

**'All S.4 and S.5 students should have a part-time job.
You can learn a lot from a job.'**
Do you agree with this statement?

5C Hui Ka Yee

When you go to fast food shops, you can find a lot of jobs taken up by teenagers. Is it necessary for students to get part-time jobs? Some people have denounced that it is time-wasting since students may have no time for studying. Others, conversely, think that it brings valuable work experience to adolescents. It is hard to strike a general consensus in this controversy.

Having a temporary job is another type of learning. It is an opportunity for youngsters to broaden their horizons and become more mature. They can learn how to communicate with others and deal with customers tactfully. Then they may realize how tough work is.

Nevertheless, some people make counter-arguments. Teenagers in Hong Kong are under high pressure. It puts more pressure on their shoulders if they need to get a part-time job. They need to spend so much time on their work. Therefore they cannot concentrate on their academic studies and sleep in class.

After working arduously, students will be paid. They then have the ability to pay for their own daily expenses. It will be a bad news for students yet most of them need money to satisfy their own daily expenses. As a result, they will spend money on buying things even when they are unemployed. It is another consequence that we should not ignore.

In a word, having part-time jobs may have positive and negative influences on students. The cons outweigh the pros. I think temporary jobs do more harm than good. It is a fact that students, especially in Form 4 and Form 5, should focus on studies since they are facing public examinations. Also, they are not mature enough to use their money wisely. That's why Form 4 and Form 5 students should not have part-time jobs.



**'All S.4 and S.5 students should have part-time job.
You can learn a lot from a job.'** **Do you agree with this statement?**

5C Lau Kit Yan

Nowadays, many students have part-time jobs during holidays or after school. They want to gain some work experience. However, some people think that students are not mature enough to work yet. I agree that all S.4 and S.5 students should have part-time jobs.

Having a part-time job can give us extra experience outside of school. We can

learn how to co-operate with others, and communication and interaction skills which we cannot learn from lessons. Students will also understand the difficulties of earning money. Thus they will learn to spend their money properly, too.

Besides, we can reduce the burden on our families as it is expensive to support us as students. Some students cannot afford textbooks. Therefore, students have to do part-time jobs in order to support themselves.

Some people think that S.4 and S.5 students are not mature enough to have part-time jobs. Some jobs may be too dangerous for us. Students should consider if they have the ability to do the job or accidents may occur and students will get injured.

S.4 and S.5 students are sitting for the Hong Kong Certificate Examination of Education. They have to spend a lot of time on preparing for the exam. In order to attain satisfying results for the exam, studying is the most important for S.4 and S.5 students in those two years. We will have many opportunities in the future to have a job.

Having a part-time job is not necessary since studying is the highly important for us. All students should consider the advantages and the disadvantages of having a part-time job.



‘All S.4 and S.5 students should have part-time job. You can learn a lot from a job.’ Do you agree with this statement?

5C Leung Chi Ho

I agree that ‘all S4 and S5 students should have part-time jobs. You can learn a lot from a job.’ It is because I had a part-time job after the HKCEE last year. I have learned a lot from the job.

First, the advantage is that you can improve your communication skills. It is because you need to talk with customers. Some customers are troublesome. You need to answer their questions. Also, you should be polite to them.

Besides, you can improve your interpersonal skills because you need to work with your colleagues. If you can keep a good relationship between you and your colleagues, you will not feel lonely and you will have fun sometimes. The most direct benefit is that you can earn money and experience. Also, you can learn unique skills in different jobs.

Having a part-time job may affect students. Students cannot concentrate in the lesson because they spend most of their time working. Then, it affects their academic results. So, it is ideal for students to do part-time jobs in long holidays.

Smoking ban in Public Areas

6A Poon Samantha

The Hong Kong Special Administrative Government is indecisive on whether to ban smoking in public areas. It is a controversial topic among the public.

Some smokers argued that banning smoking in public places was not justifiable because this contradicts human rights mentioned in both Common Law and Basic Law. They further argued that their freedom to smoke was deprived and their rights were violated. So they claimed that the policy was wrong.

However, is the policy wrong? Does it really cause more problems than it has solved? Definitely not! In fact, the policy has positive effects rather than negative ones.

'All public places' means all places including streets, restaurants, offices, schools, shops and playgrounds. To begin with, smokers do not lose human rights since they can still smoke in their home and in 'private places', if their friends don't mind of course. For these tobacco companies, they certainly won't earn less since people can still smoke in private places.

Happily, the problem has ceased to a certain extent. Smoking accounts for a percentage of the formation of pollution in Hong Kong. After the enforcement of this policy, people smoke less because smokers are in public places for at least 8 hours at work. There may be a slight decrease in the contribution of smoking to air pollution. This actually saves our environment.

More importantly, the policy of banning smoking in all public places has aroused Hong Kongers' awareness about how smoking can cause harm to our health, others' health and even to our environment. Smoking ban is the way which teaches the general public, especially youngsters to stay away from cigarettes.

Although we cannot see the significant results of this policy immediately after the enforcement, it is still foreseeable in the future. When today's generation grows up, they will get used to living in an environment in which no one smokes in the streets. At that time, the 'mission' of the policy will be completed.

Although the implementation of the policy will take some time, it is worthwhile for you, for me and Hong Kong. As we know, the enforcement of smoking ban is far more important than the mere political decision.

'The best way to make people learn Putonghua in Hong Kong is to make it compulsory for radio and television to adopt Putonghua for 30% of their broadcasting time.' Discuss.

6A Tang Ruby

After the handover of Hong Kong to China in 1997, Putonghua has played a more important role in society. The promotion of Bi-literacy and Trilingualism is an advantage for Hong Kong people who have a good knowledge of Putonghua. Thereby, various ways in upgrading Hong Kong people's Putonghua level have been suggested. Arguments on the efficiency of its acquisition have also started.

How can people learn Putonghua most effectively and cost-effective? Many have suggested making Putonghua a school subject. However, the lack of practising at home due to the not-yet-improved Putonghua level of the family is an argument against this idea. Moreover, the tight curriculum poses difficulties in the implementation. Others also propose to make it compulsory for the mass media to adopt Putonghua for a minimum of 30% of their broadcasting time.

To learn a language is to listen to and read it more. Everyone knows, 'Practice makes perfect'. When nearly everyone owns a television set or radio at home in Hong Kong, it is surely workable to help people learn Putonghua. The rarity and flexibility of programmes increase people's interest in watching a different set of programmes in Putonghua. For those who do not have a television set, a radio sold in Sham Shui Po will be as effective for a cost of five dollars. It does not cost the broadcaster extra money either as they can record the same kind of programmes in another language.

There are pros and cons on this issue. Making it compulsory for radio and television to adopt Putonghua for at least 30% of their broadcasting time is definitely effective. However, we should also consider the public's viewpoint. They may think that the word 'compulsory' is a means to infringe people's rights. If the broadcasters choose the least popular times to broadcast programmes in Putonghua, the promotion of Putonghua will be in vain. Will adopting Putonghua in programmes mean to adopt Putonghua advertisements too? Lots of problems will occur because of this.

All-in-all, the drawback of the compulsory adoption of Putonghua in the media needs to be addressed. But there is no doubt the idea can help improve Hong Kong people's Putonghua level. Arguments will focus on whether it is necessary to make it 'compulsory'.

For learners, the compulsory Putonghua programmes provide them with a cost-effective listening input. Given a considerable 30% of Putonghua exposure, the local broadcasters still maintain its role to serve the local interest and raise Putonghua standard.

'Banning smoking in all public places would be wrong, and cause more problems than it would solve.'

Write an article on this topic.

6A Wong Ying

Did you notice the air quality in some public places has become fresher? Perhaps you will answer 'Yes' or 'I am not sure'. I can surely tell you that the air quality in some public places has improved after smoking was banned in all public places. Positively speaking, I don't think banning smoking in all public places would be wrong. Instead, it helps improve the air quality and tourism in Hong Kong. It also plays an important role in the health of smokers and non-smokers.

Firstly, in order to improve the air quality in public places, a ban on smoking would be an effective way. While people are smoking, it will release a lot of damaging materials. And the smoke will lead to low visibility even for a short time. As a result, the environment will be polluted because of the smoke and damaging materials. After banning smoking in public places, people cannot smoke in public places such as parks, restaurants and pubs, and therefore less smoke will be found. In this situation can't we say that the air quality will improve a lot?

Secondly, smokers and non-smokers benefit from a smoking ban in public places. It has been found that passive smoking causes lung cancer, heart diseases and a range of respiratory disorders which include the weakening of lung functions and more respiratory symptoms, such as coughing. Passive smoking can also exacerbate asthma. There is no doubt that the health of smokers is affected by smoking directly. Also, the non-smokers have to breathe in the smoke inevitably. According to research, non-smokers mind if people smoke near them. When smoking in all public places is banned, non-smokers can ensure both their health and a second-hand smoke free environment. For smokers, since they cannot smoke in all public places after the smoking ban, they are forced to smoke less. And their risk of getting diseases becomes lower. Therefore, both smokers and non-smokers benefit from a ban on smoking in all public places.

Thirdly, banning helps develop tourism in Hong Kong. The air quality may improve after the ban in all public places. Good air quality may attract more visitors to come to Hong Kong. This policy will be good for Hong Kong, as more tourists would like to visit Hong Kong. In the long term, banning smoking in public places can establish a good reputation for Hong Kong. It can develop our tourism. Thus, we should say that banning smoking in all public places would be right.

To conclude, even though banning smoking in all public places will cause some inconvenience, it will just last for a short period. In fact, the environment, smokers, non-smokers and Hong Kong's tourism can benefit from this policy. Therefore, banning smoking in all public places would be right. It does not cause more problems than it solves.

**‘Banning smoking in all public places would be wrong, and cause more problems than it would solve.’
Write an article on this topic.**

6A Lee Ngo Nam

Nowadays, smoking is common in all entertainment venues, like pubs, and some public places like parks. This leads to a lot of complaints from non-smokers, so some people suggested banning smoking in all public places but not just those limited places. In my opinion, banning smoking in all public places is good and causes fewer problems than before. It is beneficial to smokers, non-smokers and the government.

Firstly, banning smoking in all public places is beneficial to non-smokers. Non-smokers suffer from passive smoking due to smokers. They are more likely to suffer from lung cancer and coronary diseases. If we decide to ban smoking in all public places, it will be beneficial to the non-smokers. They will be healthier than in the past. The rate of regular exposure to the second-hand smoke will be decreased. People will inhale fewer chemicals that are found in cigarettes.

Secondly, banning smoking in all public places is beneficial to smokers. If smoking is banned in all public places, smokers will only smoke at home or in some private places. For long term benefits, this law may help smokers quit smoking because they will smoke less frequently. This law can help them save more money because if they smoke less, they will buy fewer packs of cigarettes than before. As a result, they will spend less on cigarettes and save money. Moreover, the law will raise smokers’ awareness of staying healthy. In order to reduce the rate of suffering from lung cancer, coronary diseases, etc, banning smoking in all public places will be great and also cause fewer problems than before.

Thirdly, banning smoking in all public places is beneficial to the government. If we can do this, medical costs will be reduced. As I have explained above, both smokers and non-smokers will be healthier than before after this law is passed. The cost of health care for the public will be undoubtedly decreased. Also, the amount of rubbish on the streets will also be decreased, like cigarette butts, ash, etc. Moreover, if Hong Kong is a non-smoking city, it creates a healthy image of Hong Kong to people of other countries and hence we can promote Hong Kong to tourists.

In conclusion, banning smoking in all public places will be great and may cause fewer problems than before since it not only makes smokers and non-smokers healthier, but also helps the government reduce more medical costs.

'The best way to make people learn Putonghua in Hong Kong is to make it compulsory for radio and television to adopt Putonghua for 30% of their broadcasting time.' Discuss.

6A Lee Ngo Nam

Nowadays, the most influential language is not only English but also Putonghua. Since China is becoming more advanced and influential in the world, it is essential for people to learn Putonghua. In order to achieve this, some people think that Putonghua should be compulsory for radio and television broadcasts. If at least thirty per cent of their broadcasting time is used, this could let people adopt Putonghua effectively. But is this suggestion workable? In this essay, I will discuss both the advantages and disadvantages of a compulsory Putonghua programme so as to investigate the feasibility of this policy.

Firstly, making Putonghua compulsory for radio and television could show the importance to people of learning Putonghua. To compete with mainland businessmen, it is a must for Hong Kong people to learn Putonghua in order to have more job opportunities. However, Hong Kong people still assume that the ability of our mainland counterparts is weaker than our ability, and they are not going to improve themselves to compete with others. If the radio stations and the television companies start to have programmes in Putonghua, it shows that knowing English is not enough for people to get a job. They should also learn Putonghua as it is a growing prerequisite when looking for a job.

Secondly, Putonghua programmes provide opportunities for students and adults to listen to more Putonghua. It is similar to learning English. It is more effective to learn a language if you listen to it more and speak more. For students, they can learn Putonghua not only in lessons but also by watching television programmes and listening to the radio. This would be an effective way for students to learn the pronunciation of Putonghua. Since school teaching of Putonghua may not reach all the population, mass media programmes can help students with Putonghua acquisition. For adults, they could listen to more Putonghua and although they can learn Putonghua by attending some courses, it is important to maximize their exposure to Putonghua. Also, students can learn Putonghua with their parents by watching the programmes. Putonghua programmes provide chances for people to adopt Putonghua more easily.

After discussing the advantages of having Putonghua programmes for radio and television, I am going to discuss the disadvantages of having Putonghua programmes.

It would be useless if the broadcasters show Putonghua programme at some non-peak time. TV or radio stations worry the popularity of Putonghua programmes. Since Putonghua is a language that audiences are not used to, they may not be

interested to watch the programmes. Then, no companies would like to put any advertisements during those programmes. Furthermore, if the broadcaster would provide at least thirty per cent of broadcasting time for Putonghua programming at non-peak hours, it would be useless to have Putonghua programmes on TV and radio.

In conclusion, although there are advantages and disadvantages in making Putonghua compulsory for radio and television for at least thirty per cent of broadcasting time, the advantages are more important to us since they can really make people put more emphasis on learning Putonghua.



Picture: 3C Sin Tsz Wai



Picture: 2A Lau Tsz Ching



Picture: 3C Cheung Cheuk Yi



Picture: 3D Chu Ching Yee

To ban or not to ban

6A Lau Wing Yan

Nowadays, smokers can be found among all walks of life and they smoke in many public places. We are not saying that smokers are bad, but if they do not consider the non-smokers, it is really disgusting. The problem of smoking is something which cannot be solved by money. So banning smoking in all public places would be right. If we do not take this action immediately, more problems will occur.

Firstly, the health of non-smokers will be affected by passive smoking. Sometimes, passive smoking cannot be avoided when people are in some enclosed public places, such as restaurants and pubs. Although some places have separate smoking and non-smoking areas, the enclosed places will become filled with smoke if there are too many smokers and people who are forced to inhale the smoke may also feel that it is difficult to breathe. Passive smoking will not cause lung cancer immediately, but it will increase the risk of having a range of respiratory disorders as more harmful substances accumulate in our bodies.

By the same token, the government will have to carry a heavy burden of the medical expenditure. No matter whether we are affected by the smoke directly or indirectly, we are all under the risk of respiratory diseases. If we do not ban smoking in public places, more and more people will suffer from respiratory diseases. However, not all of our citizens are able to be cured of these diseases which may last for a long period of time. So the government has to bear the medical costs continuously.

Besides, smoking will affect the air quality in both indoor and outdoor areas. As you know, Hong Kong is a busy city which is crowded with cars and roads. The city is already so polluted with car emissions that people cannot breathe beside the road. If we do not ban smoking in all public places as fast as we can, the air quality of this beautiful international city will become worse. When the outdoor air quality is poor, all outdoor activities should be stopped. People have to stay indoors. But if the indoor public places are filled with smoke, is it fair that they have to stay at home during their holidays?

Public areas are places that everyone has the right to use without paying any entrance fee. If you say that smokers have the right to smoke in public areas, we can also say that non-smokers have the right not to inhale the smoke. Smokers should be considerate so that everyone can enjoy their activities in a comfortable environment. Banning smoking in all public places is good for all of us.

Pros and cons of compulsory broadcasting of Putonghua

6B Li Ching Tat

Since China has taken back the sovereignty of Hong Kong, people in Hong Kong have become more eager to learn Putonghua. The reason is that Hong Kong has become a part of China and the residents in Hong Kong have become Chinese citizens. Learning Putonghua becomes our responsibility. But there is a question. How can we enhance our Putonghua proficiency level? Some people suggest that the mass media should have to use at least 30% of their broadcasting time to broadcast Putonghua programmes. However, does this really work? Can this proposal create a Putonghua learning atmosphere? The pros and cons of broadcasting Putonghua programmes have been discussed among the public. But there is an important point: No matter what languages you learn, you should not be afraid of exposing yourself to them.

When the mass media broadcasts Putonghua programmes by using 30% of their broadcasting time, it can create a learning atmosphere in Putonghua. When we are immersed in this learning atmosphere, we will become familiar with the language and will not be afraid to listen to or to speak it. When you are willing to speak or listen to a language, it means you are motivated to learn. Practice makes perfect.

Cost-effectiveness is another reason to support the compulsory broadcasting of Putonghua programmes. Actually, it is quite difficult for adult learners to learn Putonghua. It is expensive for them to take courses. When Putonghua programmes are broadcast on television or radio, people can listen to the correct pronunciation in an economical way. This helps people develop an interest in learning Putonghua and provide a platform for people to know more about the language.

The TV stations and radio stations may not broadcast Putonghua programmes during the peak time. They may broadcast the programmes during the period with only a small audience. This makes the compulsory broadcasting time useless and cannot truly promote a Putonghua learning atmosphere in Hong Kong. Also, it is a waste of money. The success of creating a language learning atmosphere really depends on when the programmes will be broadcast.

A further argument is that the compulsory broadcasts will affect the normal broadcast. Also, when the TV and radio commercials are affected, this will reduce the income of the TV and radio stations. As a result, audiences will not be able to enjoy high quality programmes again since the resources of the stations are limited. It is not good for the development of the broadcasting companies in Hong Kong.

To conclude, the idea of compulsory broadcasting is not a good way to promote Putonghua since it interferes with the interests of the broadcasting stations. It is

difficult to launch the Putonghua programmes unless there is government support. Also, the broadcasting time of the Putonghua programmes may not suit every audience. The most effective way to create a language learning atmosphere is that the government should set up a TV station broadcasting Putonghua programmes continuously for 24 hours each day. This is the most effective way to help people with their Putonghua acquisition.



Putonghua and Mass Media

6B Yiu Ka Ki

Nowadays, learning has become a vital part of our lives. Whether we work or study, people are willing to spend time on learning matters or taking tutorial courses. However, not too many people choose to spend time on languages. As a Chinese, I feel it would be a good thing if Hong Kong people have a good understanding of Putonghua. But, Hong Kong people are extremely busy. When they are free at home, there is no doubt that television or radio is their best companions. Therefore, it is proposed that radio and television stations should adopt Putonghua for at least 30% of their broadcasting time. Is it the best way to help people learn Putonghua? In this essay, I will discuss both the pros and cons of broadcasting Putonghua programmes.

In Hong Kong, some schools may offer Putonghua as a school subject. Students can learn it in school without any cost. However, teaching in school may not be effective. Since the students' abilities are different from each other, it is obvious that the curriculum is already tight. Treating Putonghua as a compulsory subject will only burden students with extra pressure and demotivate them from learning it. As a result, we need to explore other resources to help people or citizens learn Putonghua.

There are a number of merits in getting people to learn Putonghua through the mass media.

First of all, the mass media can arouse people's awareness in language learning. When people are watching TV, or listening to radio broadcast in Putonghua, they are in fact learning the language. At the meantime, mass media acts as an important medium and creates a language environment to engage every audience to learn Putonghua. In this way, we are exposed to Putonghua in our daily lives and people can know the importance of learning it.

Secondly, mass media provides great visual and audio input to learners. The TV and radio programmes are free audio-visual aids. They also provide live experiences to the programmes reported in Putonghua. Consequently, people can get more

Putonghua exposure. Therefore, people can learn Putonghua effectively in an enjoyable way.

However, there is no perfection in this matter. There are still some disadvantages regarding this proposal. One of the most debatable issues is the infringement of people's rights. Every citizen has the right to choose which programmes they watch, or listen to. And of course, they have the right to choose the language they like to listen to. Now, it is suggested that about 30% of radio and television broadcasting time. People will have no choice. In other words, they are forced to listen to Putonghua during this period of time and their rights are violated.

Furthermore, the broadcasting of Putonghua programmes may not suit the majority of audience. In Hong Kong, most of the mass media is operated on a commercial and profit-making basis. In order to attract a larger audience, TV channels and radio channels usually broadcast some TV series or entertaining programmes during their peak time. The broadcasting stations may choose the least popular period for Putonghua programmes. Therefore, it cannot help people learn Putonghua.

It is a good idea to persuade people to learn Putonghua through TV and radio programmes. Regardless of the disadvantages mentioned above, the mass media is still the best medium for people to learn this language. So, it can be an effective way to help people learn Putonghua. Thus, the proposal of 30% broadcasting time in Putonghua should not be banned.



Picture: 2A Lau Lie ling



Picture: 3C Chau Hay Tung