

Wednesday Morning Speech

28 September 2011

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Topic: Liberal Studies is a JOKE!

Good morning Principal, teachers and fellow schoolmates

Before I start my speech today, I would like to claim that what I am going to talk about do not mean to offend anyone here, it is just my opinion.

I am sure all of you know what 'Liberal studies' is. It is a subject we called LS, a compulsory subject in New Senior Secondary. It aims to broaden our knowledge and develop our independent thinking skills. As a student who is studying LS, I think it is a JOKE! The idea of it is good but the implementation in Hong Kong is totally failed.

First of all, 'broadening our knowledge', sounds cool, right? We, students, do not know how to do it, so we need teachers! However, according to a survey done by the Hong Kong Institute of Education last year, around 800 LS teachers found that they lacked of the concepts of rule of law, human rights and politics. Some even claim that they have never been trained of those topics before. The problem is if the teachers are not ready, how can they teach us? Again, I do not mean to blame anyone here, but, as a student, wouldn't you be afraid? Isn't it ridiculous!

Second, some questions in the LS exam paper ask students to write a review about some scientific issues; for example, should wind power plants be built in Hong Kong? We have learnt some pros and cons about building wind power plants in Hong Kong, but there are thousands of factors will affect the decision. We do not even know what energy efficiency is! The book said the energy efficiency is 'low' but it does not explain 'how low' it is in a scientific perspective. Admittedly, we should learn more about it but do we have qualifications to judge it? We are not professionals, how can we comment on such a 'big' project? I am a science student who loves physics. I am serious about answering those scientific questions and definitely do not want to make any mistakes. As a result, I do not have confidence in answering those questions, nor writing a review about it!

Finally, some may say 'Come on! Building wind power plants is not the key, thinking critically and independently are much more important!' Alright...thinking independently...Let me try! Teachers always ask us to answer the questions by some sociological theories, and, with some specify format. That mean, even I do not understand the theories, I must use them to gain marks. See! This is independent thinking! It is sad but true.

Am I telling you not to study LS? Definitely NOT! Even Liberal studies is not 'Liberal' because we do not have 'choice', I am here to URGE all of you to study LS well! Well enough to tell others you are a qualified person to complaint about the failure of implementing Liberal Studies in Hong Kong! Well enough to make everyone notice it. If you agree with me, please act like me - telling everyone your opinion about studying LS.

That's the end of my presentation. Thank you and have a nice day!