

What is learning?

According to the dictionary (an ordinary one), learning should be actions that the actor can gain knowledge.

However, looking into the nowadays' educational system, are students really learning? Obviously yes but what are they learning? Probably not the knowledge from the textbooks, and exam papers.

There was a Chinese informal idiom saying, 'Learning is not obtaining marks only', well, quite a nice idiom, it straightly points out the ideal case that you should not learn only if you are striving for marks, you should learn based on other things. Nonetheless, in the region who cares? Considering the only fact that 'if you got not enough marks, you would not be qualified to get a position of a better primary school, a famous secondary, a well-known university and ultimately a good job,' parents and teachers, and even students, would not care about what children are learning for and force them (or themselves to be buried into thousands of books.

A text read recently in the Chinese DSE 2015 past paper, named, 'Talking about interest', was found by that some quite interesting points are expressed there. Stating that learning should be for their interest but not for results only, curiosity leads to a reason of learning.....I forgot what exactly the text was about, but it eventually reflected the truth that the Hong Kong's educational system is problematic. Sometimes it is just a black-humor that the text of HKDSE is criticizing the educational Bureau.

Comparing to Hong Kong's educational system, the ones in the more developed countries are probably better, comparatively. It doesn't only input knowledge to students like putting sand into a jar, it teaches something more important and let them choose what they are interested in. Then the children would have a much better long-term sight than us, who poorly play the role as receiving systematic education. Why are there so many so called 'Hong Kong boys', who do not know anything except books' knowledge and computer games? I think probably they are related.

The test is approaching, and most of Hong Kong students are short-sighted. They may not be aiming for a great job, a better result in HKDSE, or even the upcoming examination. They are actually working for the closest challenge, tomorrow a mathematics quiz is being held. Then reverse mathematics; English dictation being held next Monday? Then revise the dictation; Chinese dictation on Wednesday? Then revise the Chinese dictation. Honestly I am this kind of persons too, but then I found a problem, short term memory will not last for long, knowledge in your mind then quickly be disintegrated after the recent task. Knowledge, information, texts, no longer exist.

Probably relearning will be the only way to deal with test and examinations, but not revising.

'Practice makes perfect.' Many students practice their answering skills to fight against the tricky questions of HKDSE. However, stepping into the society getting a great job, or entering a great university, what skills and knowledge that you have previously practiced to seemingly perfect, will be fundamental and essential, or even related to your job? Unfortunately, very very little. The real knowledge needed has to be found by yourself.

When the school is providing you with some boring career planning programmes, don't ignore it, think about it deeply what you are going to do, and seriously get prepared and armed while ou are entering the battlefield of Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education.