

104 學年度第 1 學期高中部英文作文比賽

請勿拆開

1. 愛爾蘭詩人 W. B. Yeats 曾經說過 "Education is not the filling of a pail (bucket), but the lighting of a fire." 身處風起雲湧的教育浪潮，身為現代學生的你也多能針對教育政策或理念侃侃而談，請以 "What I Talk About When I Talk About Education" 為題，針對 W. B. Yeats 的名言抒發己見，寫一篇英文作文，字數不得少於 500 字。
2. 比賽時間：13:10~14:50，共 100 分鐘。
3. 不得使用任何形式的字典與電子載具，其餘依本校考試規定辦理。

What I Talk About When I Talk About Education

It is no secret that some students hate school, and it isn't a surprise at all. High schools in Taiwan start at seven forty-five in the morning and end at five thirty in the evening, where students have to learn all kinds of subjects whether they like it or not. Our learning is mainly defined by how we perform in tests, and important abilities like self-learning and problem solving skills are often pushed aside by students who only care about exams and "good" grades. This is the main reason why our performance in the future aren't quite on the same level as say Finland or Germany. In my opinion, a big problem in Taiwan is our education.

When I talk about education I don't mean hours of studying just to prepare for tests; I don't mean ^{spending} every day in cram schools just to get good grades. I mean the ability to learn by oneself and to solve real life problems; the ability to make a difference in society, and to express one's thoughts and beliefs. These skills I believe are the skills we should be preparing for, and not just burying your face in textbooks just to have a high score in an exam. The Irish poet W.B. Yeats once said "Education is not a filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire." He means that education shouldn't be just studying all day, but it should be able to inspire us to learn what we're interested in by ourselves, specialize in our field of interest, maybe even benefit the society we live in, and make the world a better place.

This is extremely important because one we're interested or inspired by something, we are hungry for that knowledge or skill, resulting in

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higher learning efficiency and performance. When I was ~~in~~ studying in Hong Kong, I studied in an international school where we're encouraged to read and learn more by ourselves. We're given more time to study what we are interested in and given a clearer view of our future. When I came to Taiwan, everything is different. Our schedule is now full of homework and exams about subjects which bore me. I used to be very interested in physics in Hong Kong but coming here, we have to learn so many subjects that my time for reading science books and magazines decreased. Studying and memorizing Chinese words took up much of my time and while we still have science class, it was so full of memorizing chemical reactions and body structures that my passion for physics slowly faded away. My future, which was once clear for me to become a physicist, now lies in uncertainty. Whenever I go back to Hong Kong to visit my friends there I am always amazed by their knowledge in their own field, "Why are you so good at it?" I always ask, their replies are always the same: "Because I am given a chance to excel at what I am passionate about." ^{and learn} what I love. Our teachers sparked a fire in my heart and I have been reading and studying about it ever since."

The main difference ^{of the education} between Hong Kong and Taiwan is that in Taiwan, we are literally given lots of knowledge and lots of information, so much that we're left with limited time for our strengths and passions, just like "filling a pail". In Hong Kong education lies a fire in the students, allowing them to follow their hearts and dreams, giving them a clear destination of their future. I think if the education in Taiwan can change from studying and memorizing textbooks to inspiring students to follow their dreams, our schools will be full of energy and laughter, and our futures will be brighter than ever."