The Clever Country: Australia's Digital Future

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The Cleverest Countries Index shows a dramatically changing intelligence landscape where the East is fast overtaking the West. Where does your country rank? Despite topping two of the three ranking categories, Singapore only makes 25th on the list. Expect that to change in the future though, Getty. You may also like. Asia and Europe dominate the list, with Japan taking the top spot thanks to its high placing across all three metrics where it came fifth overall in the school test ranking and sixth overall in both Nobel prizes and current IQ. The US comes in an impressive fourth, although its ranking is flattered greatly by its extraordinary dominance in the Nobel category where at 368 prizes, it has nearly treble the UK in second place. The key to Australia's economic future was said to lie in industries that relied on brainpower and precision technology rather than large-scale heavy industry, which has limited scope in Australia due to a small domestic market and long distances from international markets. So much for the private road to the clever country. Meanwhile, what's the government doing? Very little, it seems, if the beginning of the university year is anything to go by. Wouldn't a clever country need a good supply of clever people, or at least well-trained people? But around the country, tens of thousands of students have been turned away from universities and TAFE colleges, many with the advice to go back into an already overcrowded school system and try again next year.