**THE ANGLICIST–CLASSICIST CONTROVERSY**

The Anglicist–Classicist Controversy was an important debate in early 19th-century colonial India about the direction of British educational policy.

* In the early 1800s, the East India Company had begun funding education in India but there was no consensus on:
	1. What should be taught.
	2. Which language should be the medium of instruction.

Two Sides

1. Classicists (Orientalists)
	* Supported by scholars like H. T. Prinsep, H. H. Wilson, and others.
	* Believed education should be given in classical Indian languages (Sanskrit, Persian, Arabic).
	* Wanted to preserve and promote traditional Indian learning.
	* Favoured funding oriental colleges like Calcutta Sanskrit College and Madrasah.
2. Anglicists
	* Led by Thomas Babington Macaulay and others.
	* Believed modern Western knowledge (science, philosophy, literature) should be taught through the English language.
	* Considered classical learning outdated for modern progress.

The Core of the Controversy

* Whether government funds should support traditional oriental learning or Western education in English.
* Whether the medium of instruction should be Sanskrit/Arabic/Persian or English.

Resolution

* The issue was resolved through Macaulay’s Minute on Indian Education (1835).
* Governor-General Lord William Bentinck accepted Macaulay’s recommendations.
* Decision:
	+ English was to be the medium of instruction.
	+ Funds were to be spent on teaching Western sciences and literature.
	+ Traditional oriental institutions lost government priority.