

Teenagers are always looking for some excitement. When asked which types of videos and games are the most exciting, the majority of youngsters will clearly give the answer: shooting and fighting. These so-called exciting games, however, are all about violence and will definitely poison our teenagers. These games should be banned for people under the age of 18 because they may be a contributing factor to the increasing trend of bullying in schools. We should not allow the situation to deteriorate.

As teenagers are not mature enough, they do not know how to handle the exposure to violence that occurs when playing computer games. They may be influenced by this kind of experience. Besides, some teenagers may find the games exciting, so they will be easily addicted to them. As a result, they may always sit in front of the screen and not communicate with their families much.

When teenagers are constantly exposed to violence in computer games, they may be negatively affected and change their attitudes towards life. Since in these computer games, the only way to win is to beat or to destroy something, or even to kill others, these violent acts will change the attitudes of the teenagers. They may think that violence is a way to tackle problems. When they cannot find an appropriate way to deal with the problems, the only way they consider is violence. Therefore, such attitudes will cause bullying cases in schools.

Not only will violent computer games pollute the teenagers' minds, they also will affect them physically. Students may imitate the characters in the games. Some teenagers will threaten or beat victims at school. Some may take part in gang fighting and may engage in various criminal offences, ranging from stealing to triad activities. Such actions are totally intolerable and, hence, we should not underestimate the harm of these games.

Some people may think that we should not ban such forms of entertainment from teenagers as they have the right to choose their pastimes and some teenagers may think parents are too anxious. However, many teenagers underestimate the effect of the violent content of computer games. These underage adolescents also do not have a correct attitude towards the information. In addition, there are many healthy entertainments other than playing computer games, such as playing basketball, reading or listening to music. We should help teenagers choose a right way to relax.

Obviously, there are many adverse effects on playing violent video and computer games. They could totally poison teenagers. No one would like to have a warped generation take over our community. Violent video and computer games should be banned immediately for people under the age of 18.



Some parents in Hong Kong are unhappy about the changes to the medium of instruction that the Education Bureau has imposed on primary and secondary schools. Consequently, they opt to send their children to international schools rather than local schools. I think this trend is not beneficial to society, parents or students. In this essay, I will clearly state my reasons for opposing this trend.

When it comes to the effects on society, this trend can cause the loss of cultural heritage. China is famous for its achievements in literature, especially in poetry and prose. If all children are sent to international schools, they will surely exhaust all their energy to improve English and overlook their mother tongue - Chinese. They will not understand the implications of Chinese literature, causing the loss of their interest in Chinese culture in the long run. As time goes by, this precious cultural heritage will be forgotten, which is obviously a pity.

To the parents, such change is a burden to them for they have to pay high school fees. As we all know, the money needed to study in international schools is not a pittance. Parents may need to work very hard to afford it. Because of this, they have to spend most of their time and energy working. When they get home, they might be exhausted and need to rest, and so they will not spare time talking to their children. This may worsen parent-child relationships. Some people may say that studying in international schools is beneficial for their children's future, but is it true? What children really want is a warm and harmonious family. To a child, having a happy childhood is more important than studying in international schools.

Last but not least, concerning the effects on students, the change of the medium of instruction may cause elitism. Students might have the wrong notion that being able to study in international schools is more prestigious. This makes students in local schools lose confidence in themselves. Some people argue that international schools can provide a better environment for students to learn English. The better the English they have, the brighter the future they will have. However, I really doubt it is true. Not all students can adapt to different teaching methods in such schools. Some weaker ones may lag behind the others, or have low learning motivation. In this case, it will be better if they are taught in Chinese. Research has also shown that students learning in their mother-tongue show better performance in exams. Japan is a good example. Students aren't forced to learn any foreign languages, but they still make their country a leader in many fields. So we can see that it may not be a must to master perfect English in order to have a bright future.

To conclude, the trend of sending children to study in international schools for a better English learning environment is not beneficial to society, parents and students. Therefore, we should reconsider it before making any decision as children's future is in our hands.



Due to the large population in Hong Kong, there is a high demand for land development. But now, Hong Kong is short of land for development. For many years, the Government has been reclaiming land from Victoria Harbour for new roads and buildings. Many people are unhappy since the size of the harbour is being diminished. Although there are both advantages and disadvantages to reclaiming land from Victoria Harbour, I totally disagree with it.

The first advantage of land reclamation is that it provides more land for development. Since Hong Kong lacks land for sustainable development, reclaiming land can solve this shortage. After reclaiming land, more buildings can be constructed on it and hence more flats are available for residents to live in. More companies are also established and thus more job vacancies become available for residents. This can stimulate the economy of Hong Kong.

The second advantage is that reclaiming land can help solve waste disposal problems. Since Hong Kong produces a huge amount of waste every day, reclaiming land can help solve this problem, as the materials used for land-fill is the solid waste produced every day.

There are also some disadvantages. The first disadvantage is that reclaiming land will affect the view of Victoria Harbour. Since the Harbour is getting narrower, it is not as beautiful as it was before. This will affect tourism because the view might not attract tourists anymore. Consequently, this will also affect the economy of Hong Kong. Also, as the current is swift due to the narrow passage, the safety of ships is reduced and more accidents can happen.

The second disadvantage is that reclaiming land destroys the habitat of living organisms. There are living organisms in the Harbour. If the Harbour is filled in, these organisms cannot survive. As a result, the ecosystem will be destroyed and the environment affected.

The third disadvantage is that reclaiming land may cause water pollution. As a large amount of waste materials is used to fill the sea, the sea water becomes unclean. This leads to more wildlife failing to survive amid the poisonous chemical waste going into the sea. In the end, human beings will also be affected.

From my point of view, I do not agree that the Government should reclaim land from Victoria Harbour even though Hong Kong needs more land for sustainable development so as to stimulate the economy. Also, I think Hong Kong people have, at least, some collective memories of Victoria Harbour. Therefore, Hong Kong people will be reluctant to give up the Harbour. Therefore, I totally disagree with the Government reclaiming land from Victoria Harbour.



Fifty percent of the marks for all subjects in the HKCEE and AL examinations should be based on the students' course-work in school. Discuss the pros and cons of this proposal.

Do you still remember the last day the results of the HKCEE and HKALE were released? Doubtless, it is probably the most unforgettable day to all Hong Kong students since these two exams are considered as the only way to get admitted to the university. Some people say that fifty percent of the marks for all subjects in HKCEE and HKALE exams should be based on the students' course-work in school. However, is this policy beneficial to students? What are the drawbacks and the consequences to the other stakeholders?

In the first place, increasing the proportion of course-work assessment in HKCEE and AL exams can motivate students to participate more in daily lessons. It is beyond doubt that students in Hong Kong are mostly only concerned about the exam results rather than what they have learned in their daily lessons. Students will be motivated and become more eager to complete their course-work when they realize that the course-work is also a part of the assessment. For example, the matriculating form students are now putting more effort into their laboratory reports because of the Teacher Assessment Scheme (TAS) and they know the better the quality of this coursework, the higher the grades they can receive from their teachers. It is obvious that students will eventually have greater motivation in participating in daily lessons.

Alongside an eagerness to learn, reducing the proportion of one-off examinations can relieve the candidates' pressure during the examination period. The handicap of the one-off examination is that students have only one chance to be recognized as 'smart students'. The high expectations from parents and teachers put students under stress and this is why some candidates can't always perform well in the exams. In order to have a thorough assessment of students, counting more daily coursework marks into the CE or AL grades can evaluate students' overall performance in a more accurate way. As a result, candidates can be less worried about one-off exam results.

Nonetheless, although this proposal seems to help students a lot, it also has some unfavourable aspects when we look into the matter in depth. To the students, it is undeniable that the assessment involves subjective impressions which will stir up many problems about fairness. Many people claim that a professional teacher will give a reasonable assessment mark which directly reflects the students' level. The fact is that there are always differences in making judgments when different teachers assess a student's performance. As AL or CE exams are crucial assessments for students, we cannot overlook the problem of fairness.

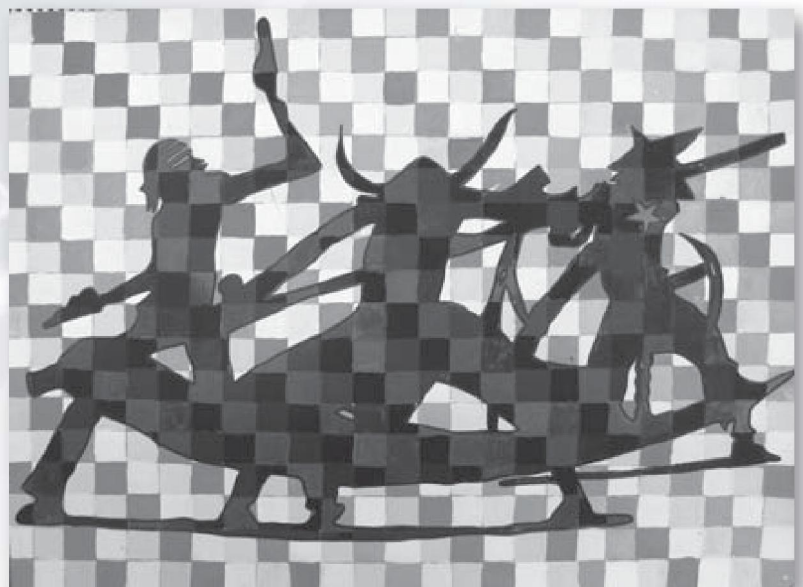
For teachers, giving more coursework assessment will tremendously increase their workload. The workload of students and teachers is already extremely heavy as both parties

need to prepare for the public examinations. No teacher would deny not having sufficient time for them and their students. How serious will the situation become if teachers have to squeeze in more time to assess their students' coursework? It is conceivable that the quality of teaching will be adversely affected.

We have to realize that what students need is an assessment for learning rather than an assessment of learning. There are benefits to the students in both the one-off exams and school-based assessment and I believe that both policies can co-exist. However, we have to organize more consultation meetings in order to standardize the assessment among different school teachers. It is hoped that the next generation can benefit from this new education system.



4B Ma Cheuk Yan



1D Wong Hoi Yan