocratic ideals and social justice

- 2023 Supreme Court ruling (*Students for Fair Admissions v. Harvard*) declared race-based admissions unconstitutional

Now, it’s your turn to

- Write an introduction (remember to present the key question in other words)
- Write a conclusion giving your personal opinion