

GLOBAL EDUCATION MONITOR

Public opinion on education

September 2023

GAME CHANGERS



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AT A GLANCE: KEY STATS

How do you rate your country's education system?

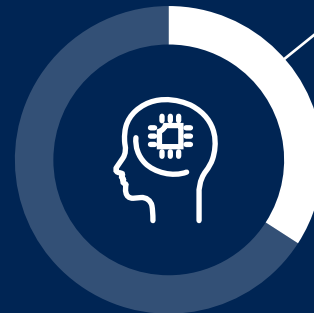


In **28 of the 29 countries surveyed**, more people say having a degree is very important to succeed in life.



45%

would not advise someone they know to become a teacher. **43%** would.



29%

think the use of AI should be banned in schools.

ATTITUDES TO EDUCATION





THE HEADLINES



Education seen as “poor”

However, sentiment varies considerably across countries

Across 29 countries, people are more likely to describe the education system in their country as poor than good.

However, there are big differences between countries on how people think their education system is doing.

Singapore and Ireland have the highest number of people who are happy with their schools. While Hungary is the least satisfied, with two-thirds describing their education system as poor.



Parents more positive

Those with school age children happier with education

While the global public may not think their education system is performing well, parents do.

Four in ten (39%) parents of school age children say education in their country is good compared to a third of parents that describe it as a poor.



Getting worse

Many perceive education to be declining

Almost one in two (46%) feel the education system in their country is getting worse compared to when they were at school.

This sentiment is higher among older people and those who do not have children of school age.

Three in four baby boomers say the quality of the education system in their country is worse than when they were at school.

Hungary and France are the countries with the lowest number of people who say their education system is better now.



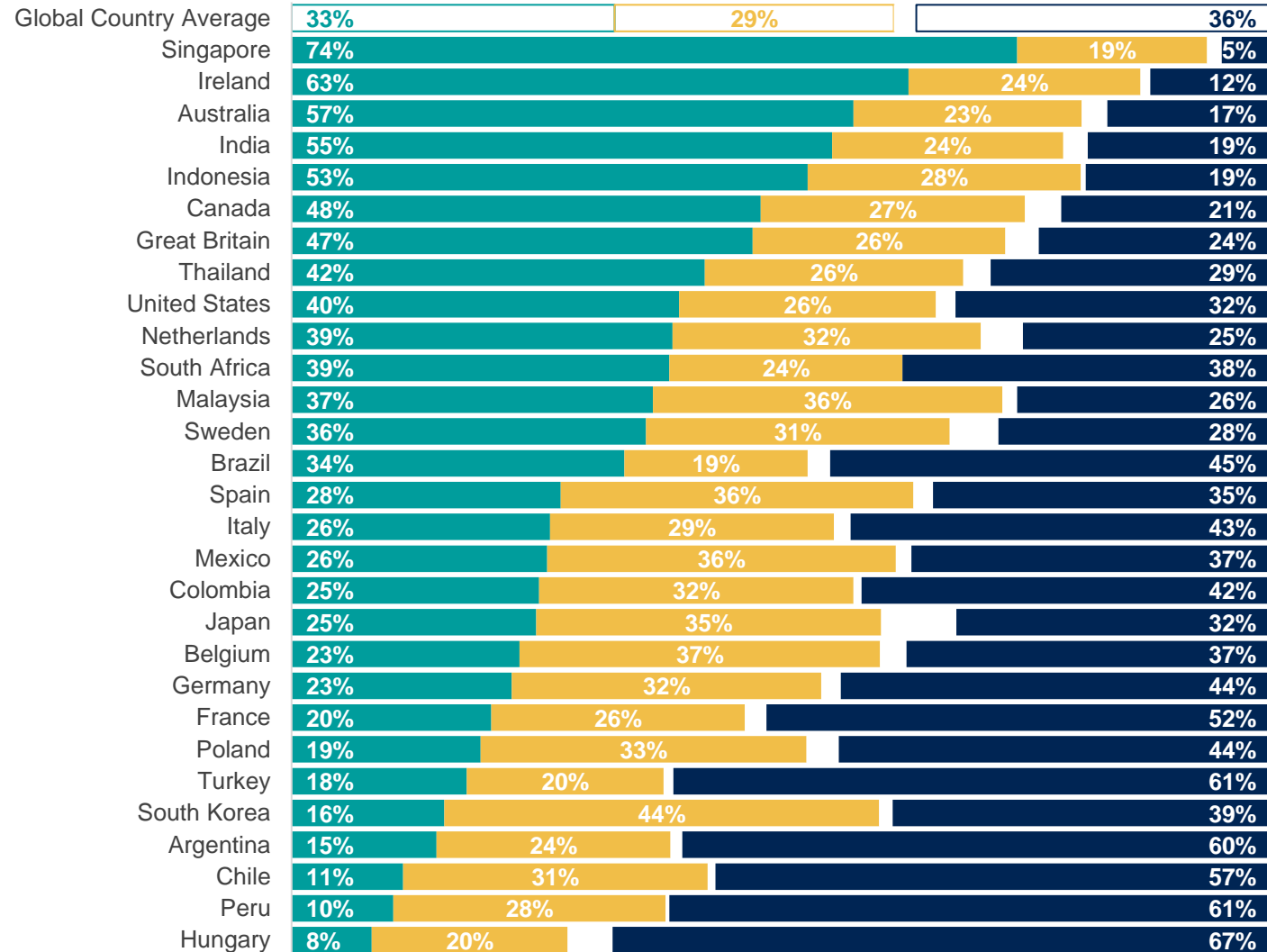
Among the global country average, only one in three (33%, but 39% of parents of children in school age) consider **the quality of the education system as good**, the most positive being Singapore, consistent with PISA scores.

Country data

Q. How would you rate the overall quality of the education system in [COUNTRY]?



[Click here for the full country breakdown.](#)



Good

Neither good nor poor

Poor



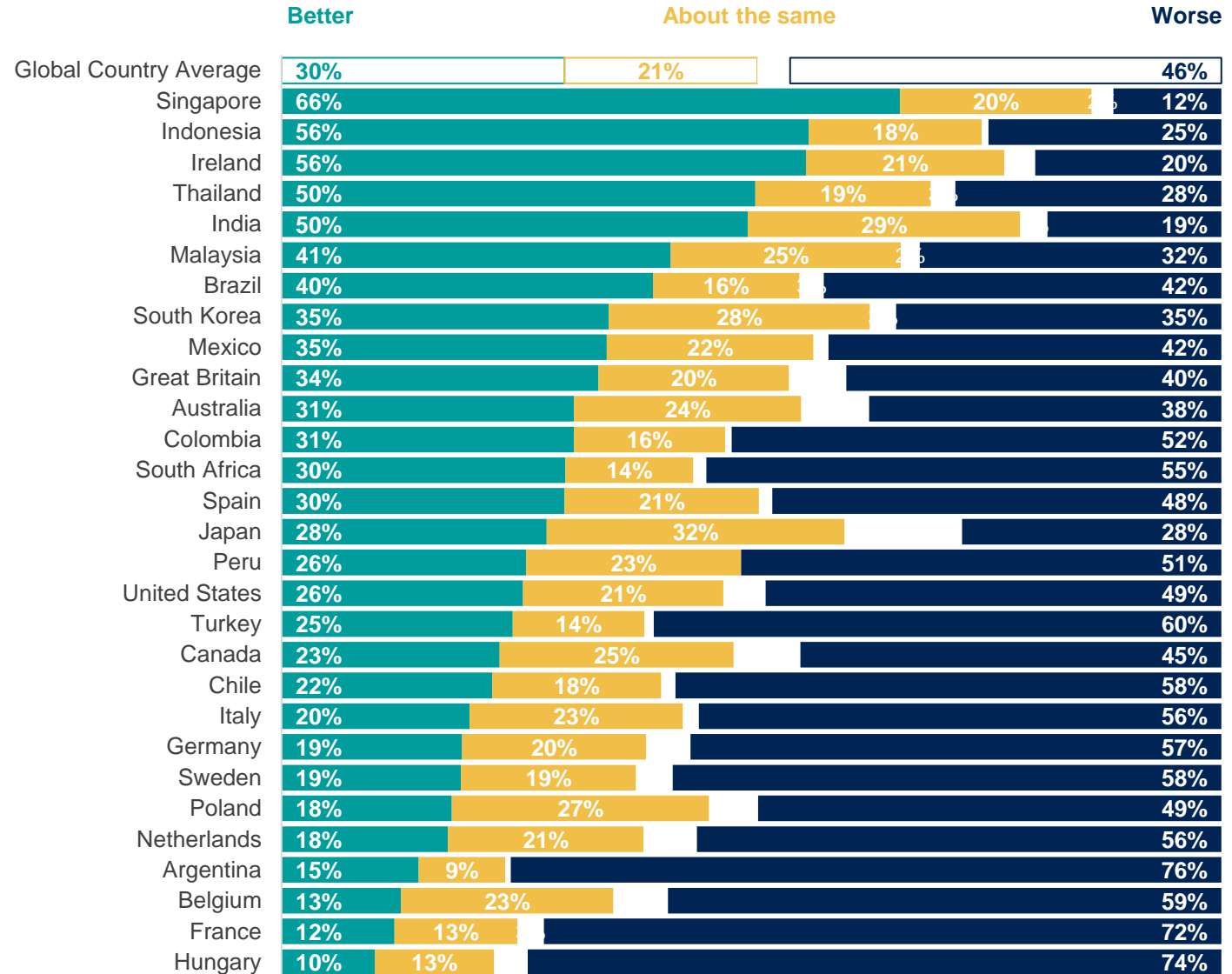
And almost one in two consider that **the education system is getting worse** compared to when they were in school, and this rises to more than two in three in Argentina, Hungary and France.

Country data

Q. Compared to when you were in school, do you think the overall quality of the education system in [COUNTRY] is now...



[Click here for the generational and parent breakdown.](#)



Better

About the same

Worse

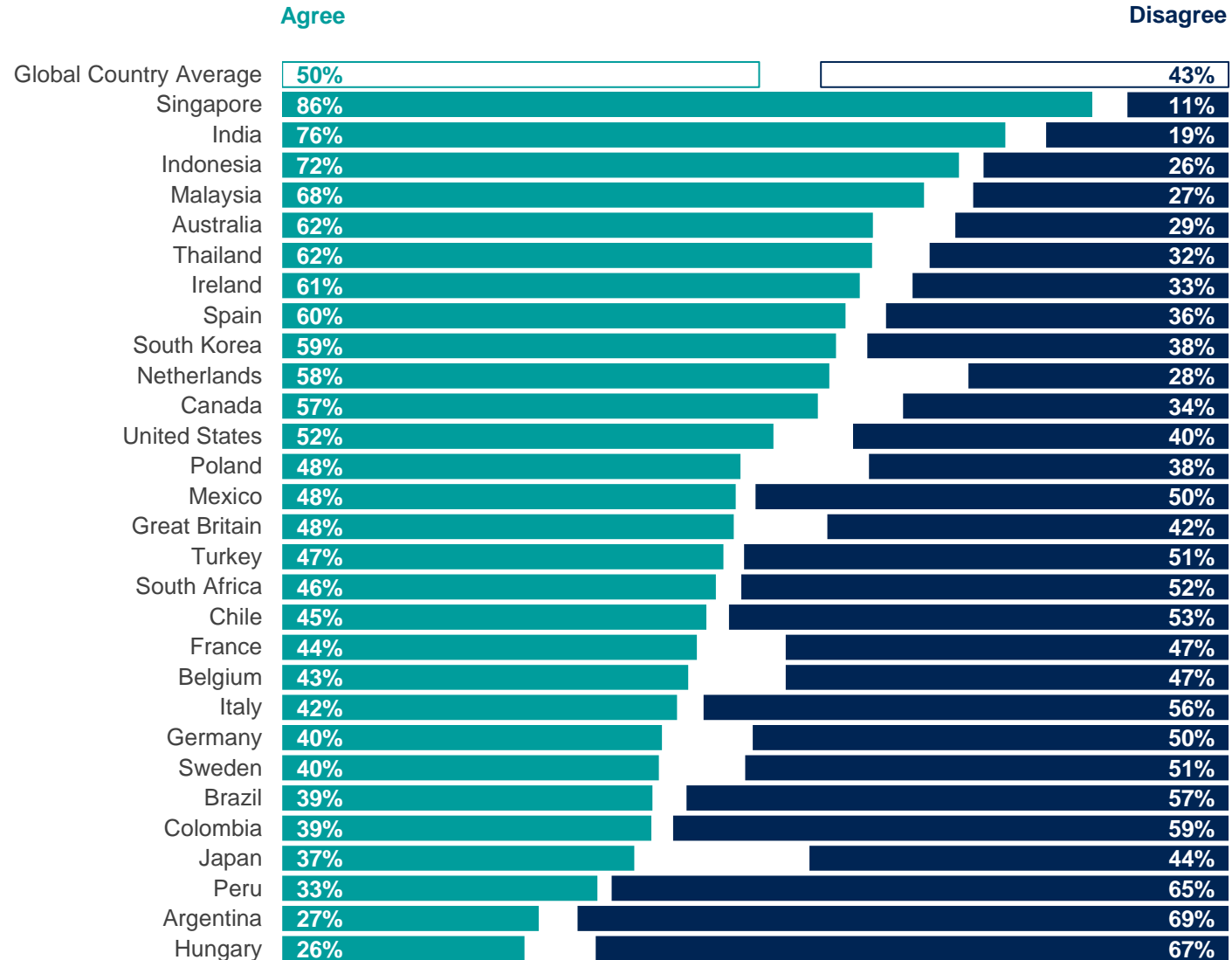


In many countries, especially in LATAM, a majority considers most educational institutions **do not have adequate resources and facilities.**

Country data

Q. How much do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

Most educational institutions in [COUNTRY] have adequate resources and facilities (e.g., textbooks, technology, laboratories)



THE CHALLENGES FACING SCHOOLS





THE HEADLINES



The top challenge

People perceive the curriculum as the biggest issue

Across 29 countries, outdated curriculum is seen as the biggest issue facing the education system.

[Three in ten \(30%\) choose it as one of the greatest challenges](#) facing their country's education system.

This is highest in Poland with almost one in two (46%) seeing it as an issue. [Click here for the country breakdown.](#)



Issues vary across borders

Inequality and overcrowding big concerns

However, [unequal access to education \(29%\)](#) and [overcrowded classrooms \(29%\)](#) are close behind as the biggest challenges facing schools.

[Indonesia is the most concerned country about unequal access](#) to education while [the Netherlands is the country most likely to cite overcrowded classrooms](#) as a challenge.

[Click here for what parents of school age children think.](#)



Areas to improve

More time for curiosity and creativity wanted

[More than one in two say the school curriculum in their country does not give enough space to encourage curiosity, critical thinking and creativity.](#)

Many people also think more should be done to encourage collaboration among students. But they are more divided on whether schools are doing enough on teaching basic skills such as reading, writing and arithmetic.

Thirty-nine per cent feel there is not enough space to develop this, while 38% say there is just enough time and 14% believe there is too much.



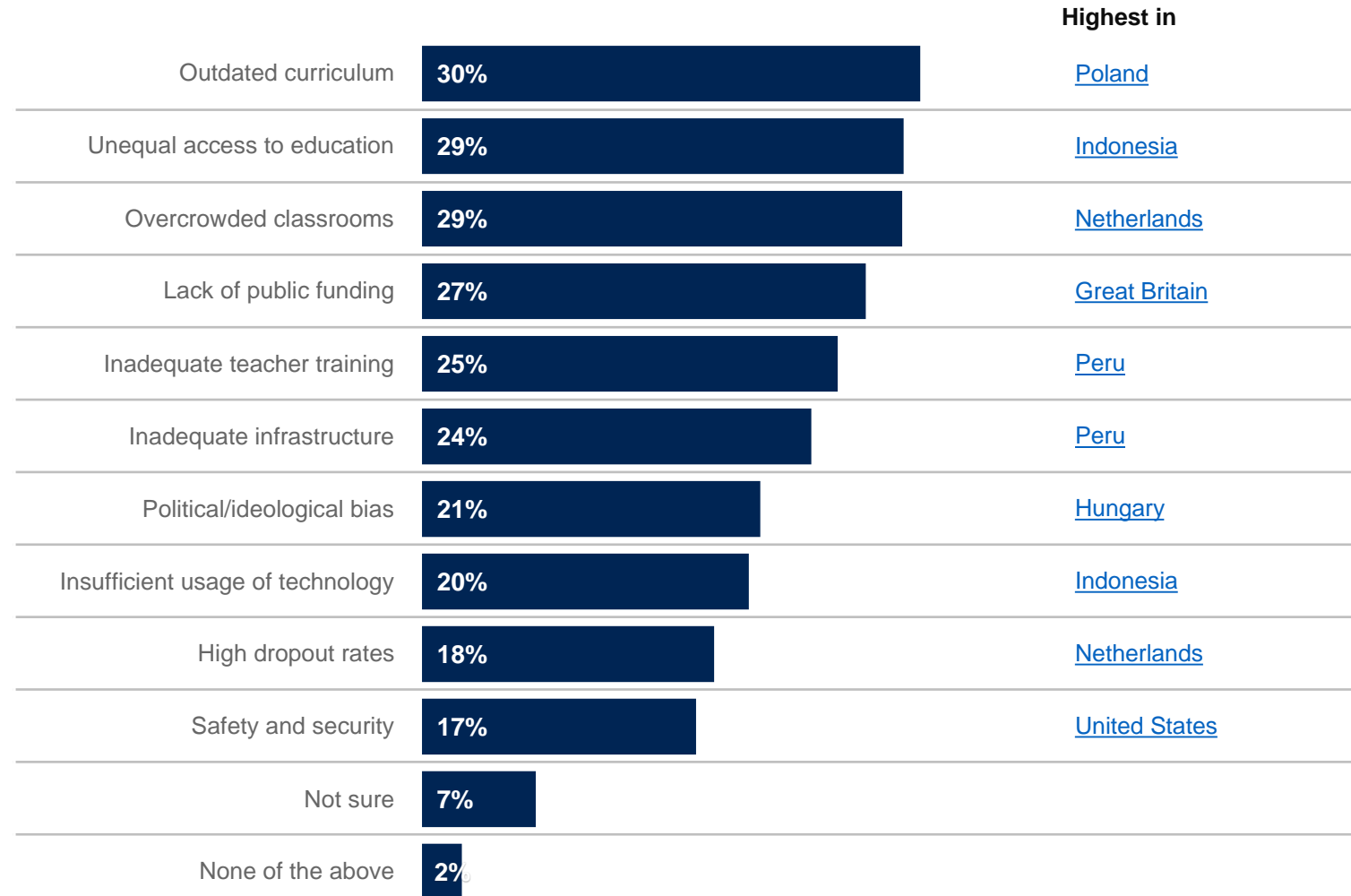
Outdated curriculum is considered the biggest and most common challenge overall.

Global Country Average

Q. In your opinion, what do you believe are the greatest challenges facing the education system in your country? (Select up to three answers)



Click the links in the chart for the full country breakdown.





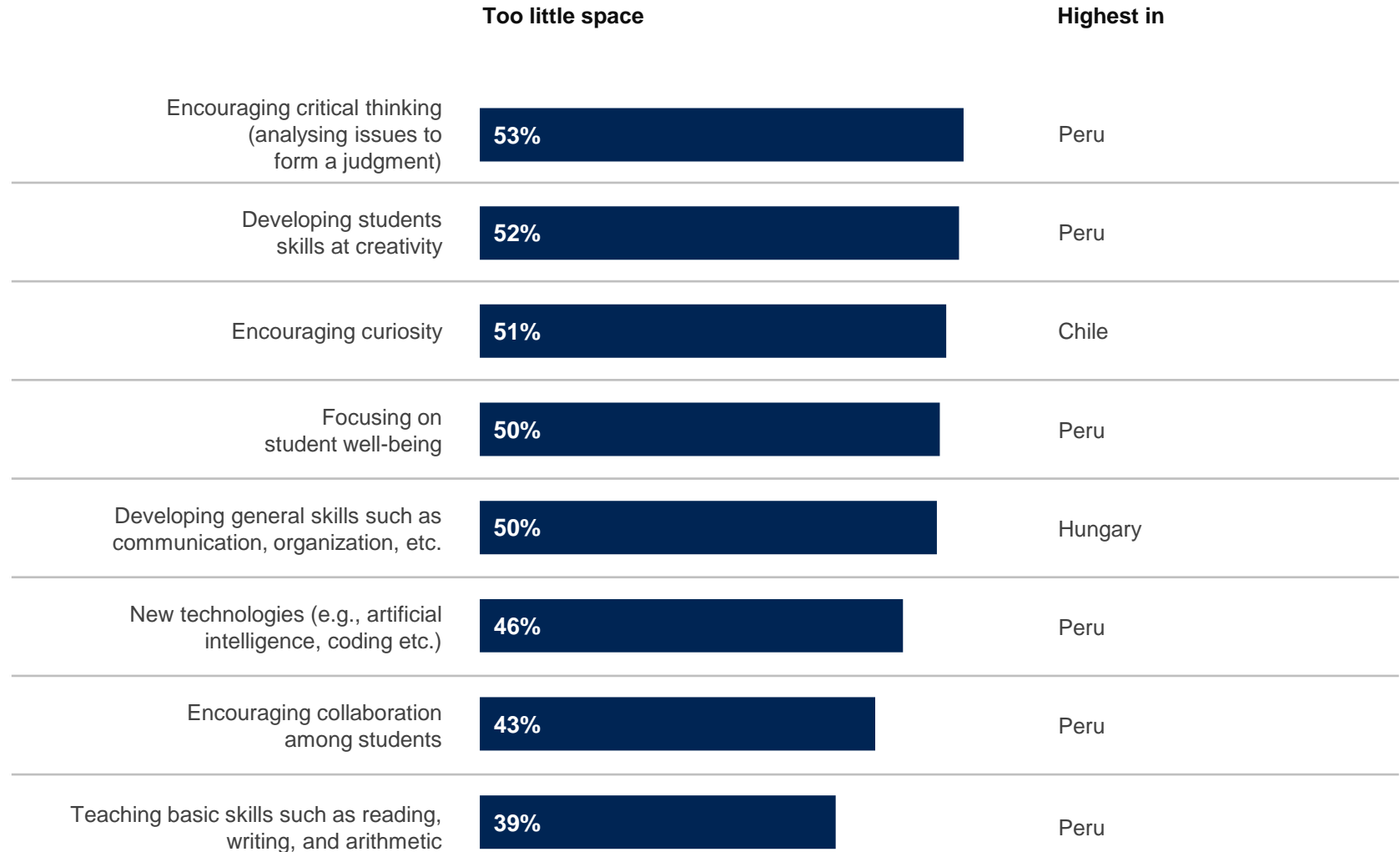
More than one in two consider the school curriculum gives too little space to encourage critical thinking, creativity and curiosity

Global Country Average

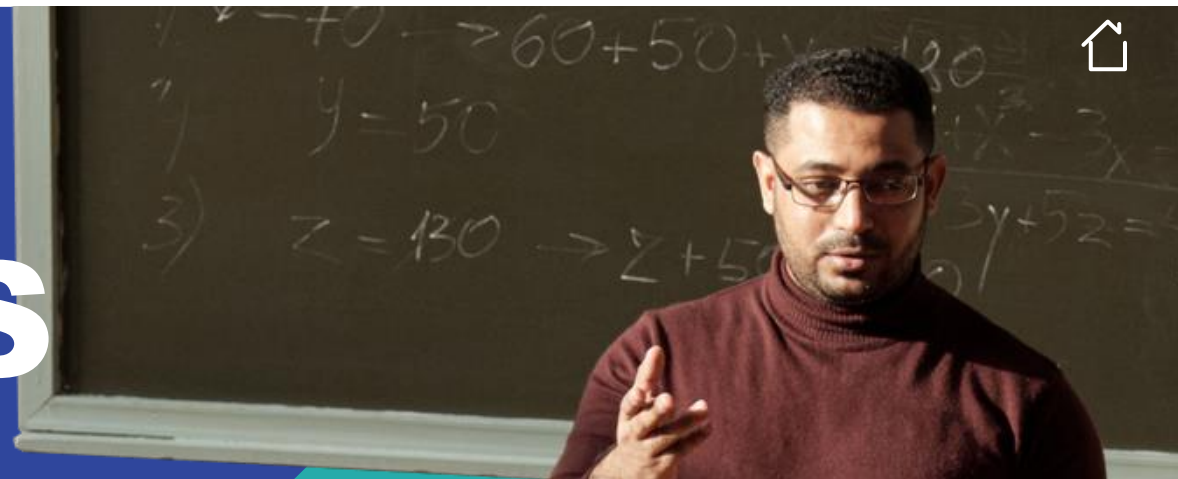
Q. Do you think the school curriculum in [COUNTRY] gives too much, too little or just enough space to each of the following...



[Click for full question breakdown, for the attitudes of parents and breakdown by education.](#)



ATTITUDES TO TEACHERS





THE HEADLINES



Teaching as a career

Many would not recommend becoming a teacher

Across 29 countries, people are more likely to say they would not advise someone to become a teacher than say they would.

Majorities in six countries – Hungary, Japan, Poland, South Korea, France, Germany – say they would not recommend their children or a young person to take a job teaching.

Asia Pacific is, in general terms, the region where people are most likely to recommend teaching.



Teacher work life balance

People believe teachers are hardworking

There is appreciation for how difficult the job of teaching is.

Across 29 countries, two-thirds (67%) say teachers work hard.

This sentiment is highest in Brazil, the Netherlands and Singapore, with four in five saying this is the case.

In only one country (South Korea) are people more likely to say they don't work hard than do.



Teacher salary

People are divided on whether teachers get paid enough

While recognising teachers are hardworking, at a global level people are divided whether they get a paid enough.

Forty-six per cent say teachers are adequately paid while 46% disagree.

Belief teachers get paid enough is highest in India, Singapore, and Malaysia.

In Argentina and Hungary three in four say teachers are not adequately paid.



Q

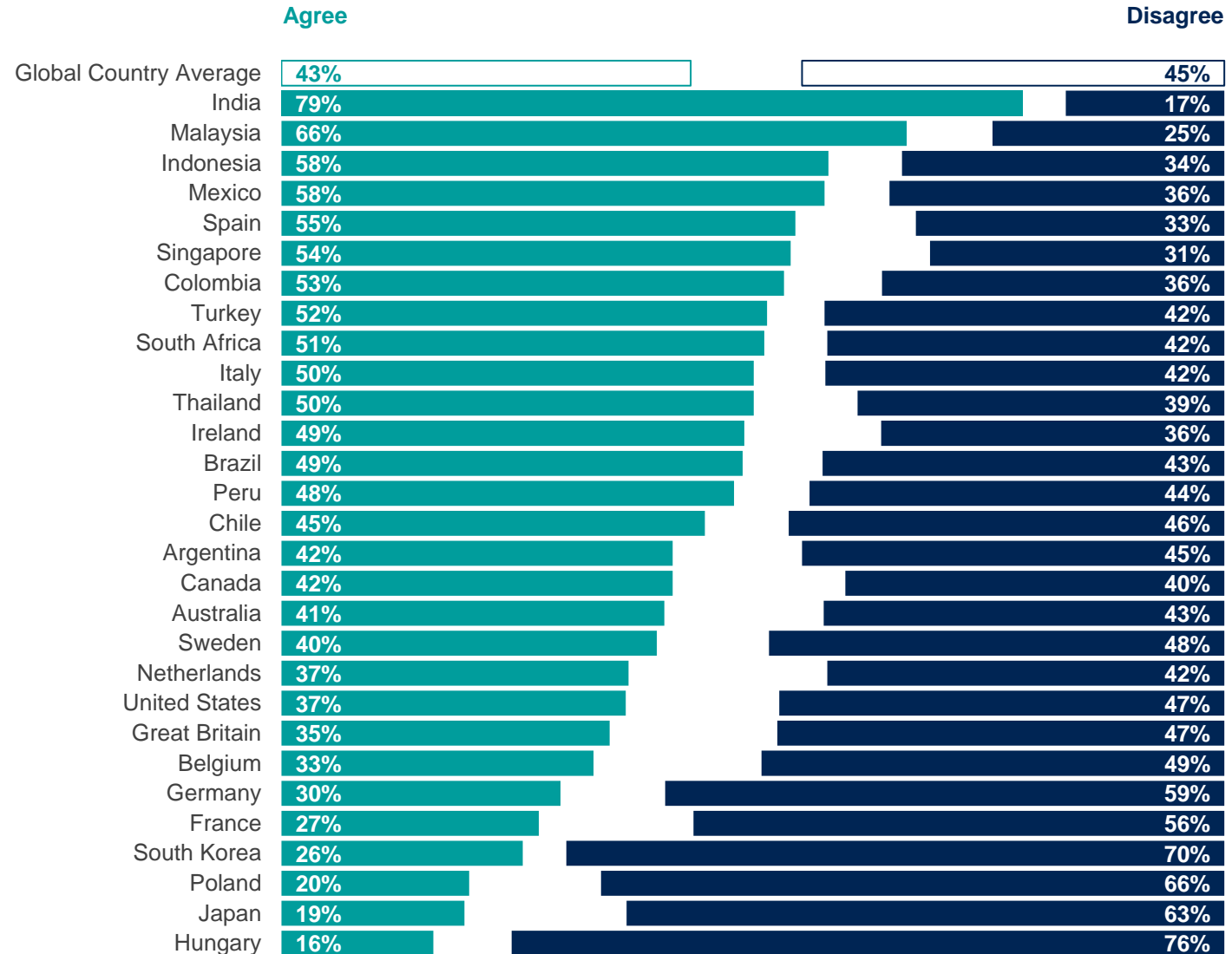
How much do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

I would advise my children or a young person I know to become a teacher

Country data



[Click here for the full breakdown.](#)





Q

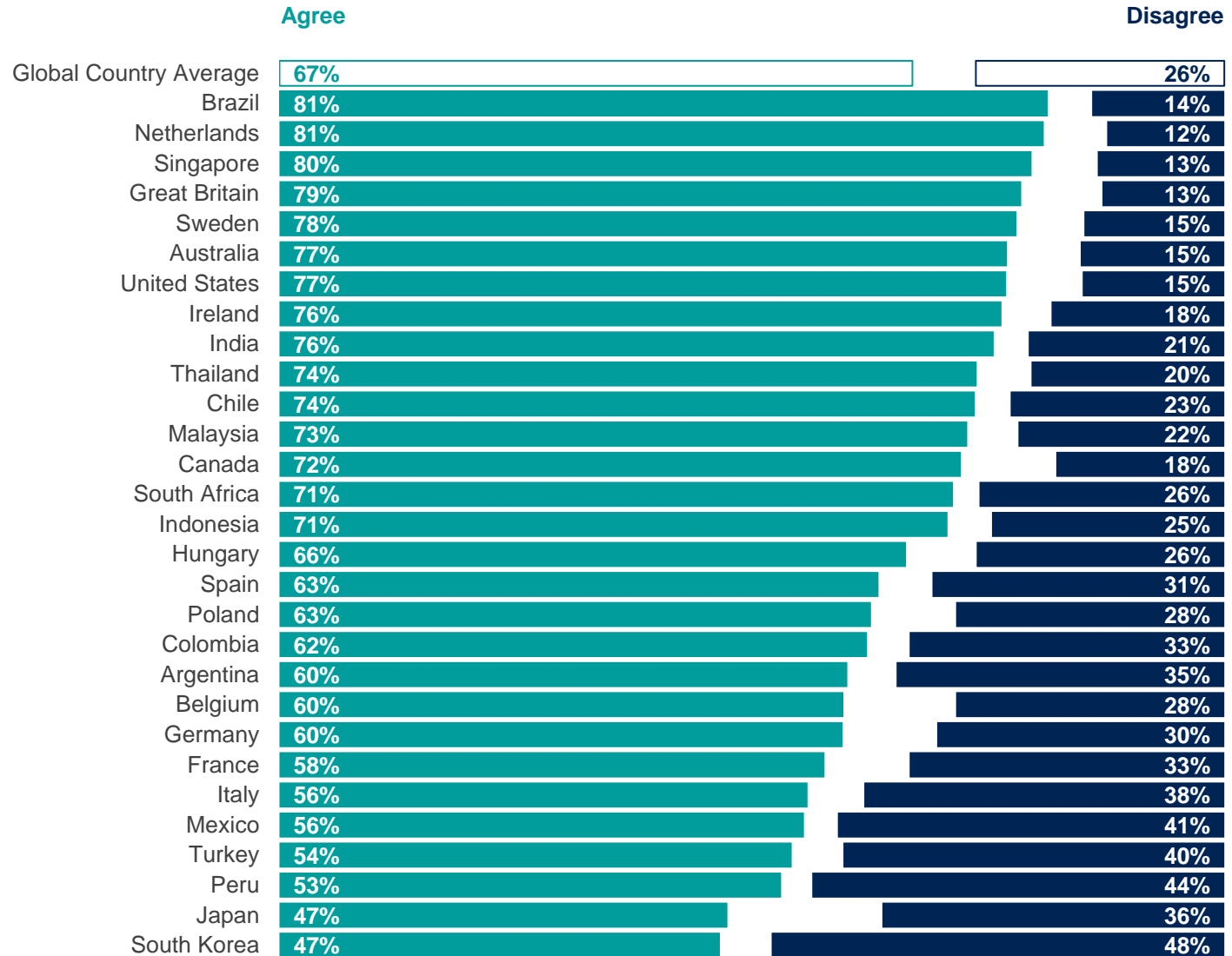
How much do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

Most teachers in [COUNTRY] work hard

Country data



[Click here for the full breakdown.](#)





Q

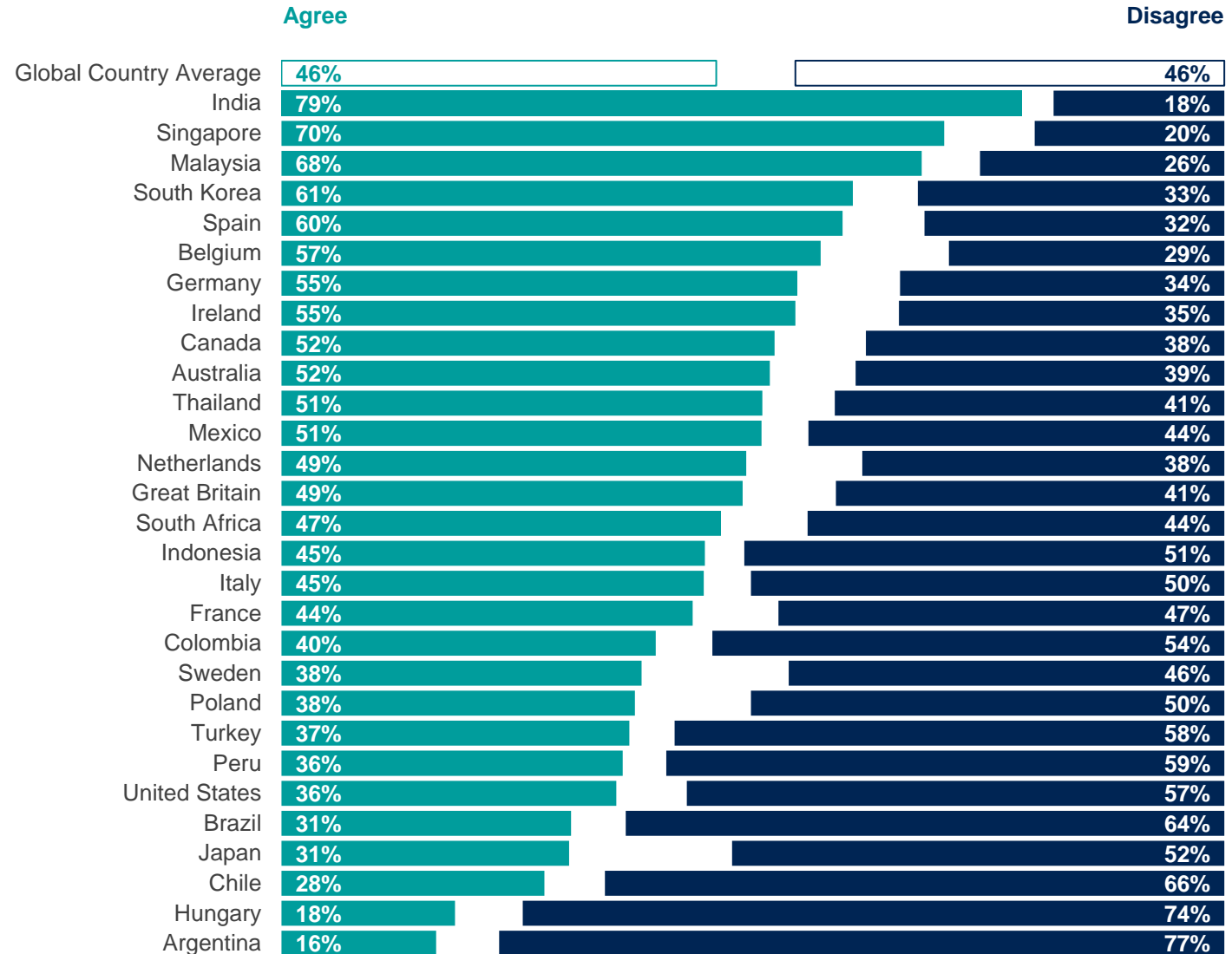
How much do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

Most teachers in [COUNTRY] are adequately paid

Country data



[Click here for the full breakdown.](#)





Q

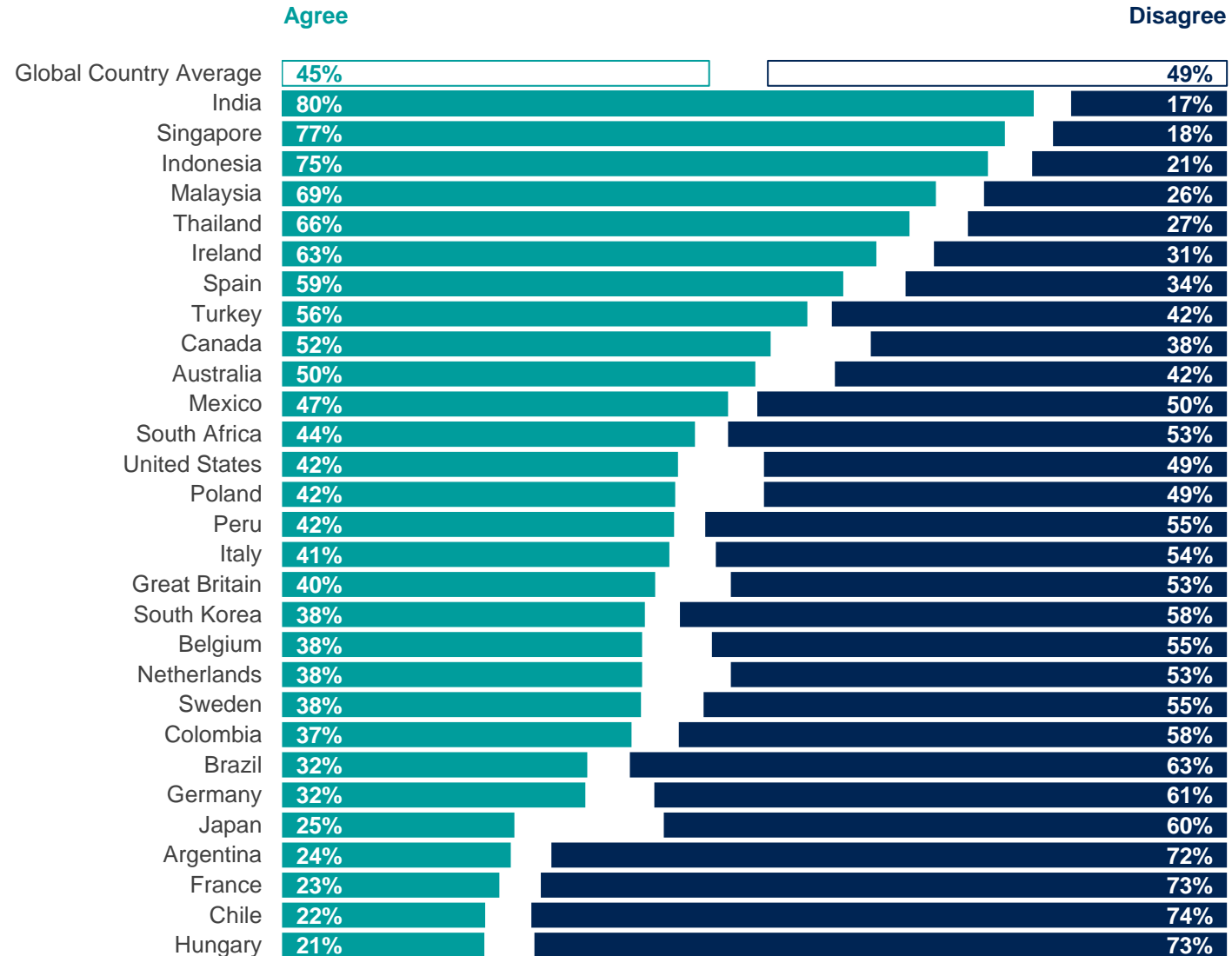
How much do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

Most teachers in [COUNTRY] are adequately respected

Country data



[Click here for the full breakdown.](#)





Q

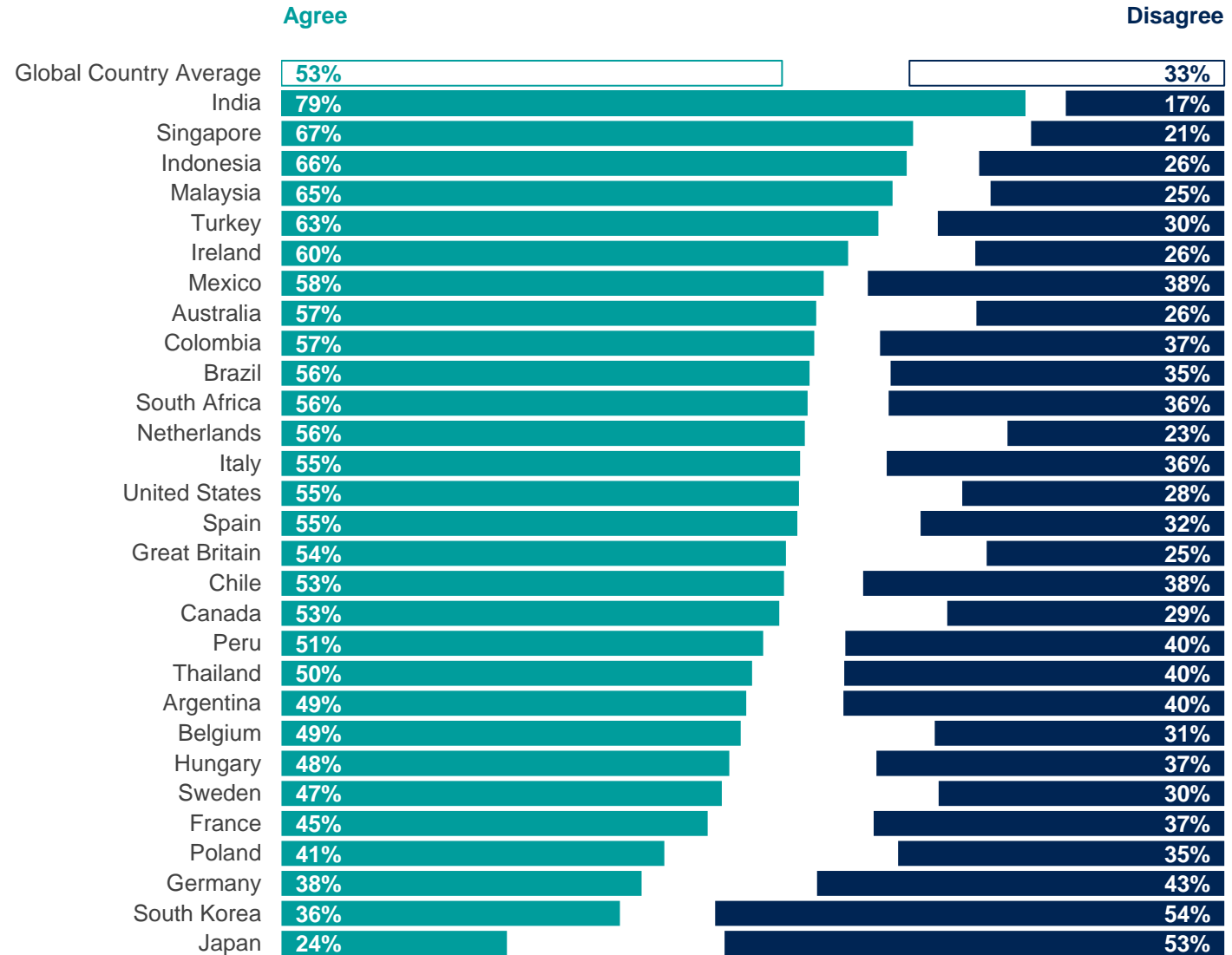
How much do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

Teachers in [COUNTRY] tend to have values that are similar to my own

Country data



[Click here for the full breakdown.](#)



SOCIAL INEQUALITIES IN EDUCATION





THE HEADLINES



Inequality in schools

People divided on whether schools can reduce inequality

One in two (51%) across 29 countries believe the education system in their country contributes to reducing social inequalities.

People in nine countries – Hungary, Japan, Poland, South Korea, Germany, France, Peru, Chile, Turkey – say their education system does not reduce inequality.



Generational gap

Younger generations believe schools can reduce inequality

When looking at whether schools help reduce inequality, it is younger people who particularly think they do.

Fifty-five per cent of Millennials think the education system does, compared to 38% who don't, and 54% of Gen Z agree it does and 38% who don't.

Older people are a bit more divided, with Baby Boomers evenly split about whether the education system can reduce social inequalities.



Importance of university

University is seen as essential to succeeding in life

In nearly all 29 countries surveyed people are more likely to believe having a university degree is very important to succeed in life.

It is countries in Asia Pacific – India, Singapore, Malaysia – where this belief is highest.

While Europe is where it's lowest, Belgium is the only country to believe having a degree isn't very important to succeed in life.



In many countries where the opinion is critical of the school system, a majority considers it fails at reducing social inequalities.

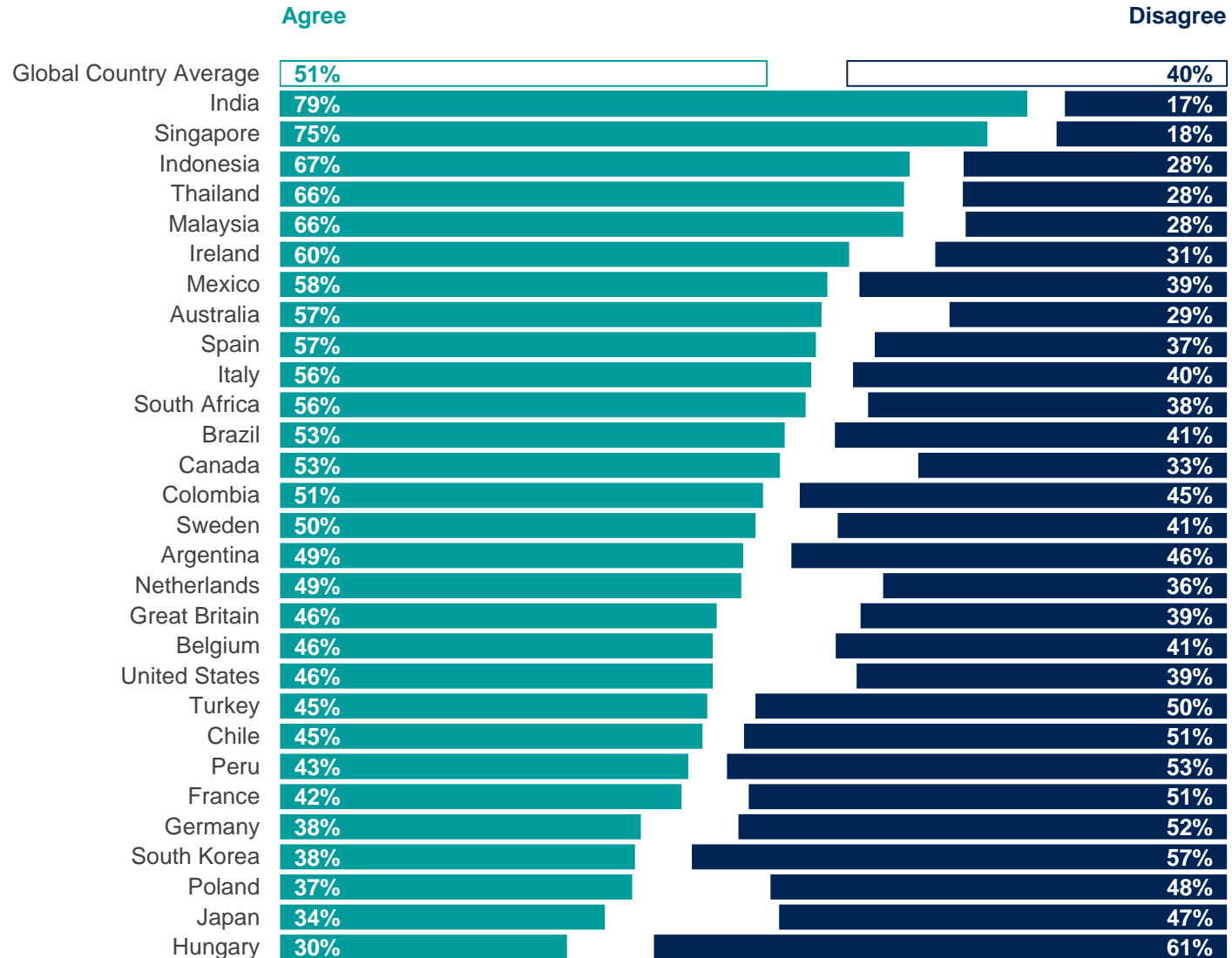
Country data

Q. How much do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

The education system in [COUNTRY] contributes to reducing social inequalities



[Click here for the full breakdown.](#)





In all but one country (Belgium) people are more likely to say a degree is very important to succeed in life. Those with a higher level of education feel this is the case.

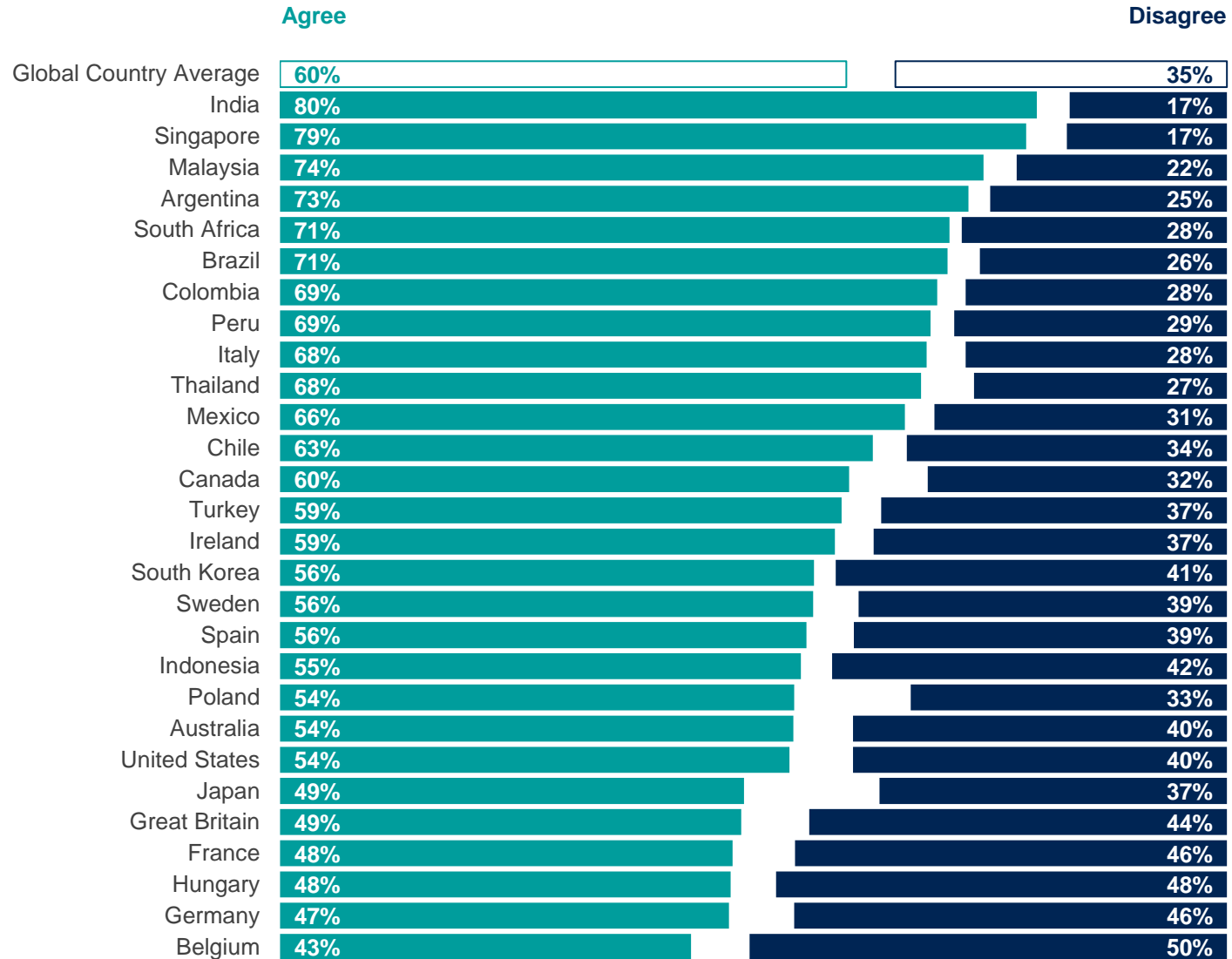
Country data

Q. How much do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

Having a college / university degree is very important to succeed in life



[Click here for education and parent breakdown](#)



THE IMPACT OF AI AND TECHNOLOGY





THE HEADLINES



AI in the classroom

Attitudes to AI are broadly positive, but not in all countries

Globally, [people think technology in the classroom, such as AI, will have a more positive affect than negative one.](#)

However, one in five think it will have a bad impact on schools.

Canada, US and France are more likely to think AI will have more negative effect than positive one.



Perceptions vary

There are big differences between countries in the role of AI

Some of the countries who are negative about the effect of AI believe it should be banned in schools.

[In France, Australia, Ireland and Canada, people are more likely to say it should be banned.](#)

Turkey, Malaysia, Argentina, and Peru are countries most against a ban.



Teacher training

Agreement that teachers should get more training on AI

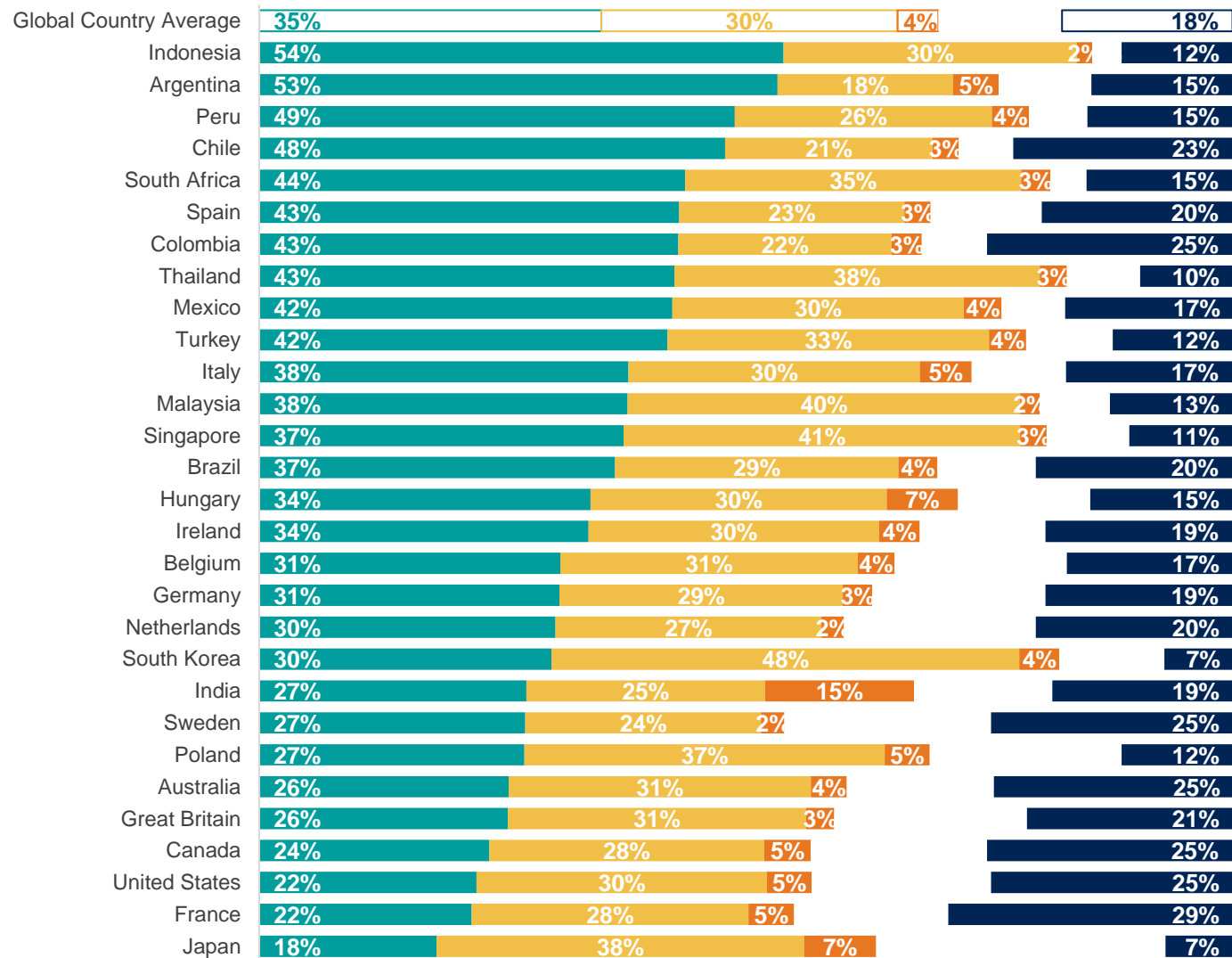
While people are more split on attitudes to AI and its role in the lives of students, there is more agreement that teachers should receive more training on it.

Two-thirds across 29 countries think teachers should get training on [how to use AI in their teaching methods](#), and [seven in ten feel teachers should be showing students to use AI and receive training on how to spot whether students are using AI in school papers.](#)

Q

How do you think **advances in technology** (including artificial intelligence) will affect education in the future? Will they have an impact that is...

Country data



More positive than negative

Equally positive and negative/neutral

No impact

More negative than positive





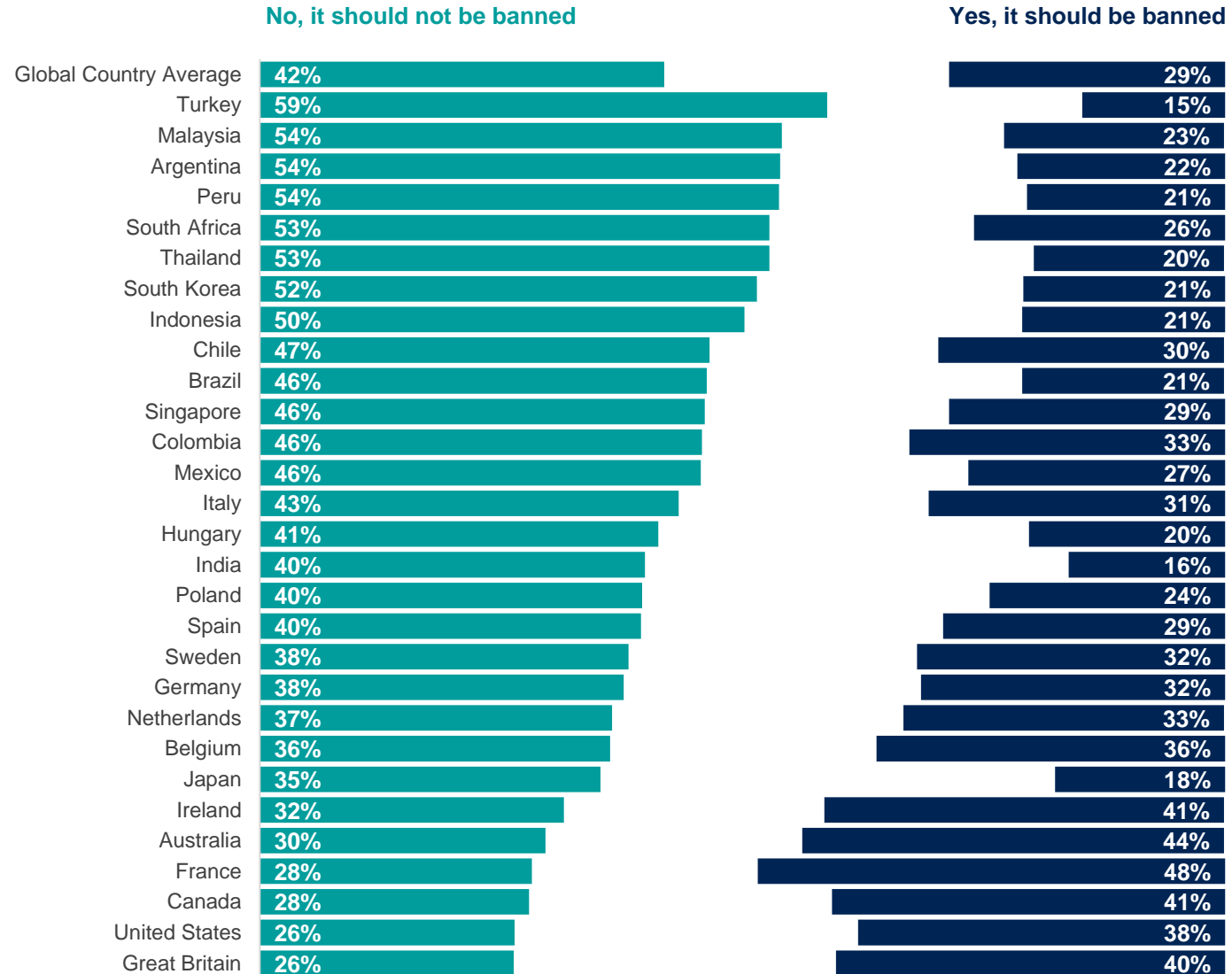
Less than one in three favour the ban of AI at school, even in a country like Italy, the first Western country to block ChatGPT over privacy concerns.

Country data

Q. Do you think the use of AI (including ChatGPT) should be banned in schools?



[Click here for the generation and parent breakdown.](#)



APPENDIX

This section provides further breakdowns on different aspects of the results including by country and for parents of children.



Among the global country average, only 1 in 3 (33%, but 39% of parents of children in school age) consider the quality of the education system as good, the most positive being Singapore, consistent with PISA scores.

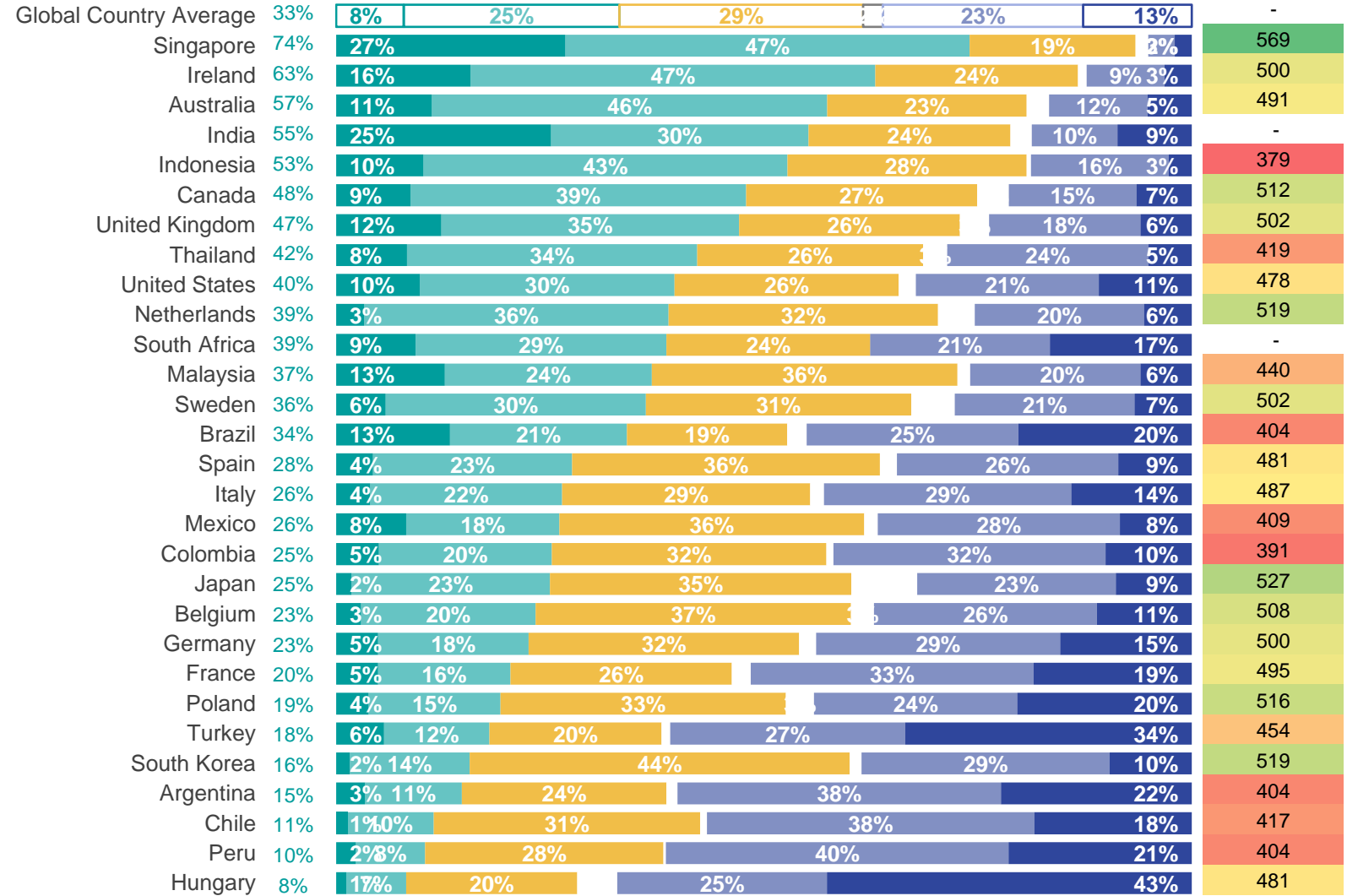
Country data

Q. How would you rate the overall quality of the education system in [COUNTRY]?



[Click here to return](#)

Good





And almost one in two consider that the education system is worse than when they were in school, and more than two in three in Argentina, Hungary and France.

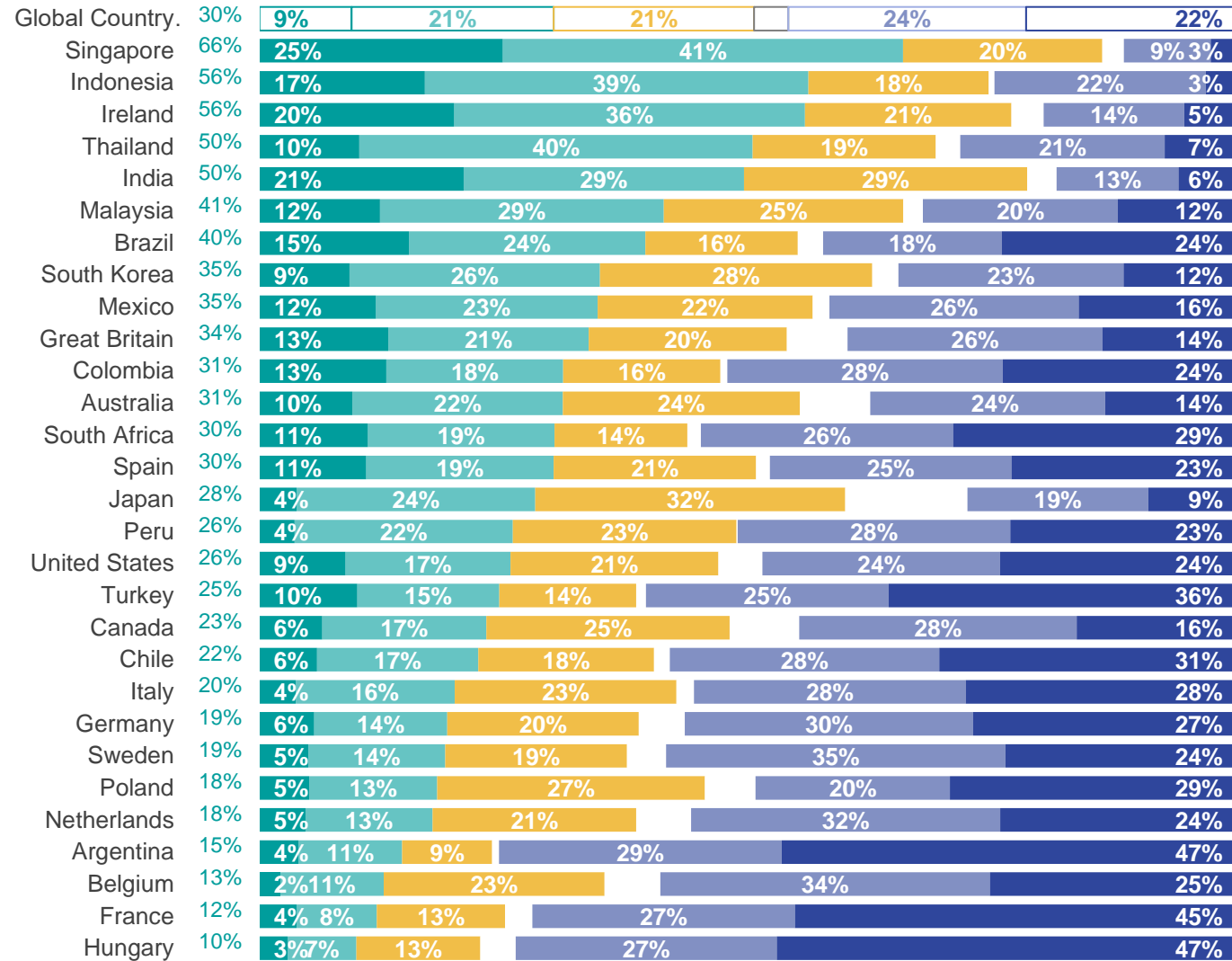
Country data

Q. Compared to when you were in school, do you think the overall quality of the education system in [COUNTRY] is now...



[Click here for the generational and parent breakdown.](#)

Better



Much better

Somewhat better

About the same

Somewhat worse

Much worse



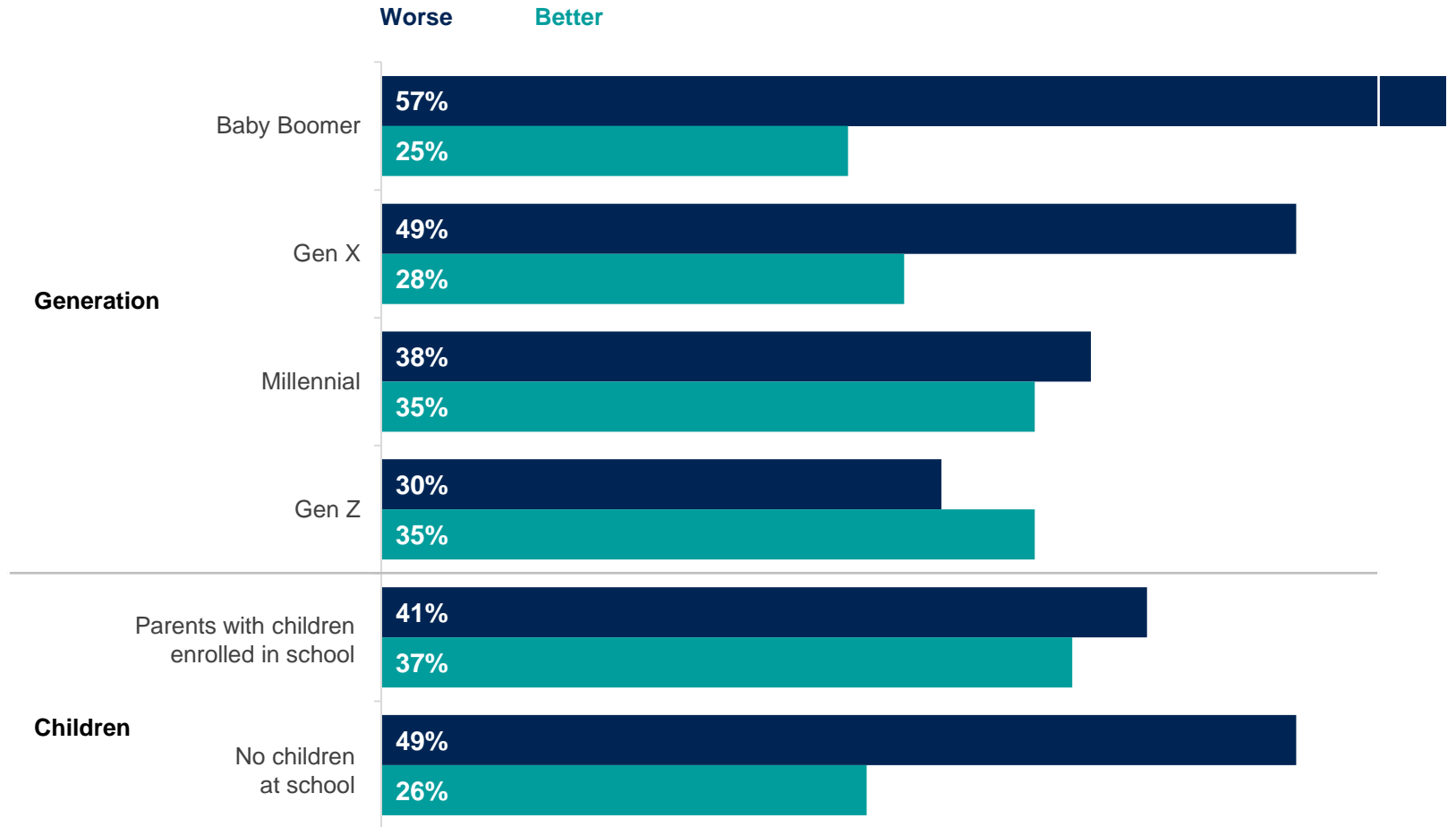
Older people and those without school age children are more likely to say education is worse than when they were at school.

Country data

Q. Compared to when you were in school, do you think the overall quality of the education system in [COUNTRY] is now...



[Click here to return](#)





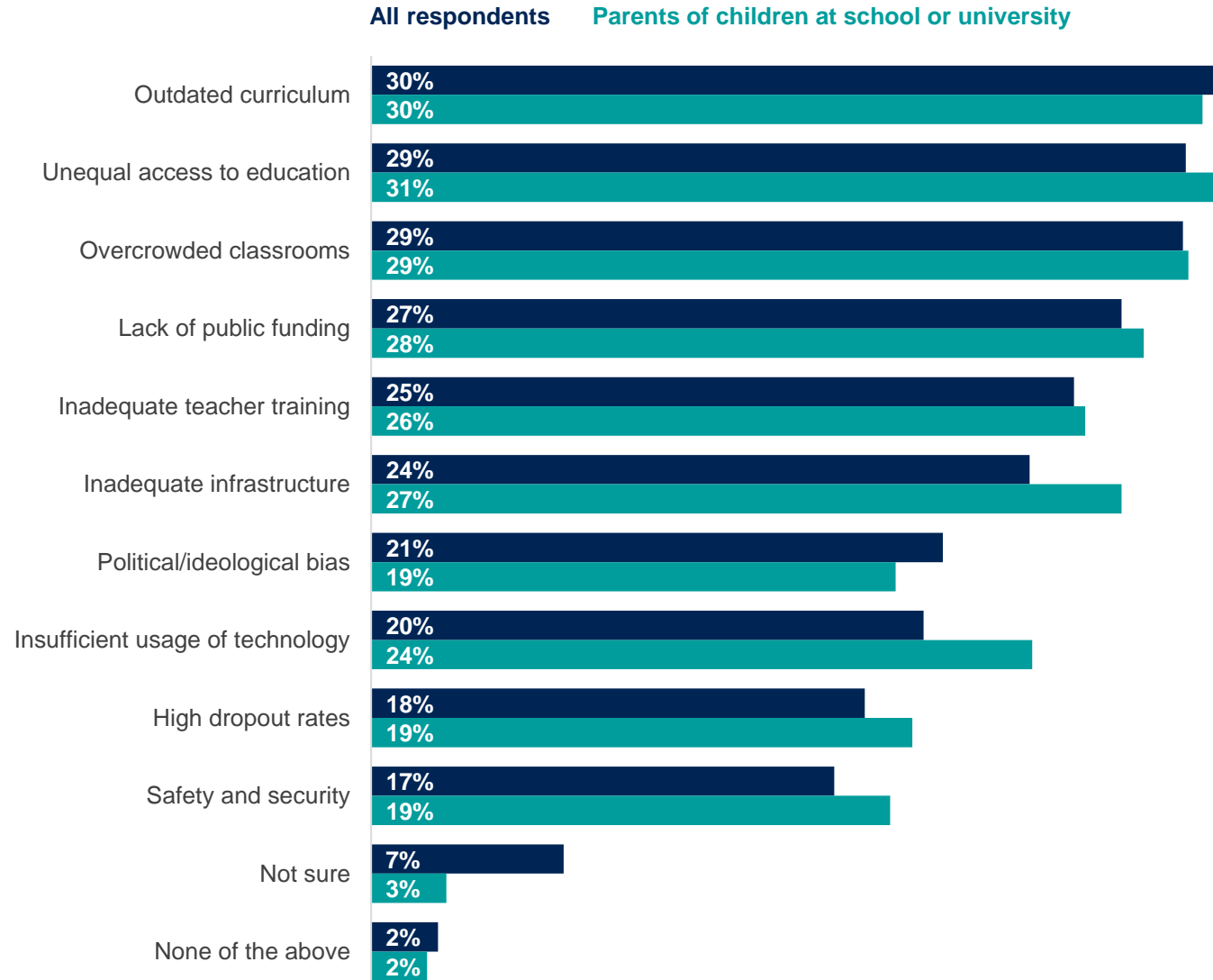
Outdated curriculum is considered the biggest and most common challenge.

Global Country Average

Q. In your opinion, what do you believe are the greatest challenges facing the education system in your country? (Select up to three answers)



[Click here to return](#)





Q

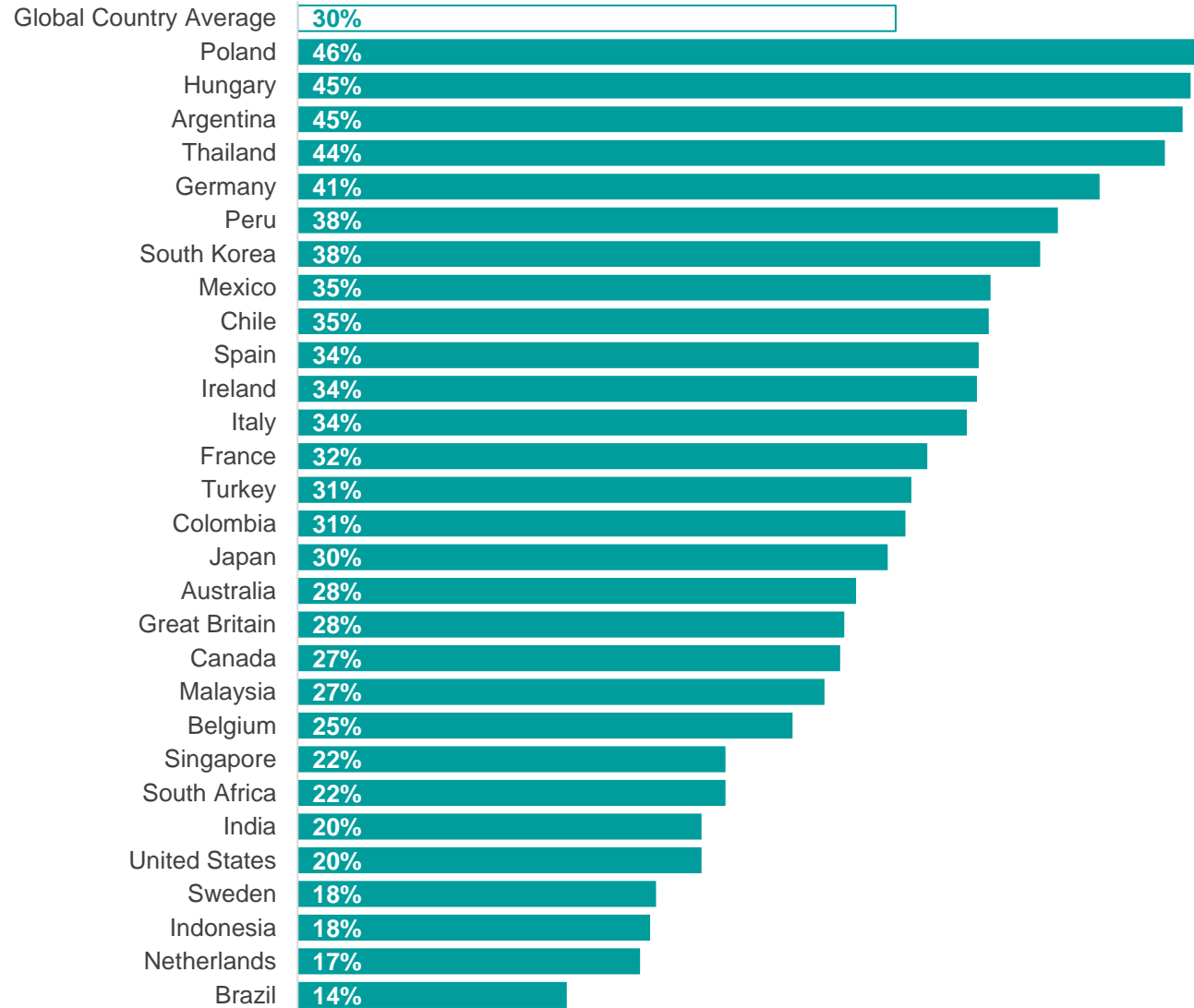
In your opinion, what do you believe are the greatest challenges facing the education system in your country? (Select up to three answers)

Outdated Curriculum

Country data



[Click here to return](#)





Q

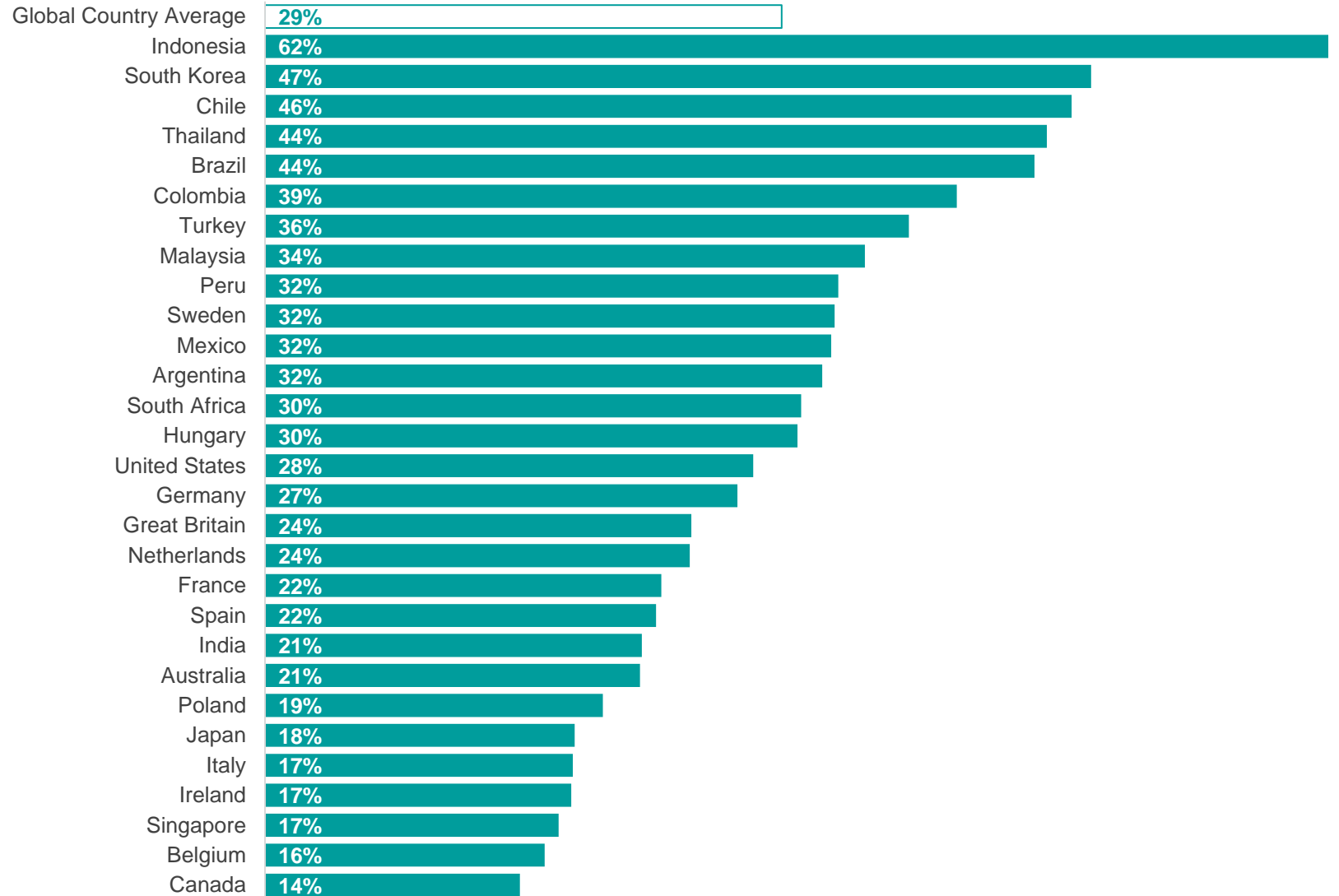
In your opinion, what do you believe are the greatest challenges facing the education system in your country? (Select up to three answers)

Unequal access to education

Country data



[Click here to return](#)





Q

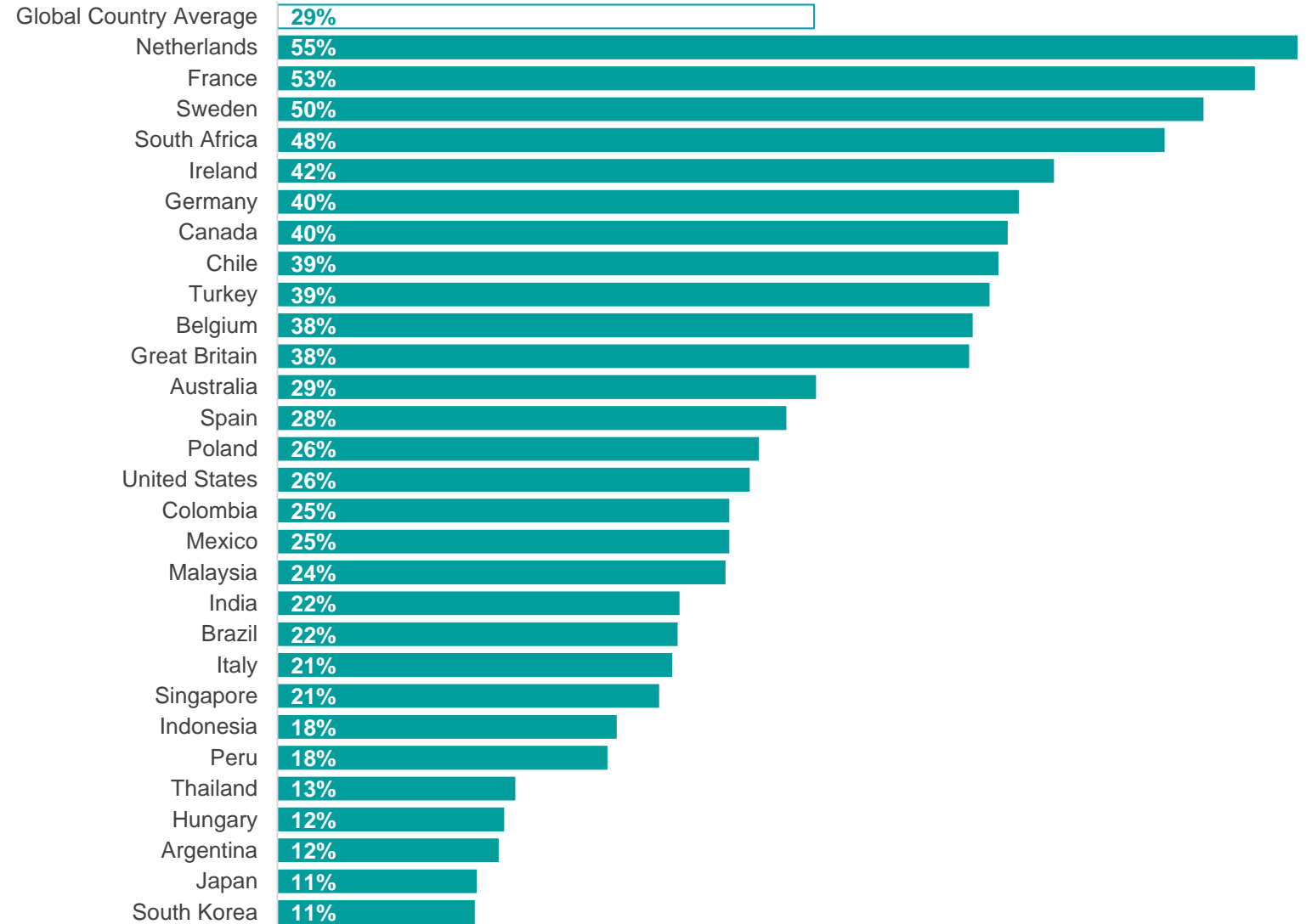
In your opinion, what do you believe are the greatest challenges facing the education system in your country? (Select up to three answers)

Overcrowded classrooms

Country data



[Click here to return](#)





Q

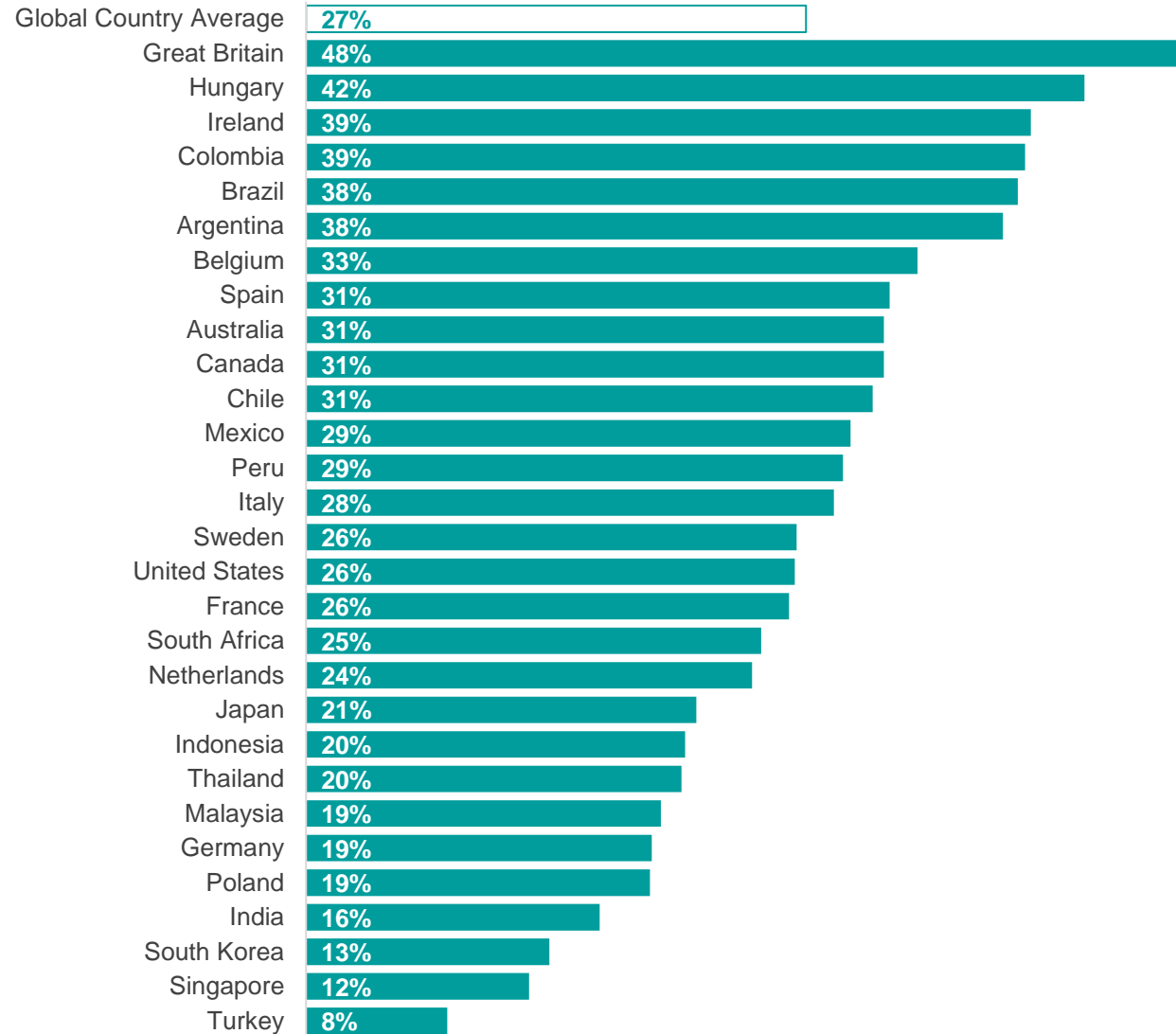
In your opinion, what do you believe are the greatest challenges facing the education system in your country? (Select up to three answers)

Lack of public funding

Country data



[Click here to return](#)





Q

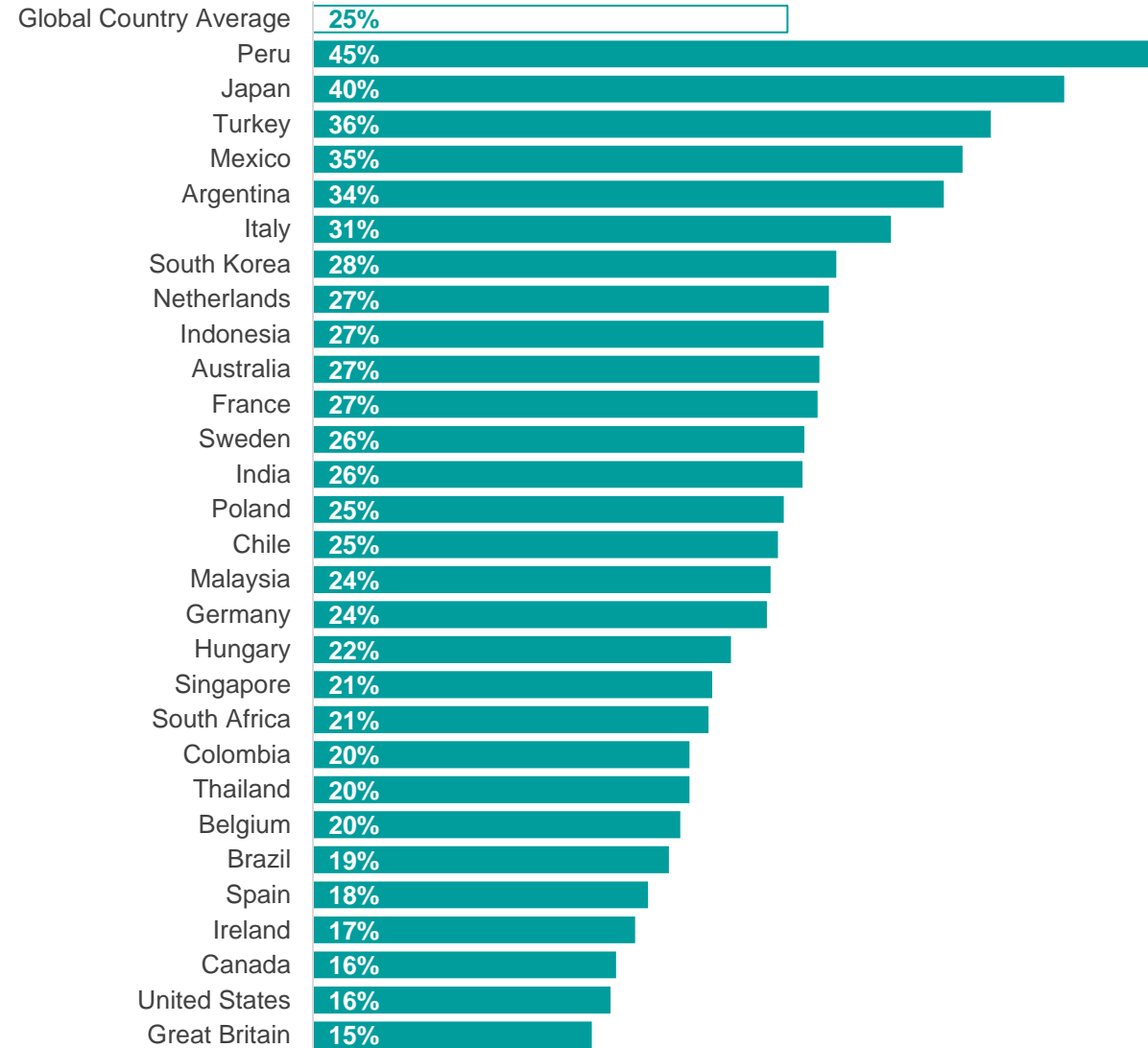
In your opinion, what do you believe are the greatest challenges facing the education system in your country? (Select up to three answers)

Inadequate teacher training

Country data



[Click here to return](#)





Q

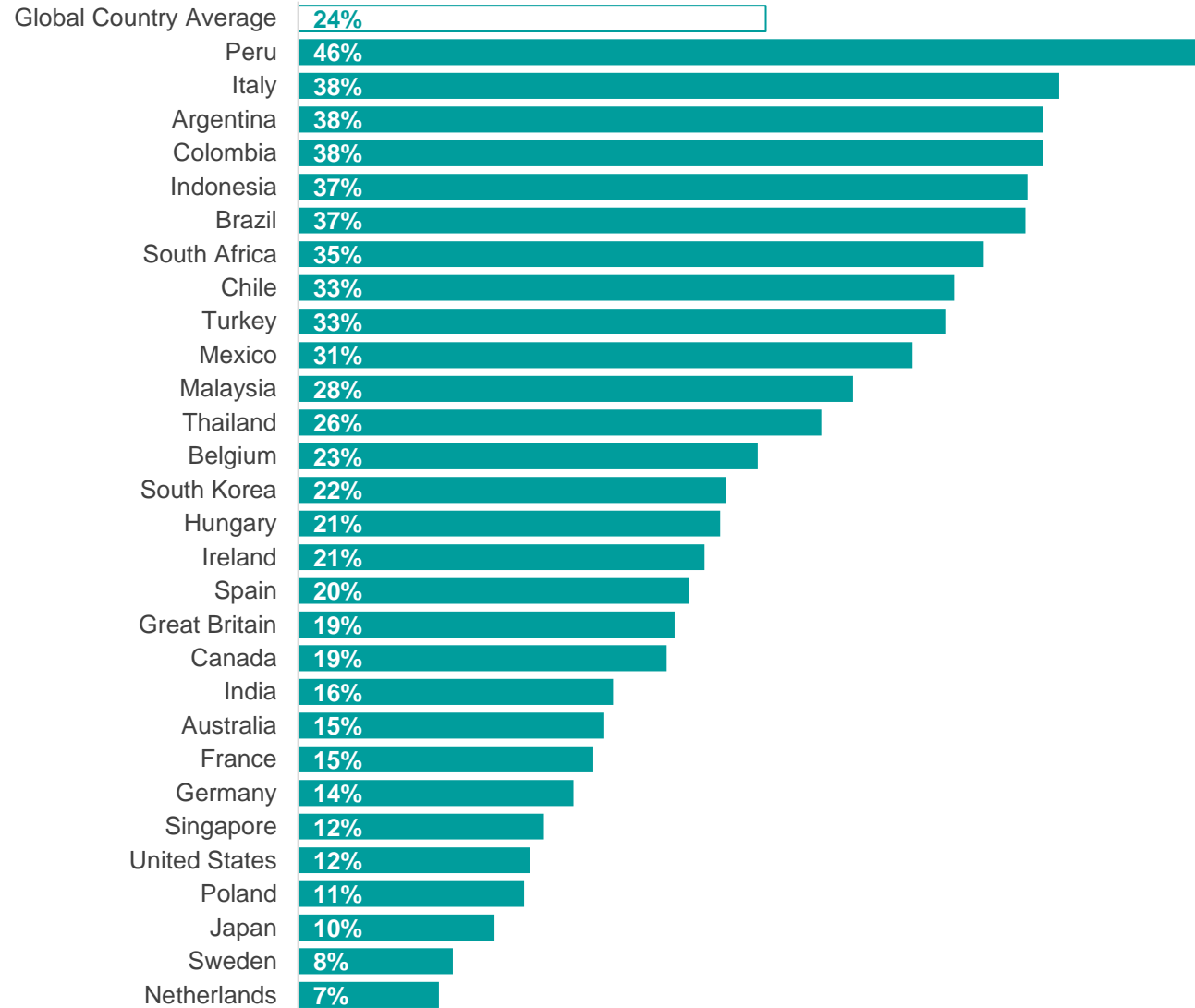
In your opinion, what do you believe are the greatest challenges facing the education system in your country? (Select up to three answers)

Inadequate infrastructure

Country data



[Click here to return](#)





Q

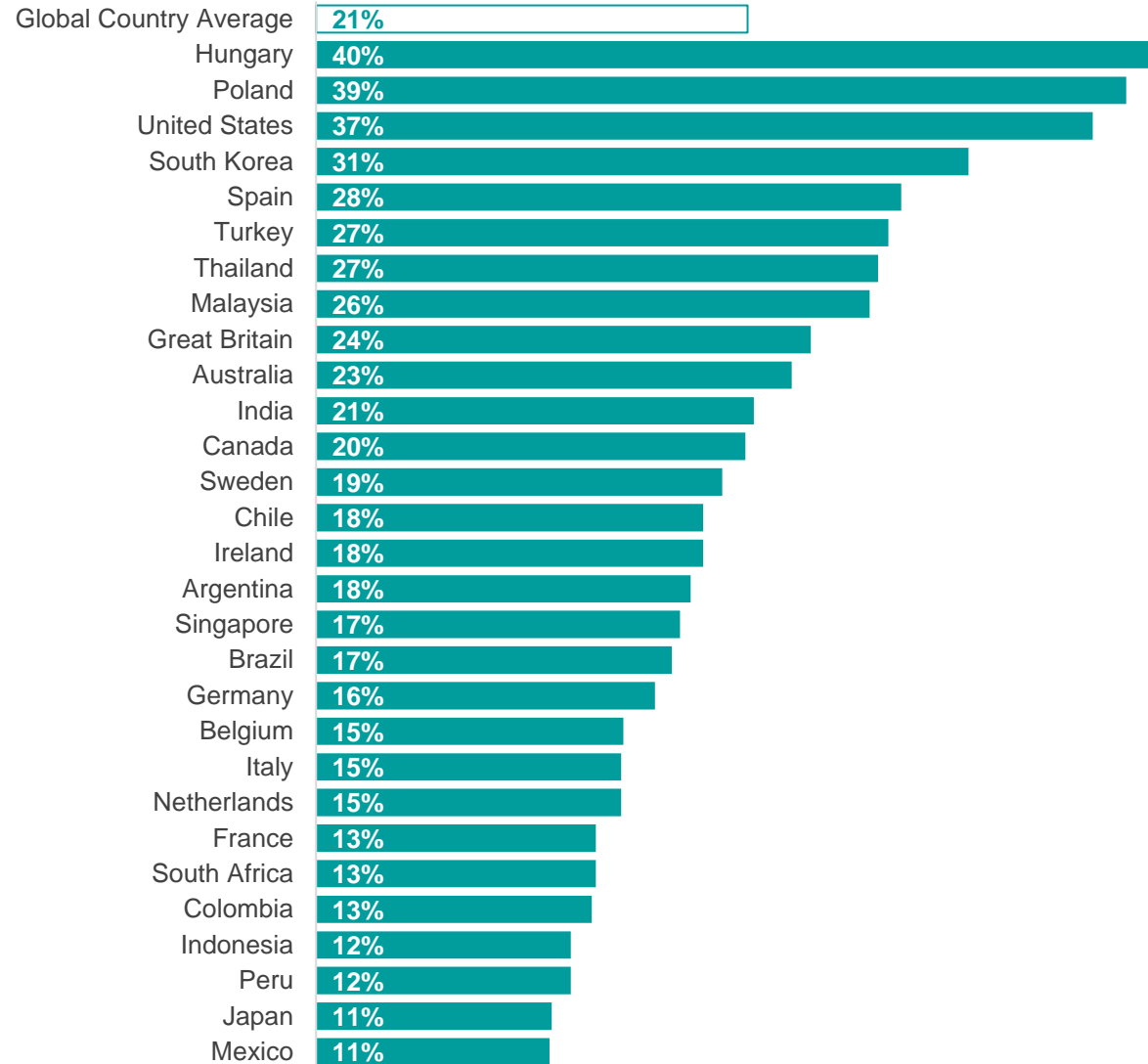
In your opinion, what do you believe are the greatest challenges facing the education system in your country? (Select up to three answers)

Political/ideological bias

Country data



[Click here to return](#)





Q

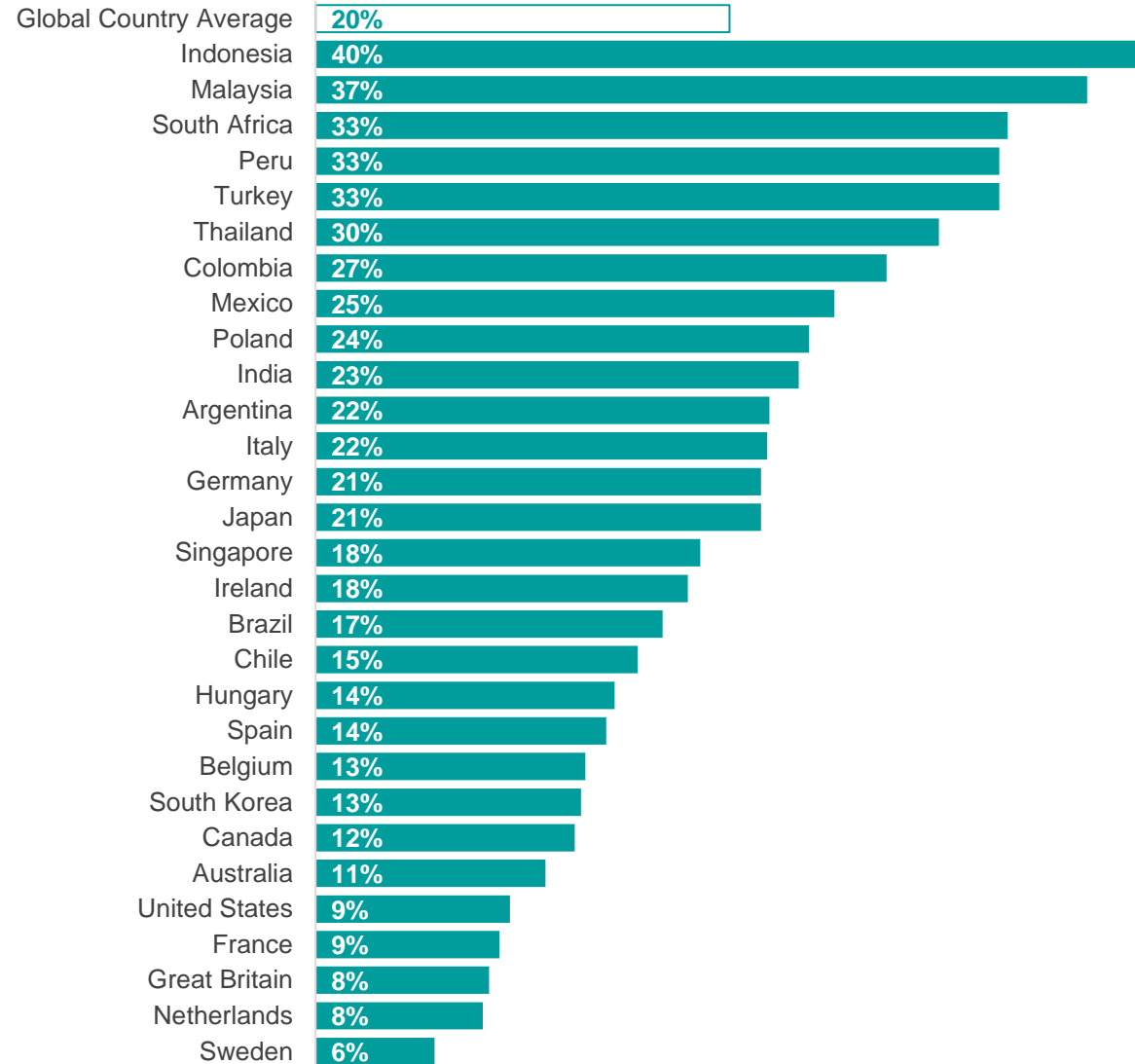
In your opinion, what do you believe are the greatest challenges facing the education system in your country? (Select up to three answers)

Insufficient usage of technology

Country data



[Click here to return](#)





Q

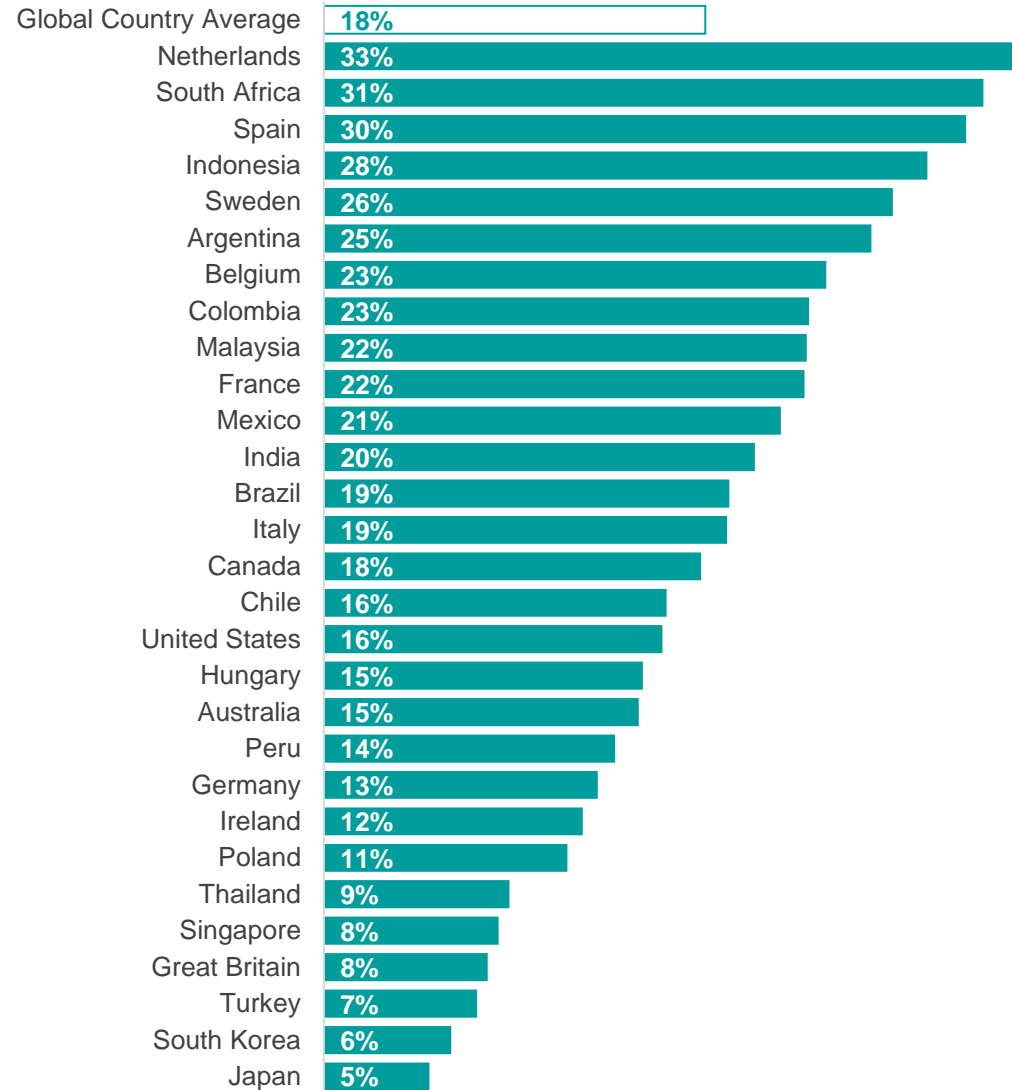
In your opinion, what do you believe are the greatest challenges facing the education system in your country? (Select up to three answers)

High dropout rates

Country data



[Click here to return](#)





Q

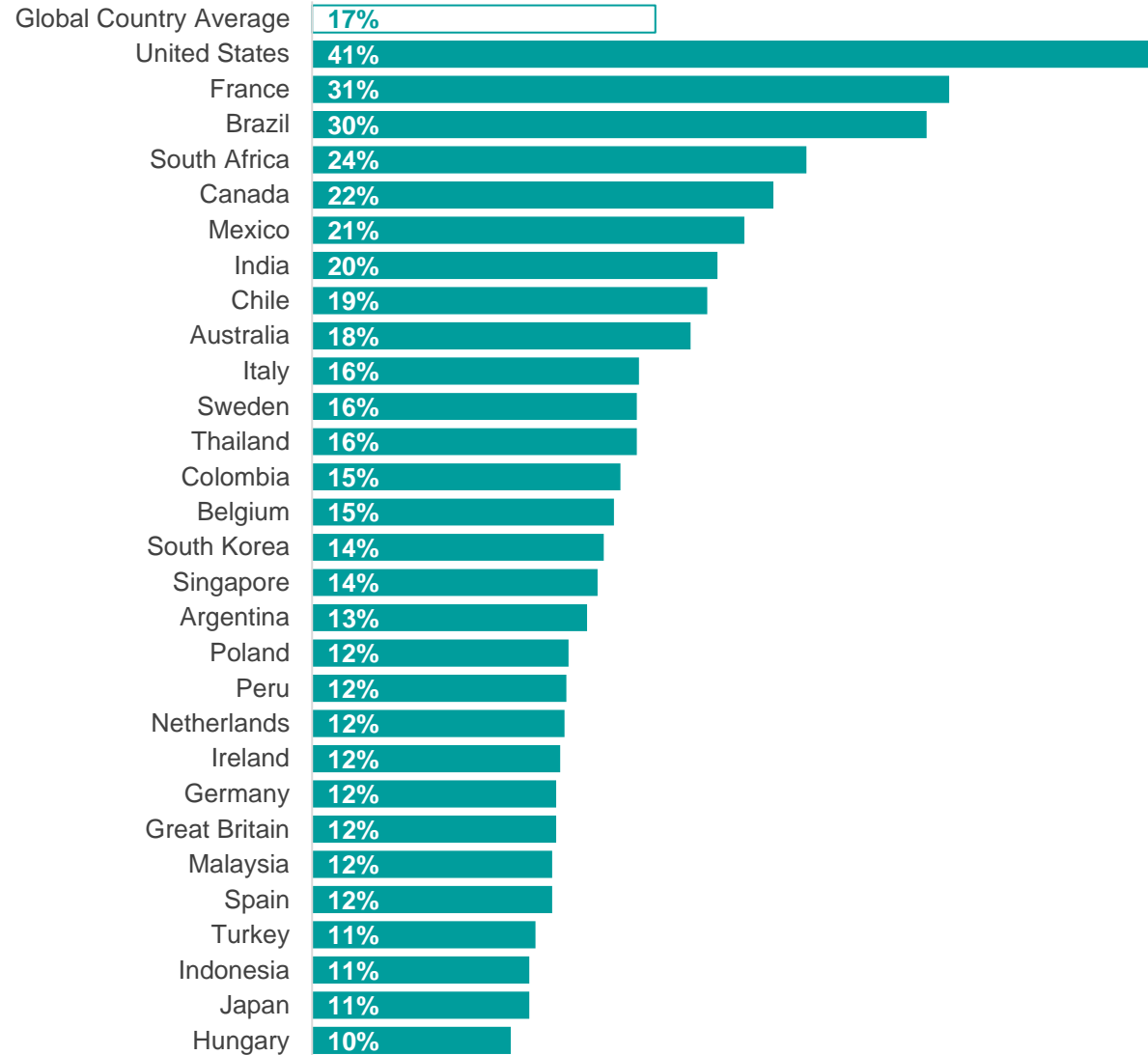
In your opinion, what do you believe are the greatest challenges facing the education system in your country? (Select up to three answers)

Safety and security

Country data



[Click here to return](#)





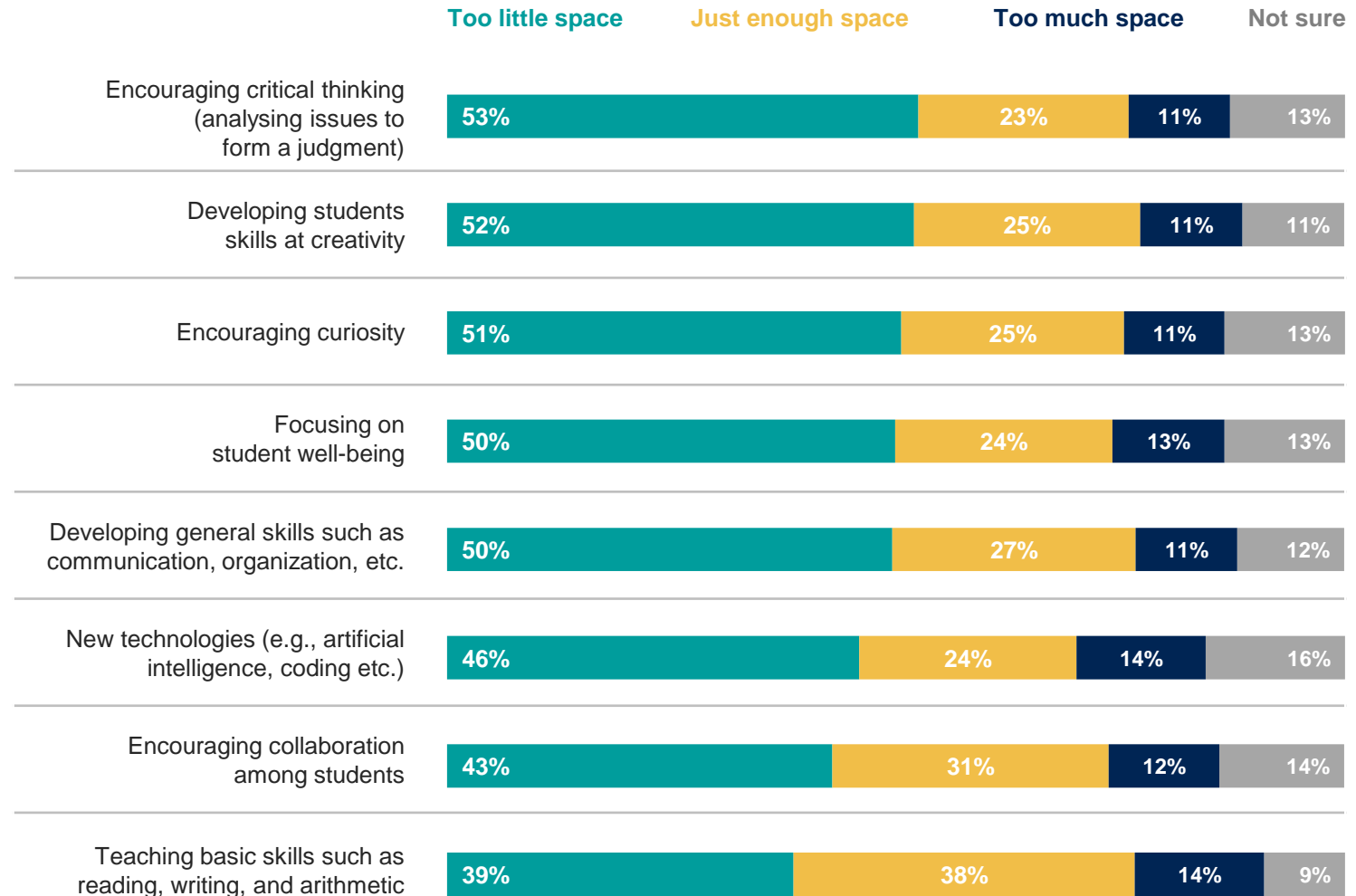
A majority think schools should give more time to encourage critical thinking, curiosity and creativity.

Global Country Average

Q. Do you think the school curriculum in ... gives too much, too little or just enough space to each of the following?



[Click here for the full breakdown.](#)





While the parents of students and those with no children in school have differed on their view of education, they are agreed that more space to develop skills is needed.

Global Country Average

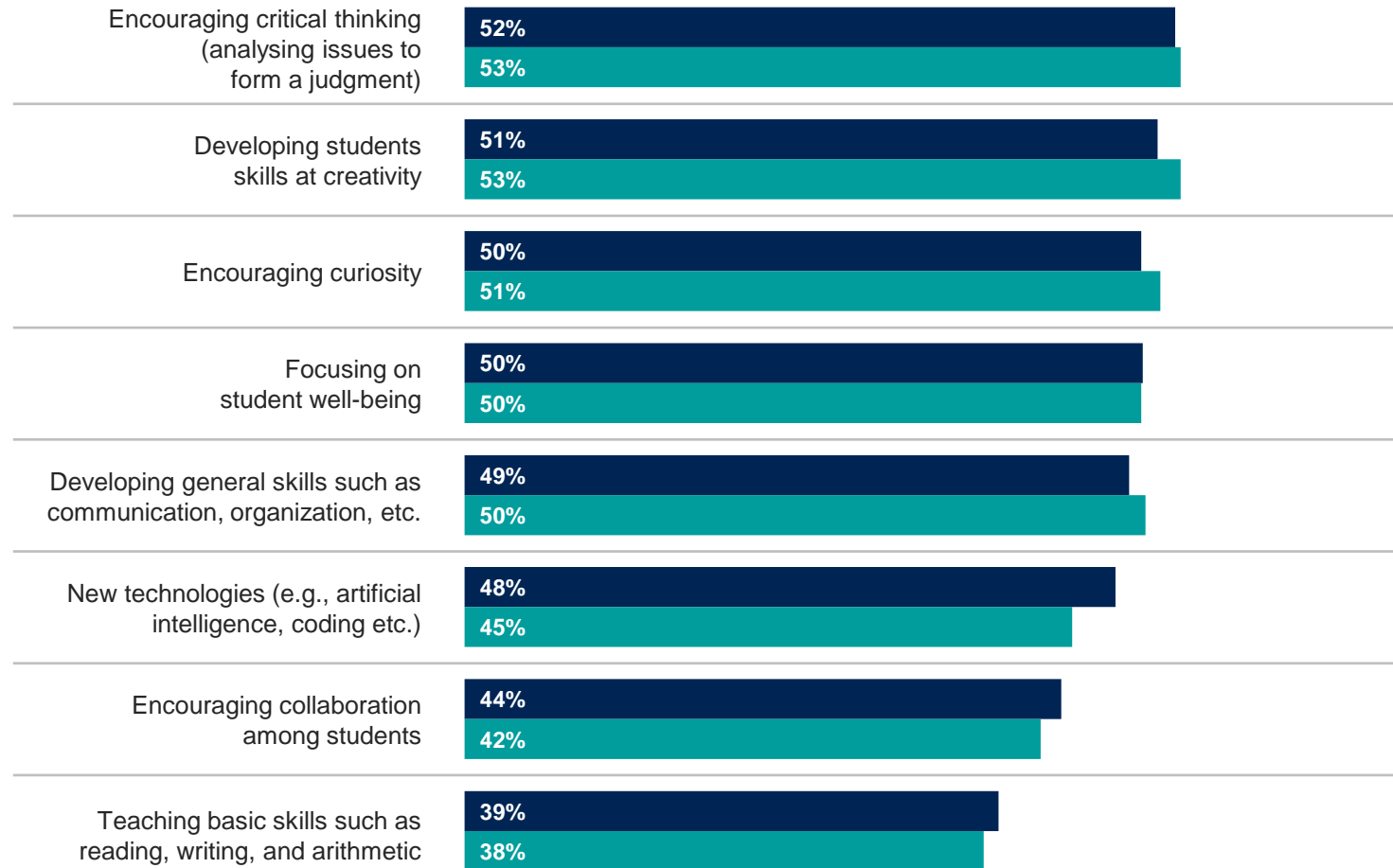
Q. Do you think the school curriculum in [COUNTRY] gives too much, too little or just enough space to each of the following...



[Click here for the full breakdown.](#)

Too little space

Parents with children enrolled in school No children in school





Those with lower levels of education are less likely to think more space is need for critical thinking.

Global Country Average

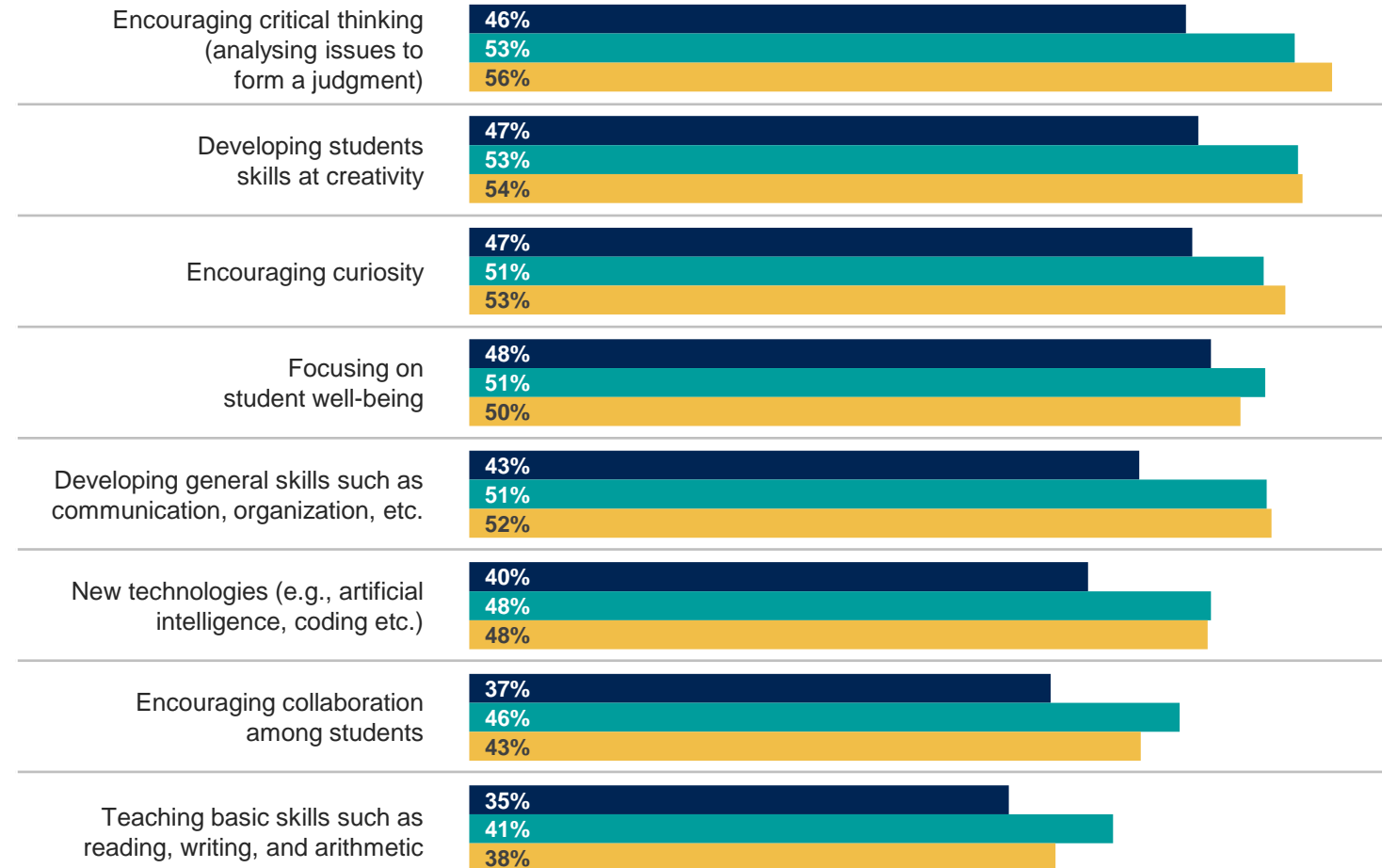
Q. Do you think the school curriculum in [COUNTRY] gives too much, too little or just enough space to each of the following...



[Click here to return](#)

Too little space

Lower education Medium education Higher education





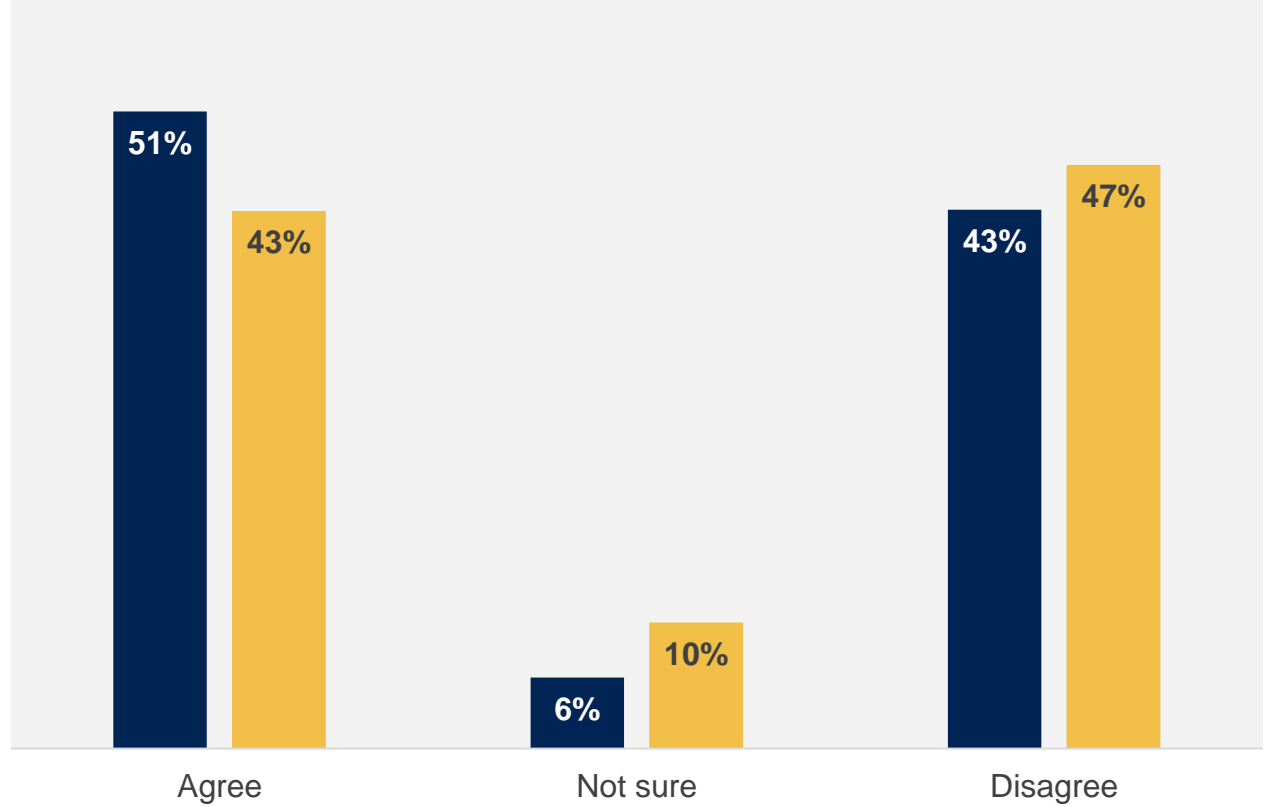
How much do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

Most teachers in [COUNTRY] are adequately respected

Country data



[Click here to return](#)



Parents with children enrolled at school

No children in school

Base: 23,248 online adults across 29 countries between 23rd June and 7th July, 2023.





In many countries where the opinion is critical of the school system, a majority considers it fails at reducing social inequalities

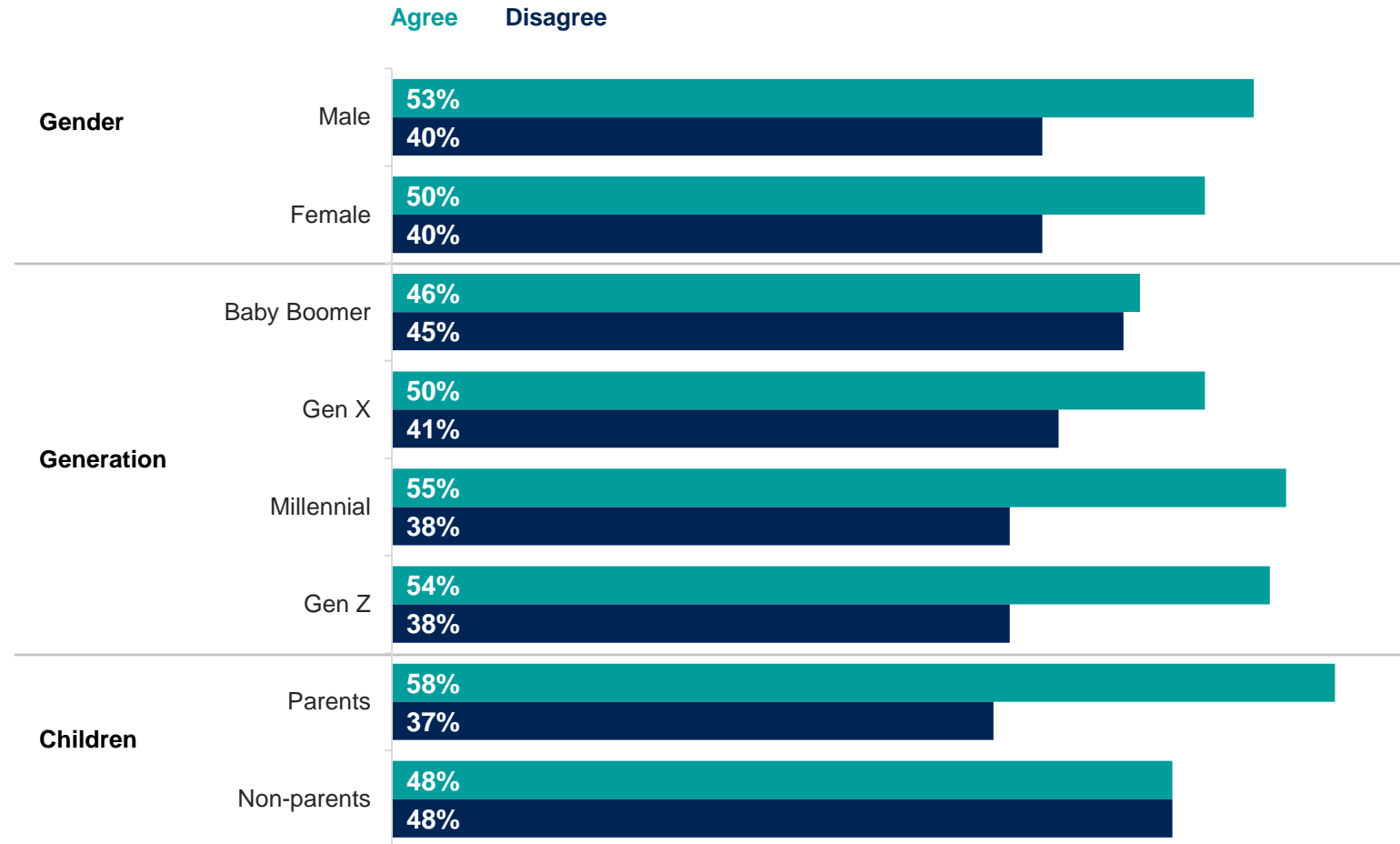
Country data

Q. How much do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

The education system in [COUNTRY] contributes to reducing social inequalities



[Click here to return](#)





Parents of students are more likely to feel the education system reduces inequality compared to those with no children in school.

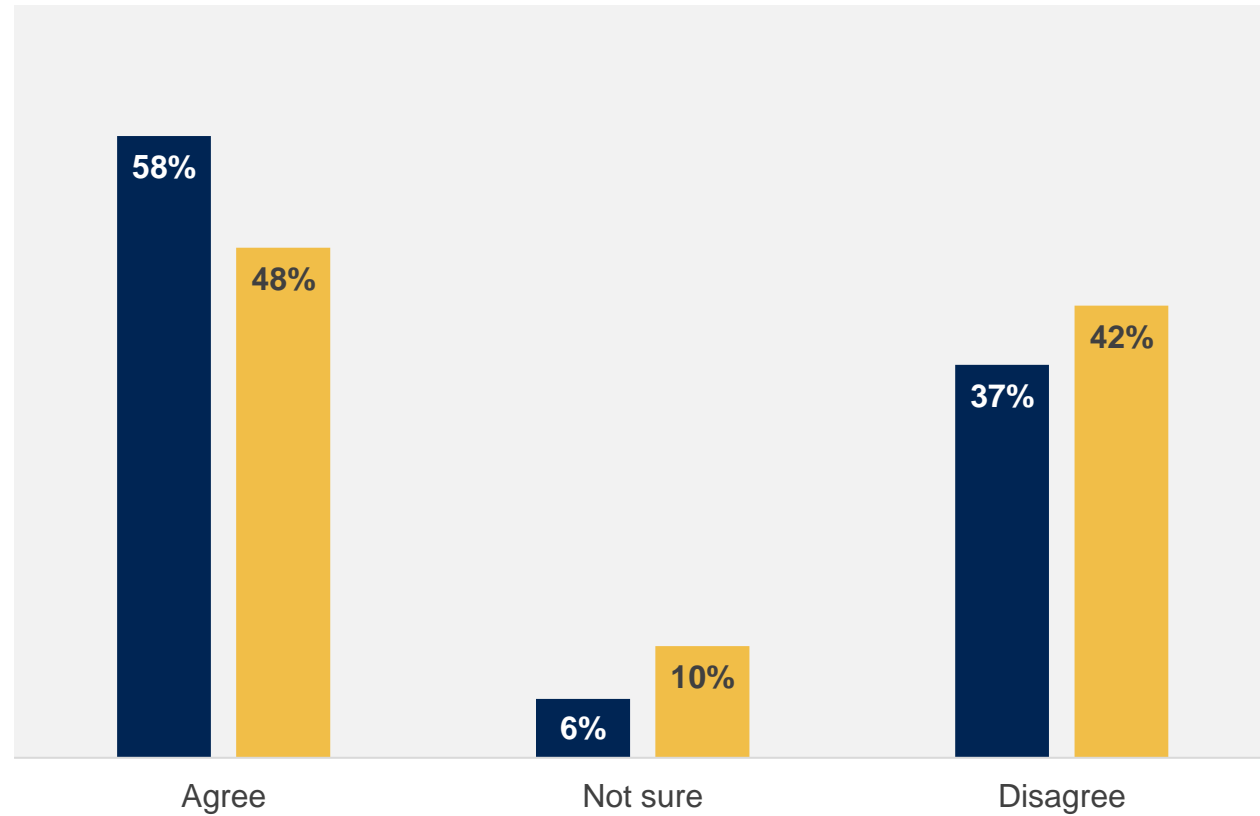
Country data

Q. How much do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

The education system in [COUNTRY] contributes to reducing social inequalities



[Click here to return](#)



Parents with children enrolled at school

No children in school



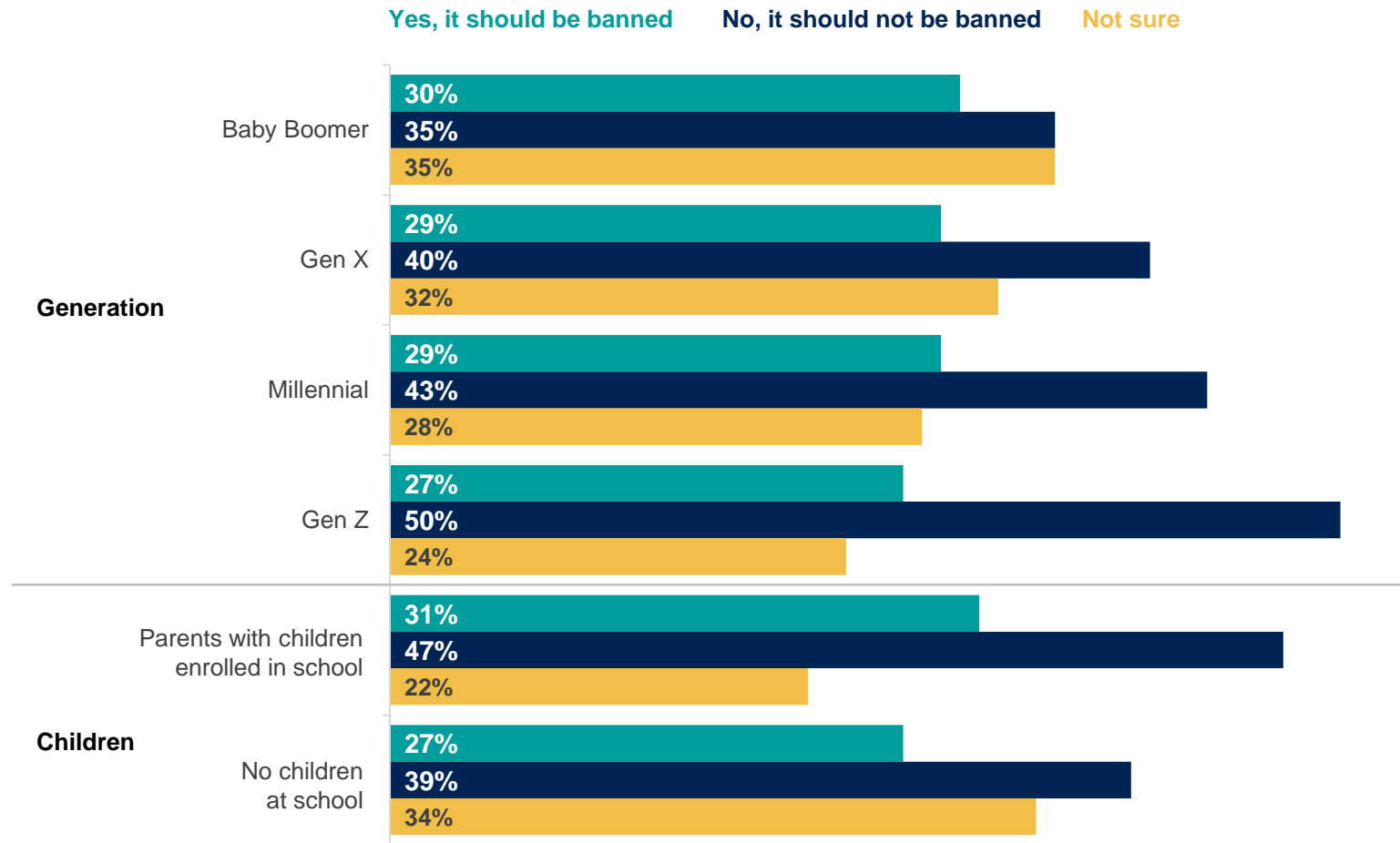
Those with children in education are more favour in AI being available in schools.

Country data

Q. Do you think the use of AI (including ChatGPT) should be banned in schools?



[Click here for the full breakdown.](#)





Q

Thinking specifically of artificial intelligence (AI), how important is it for teachers to be trained in...

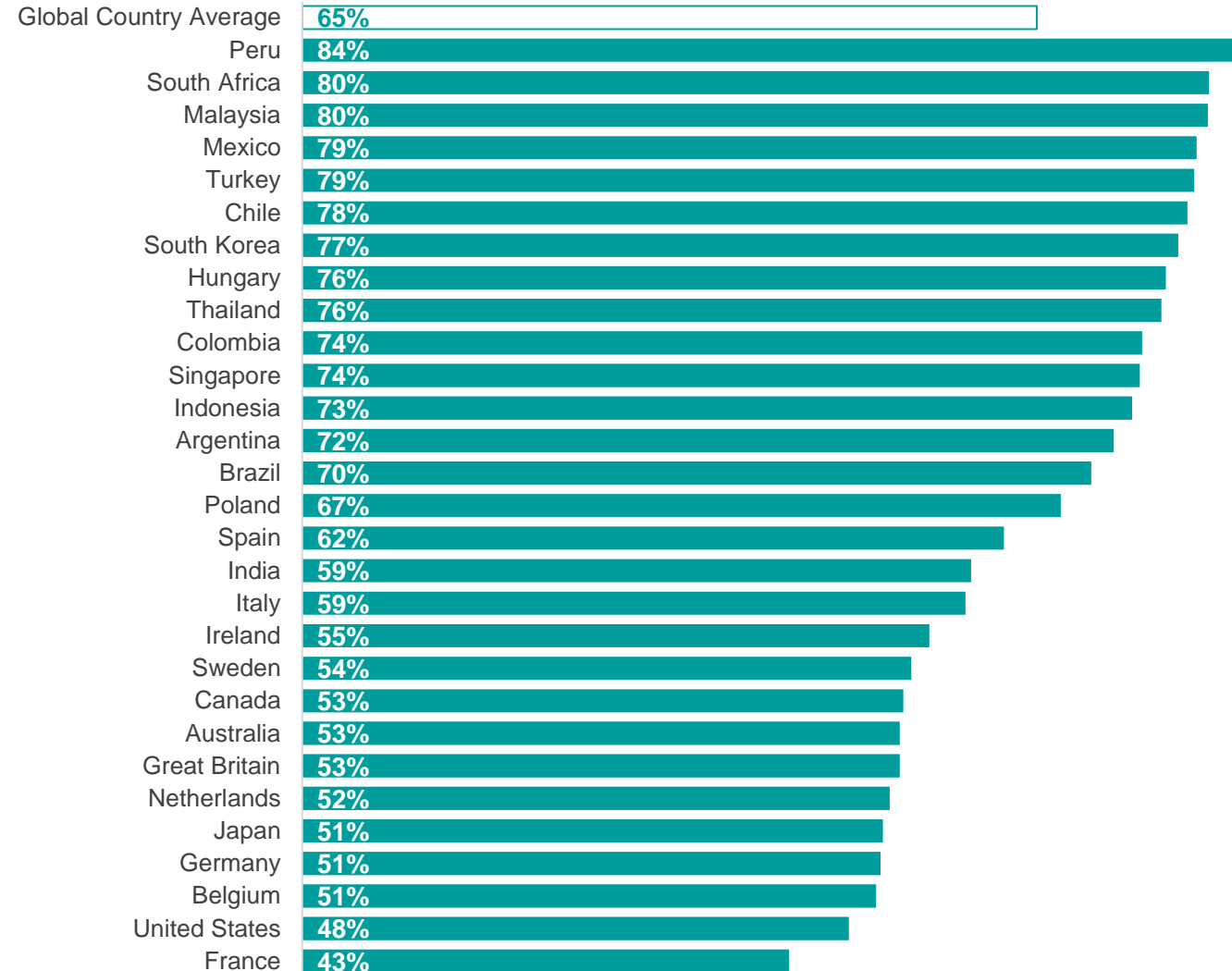
Using AI in their teaching methods (e.g., in class preparation)

Country data



[Click here to return](#)

Essential or important



Q

Thinking specifically of artificial intelligence (AI), how important is it for teachers to be trained in...

Teaching students how to use AI

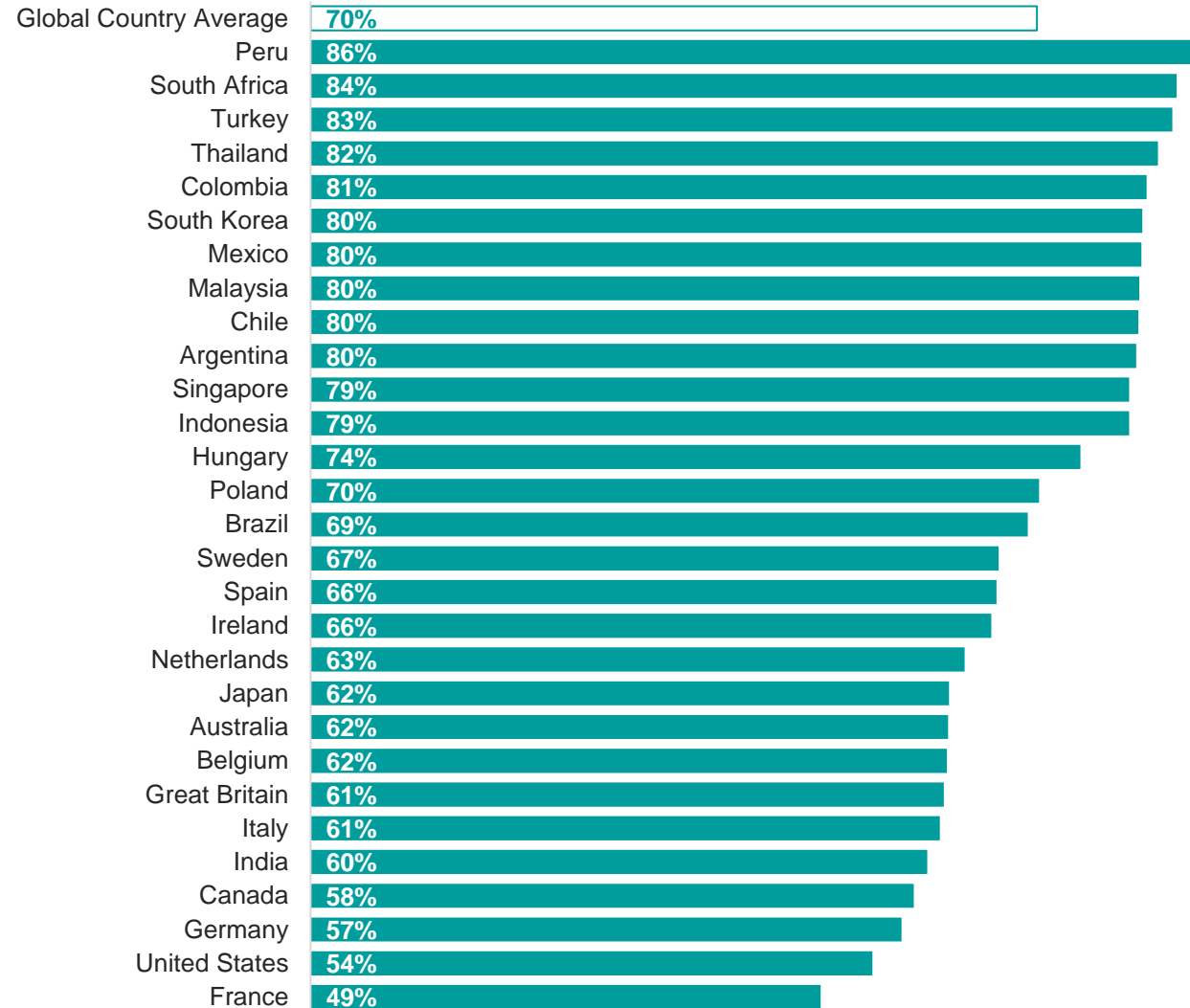
Country data



[Click here to return](#)



Essential or important



Base: 23,248 online adults across 29 countries between 23rd June and 7th July, 2023.



Q

Thinking specifically of artificial intelligence (AI), how important is it for teachers to be trained in...

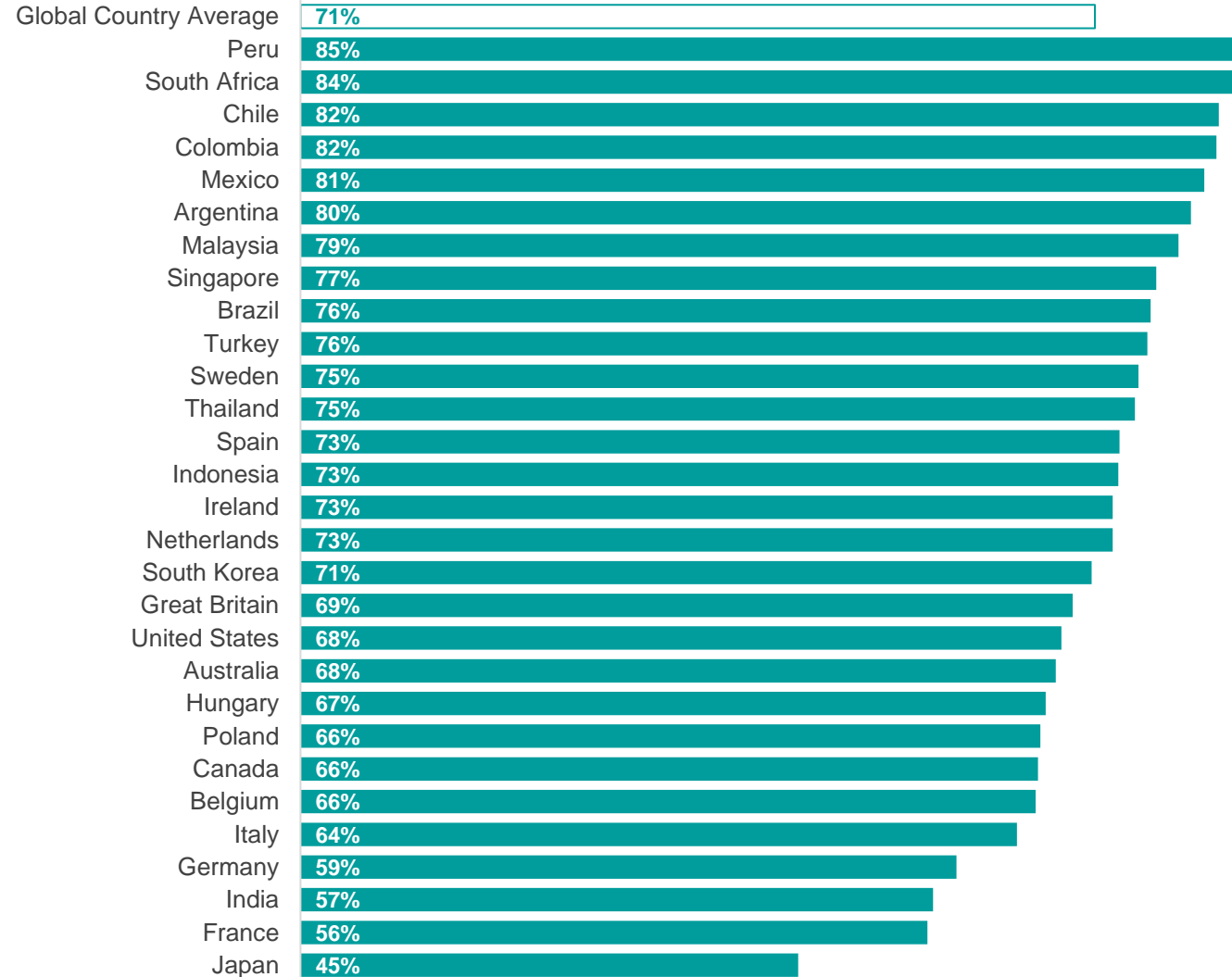
Identifying school papers (e.g., essays) and answers to tests that students wrote using AI

Country data



[Click here to return](#)

Essential or important



Base: 23,248 online adults across 29 countries between 23rd June and 7th July, 2023.

Methodology

These are the findings of a 29-country Ipsos survey conducted June 23 – July 7, 2023, among 23,248 adults aged 21-74 in Indonesia and Singapore, 20-74 in Thailand, 18-74 in the United States, Canada, the Republic of Ireland, Malaysia, South Africa, and Turkey, and 16-74 in other countries, via Ipsos's Global Advisor online survey platform.

Each country's sample consists of ca. 1,000 individuals in Australia, Brazil, Canada, China (mainland), France, Germany, Great Britain, Italy, Japan, Spain, and the U.S., and ca. 500 individuals in Argentina, Belgium, Chile, Colombia, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Malaysia, Mexico, the Netherlands, Peru, Poland, Romania, South Africa, South Korea, Sweden, Thailand, and Turkey.

The samples in Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Great Britain, Hungary, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Poland, Romania, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, and the U.S. can be taken as representative of these countries' general adult population under the age of 75.

The samples in Brazil, Chile, Colombia, India, Malaysia, Mexico, Peru, South Africa, Thailand, and Turkey are more urban, more educated, and/or more affluent than the general population. The survey results for these markets should be viewed as reflecting the views of the more "connected" segment of their population.

The data is weighted so that each market's sample composition best reflects the demographic profile of the adult population according to the most recent census data.

The Global average reflects the average result of all the countries and markets where the survey was conducted that year. It has not been adjusted to the population size of each country or market and is not intended to suggest a total result.

Where results do not sum to 100 or the 'difference' appears to be +/-1 more/less than the actual, this may be due to rounding, multiple responses or the exclusion of don't knows or not stated responses.

The precision of Ipsos online polls is calculated using a credibility interval with a poll of 1,000 accurate to +/- 3.5 percentage points and of 500 accurate to +/- 4.8 percentage points. For more information on Ipsos's use of credibility intervals, please visit the Ipsos website.

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Ipsos is the third largest market research company in the world, present in 90 countries and employing more than 18,000 people.

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