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Class: 4D

Topic: Tutorial classes

Attending tutorial classes to tackle public exams: effective or not?

The popularity of tutorial schools is increasing in Hong Kong. Most, if not all students, attend tutorial classes after school. Several tutorial schools are open until late at night. Recently, the question of whether going to tutorial schools is an effective way to help students prepare for public exams has sparked a debate among the public. Personally, I disagree with this idea due to the following reasons.

First and foremost, attending tutorial classes increases the academic pressure on students. As we all know, Hong Kong is an exam-orientated city and there is cut-throat competition among students for limited places in higher institutions. To increase this competitiveness, schools tend to give scores on assignments, assessments and, dictations to students.

Hence, students are required to handle loads of work from school; this contributes to academic pressure. If students attend tutorial classes, their academic pressure will only increase, which will probably give rise to their reluctance to study and hence will achieve a poorer performance on their public exams. This is not an effective way to help students prepare for their public exams.

Another reason that deserves mention is that attending tutorial classes will lower the efficiency of studying. The majority of schools in Hong Kong start early and end late. Therefore, it is not uncommon for students to be fatigued after a whole day of school. If students attend tutorial classes after school, they may slump over their desks and not retain the information that is being taught. What is more, there is no doubt that when a student is tired, his/her ability to concentrate and take in information is lowered. It is no exaggeration to say that students cannot learn most of the concepts and recite anything during tutorial classes since they are sleepy.

Last but not least, the curriculum of public schools and tutorial schools may be different, which makes it hard for students to adapt to. The curriculum of public schools is fixed by the Education Bureau, despite the fact that it can be slightly manipulated by teachers. Nonetheless, the curriculum of tutorial schools is flexible and can be completely different from that of regular schools. The tutors in tutorial schools may teach anything that they want to teach or whatever the students ask them to teach. If the curriculum of tutorial schools differs from the curriculum of public schools too much, the students will find it hard to adapt. Take me as an example, I once took tutorial classes when I was in Form 1. As the concepts I learnt in tutorial classes were completely unrelated to the concepts taught in my secondary school, I had no option but to study the

concepts learnt in tutorial classes and school lessons separately, which was time-consuming. In light of this, owing to the differences between the curriculum of public schools and tutorial schools, students may have problem adapting to different learning schedules.

To sum up, I am not in favor of the idea that going to tutorial schools is an effective way to help students prepare for public exams in Hong Kong due to the aforementioned reasons. I hope that students can attend tutorial classes less frequently so as to lessen their academic pressure and increase their efficiency when studying.