

Primary and JSS Subjects

Transcript in Twi:

Baaba (female)

Kwesi (male)

Baaba: Nti subject ben saa na woyee wo Primary ene JSS? Na ete se die woyee wo SS no anaa? Anaa esono die woyee anaa wohye a eboa wo se woyee saa subjects no?

Kwesi: SS no, wo electives ne wo core. But core no die akoye se Primary ne JSS.

Baaba: Core no ne subject ben?

Kwesi: Eno ne RME em... Science eno no ye Physics, Biology ene Chemistry but...

Baaba: Omo acombine? Omo de no nyinaa abom acombine anaa?

Kwesi: Primary no na yefre no Science yede no nyinaa bom na yeye no Science but this one die omo de ne nyinaa abom na yaye no Science but this one die omo a, omo aye no one one one nti won a woyee saa courses no nyinaa, wonnye mbom. But Ghanass wotwere... SS wotwere saa exams no a... Chemistry, Biology ne Physics no na omo ama wo another paper, special paper na omo aye no combined na omo asan de ama wo. Eno na omo de begrade wo ewo wei no first position no, first and last no but in other subjects no omo nnye. Science pe na omo ye no woho.

Baaba: Se end of year exams no na woreka se omo ye no different omo wie a na omo de no nyina ara abom?

Kwesi: Mmm.

Baaba: Ok. Saa. Wose wo course no baako ye RME. Eno no ye course ben a?

Kwesi: RME. Eno no ye Religious and Moral Education.

Baaba: Den saa na mosua?

Kwesi: Yesua tese... em... Muslims, em... religion, yesua about religion. Christian religion, traditional religion ena wei Muslim religion no ena stuffs in the bible. Nti yesua nnooma

bebree. Eno ye nnooma bebree a ewo ye life mu a kyere s e yenni towards it. Ena Social Studies no nso ye... the things around us. Yesua nnooma a ewo ye ho ena nnooma a atwam.

Baaba: O ok. Se ase history bi saa no efra?

Kwesi: Aane. But sesei ara Primary wei JSS foɔ no omo ye no history. Omo de history no aka social studies ho nti omo ye. Yen no yennye no saa.

Baaba: Ooo. Esono history ena esono social studies?

Kwesi: Aane. Ena Pre-tech. Yennye Pre-tech wo SS.

Baaba: Ok. But moye no wo JSS?

Kwesi: Yeah. Yeye no wo JSS. Pre-tech no schools bi woko a omo offer no wo SS.

Baaba: Ewo SS?

Kwesi: Ewo SS.

Kwesi: Eno no omo fre no em... metal. Metal works. Omo na omo ye pre-tech. Metal works ye pre-tech ena em... I think nkrɔfoɔ a omo pe se omo ye architect no omo ye ayi pre-tech.

Baaba: Ewo SS?

Kwesi: Ewo SS.

Baaba: Ansa na omo ako university akotoa so?

Kwesi: Aane. Eno no ye sec tech sec tech foɔ no schools no a yede em... Menfa no se Koforidua Sec Tech anaa wei Kumasi Sec Tech ehɔ na omo fa saa metal, crafts work no. Omo nyinaa ka...

Baaba: Nti wo school no eno nnye sec tech no nti eno die omo nnye saa no koraa?

Kwesi: Aane. Omo nnye saa koraa. Ena Primary school nso so omo ye maths omo ye core maths eno core maths no calculation... Omo calculate te se SS yi ara but SS no omo... yebema wo core maths. Wobeye core maths no na wo asan aye electives. Core maths no... Woye core maths no a core maths no ye obiara subjects a esese ye. Obiara course a esese

oye. The whole school obiara ye core maths. Ena electives no ye wanhwε a woyε business a wobεye elective maths and costings.

Baaba: Enti kyere se eno no wobεye elective maths?

Kwesi: Aane. Elective maths. Elective business maths and costings. Eno no nnye...

Baaba: Ooo. Eno no nnye elective maths.

Kwesi: Eno no nnye core. Obiara nnye. Eno no wope a na wobεye.

Baaba: Wo a woreye business no...

Kwesi: Wo a woreye business pe na wobεye.

Baaba: Nti wo woyε course ben?

Kwesi: Business.

Baaba: Nti woyε business nti wo ye saa course no?

Kwesi: Meyε business maths and costings.

Baaba: Eno wosaa ye core maths nso ka ho?

Kwesi: Mesan ye core maths. Ena me electives no nso ye econs. Econs no nso obiara tumi ye. Obiara tumi ye according to eyi, class a wowo. Arts 1, general arts 1 eyε econs. General arts 2 ennye econs. General arts 3 ye econs. Visual arts nnye econs. Na science nso ye econs. Ena yεwo electives. Business class no nso yεwo elective maths. Strictly elective maths. Eno econs class... Eho na mewe. Yεwo econs class.

Baaba: O ok. Eho no moye econs, monnye electives maths ena wei no nso... o ok.

Kwesi: Yennye elective maths. Eno subject bi nso tese accounting. Businessfoɔ pe nso na eyε accounting. But business 1, saa elective class no omo ye accounting because eka omo electives no ho. Yene omo core ne electives no nyina ara ye the same apart from elective maths ene econs. Wochoose, woreko a, first no na omo ye no nyina ara bom. Wobεye elective ne econs no nyina ara abom but sasei ara no wope electives a wobεye wope econs a... It

depends on adwuma a wobeyε ena wobεchoose diε wopese wo γε. Nti wowie a na wobehu diε wobeyε. Yεbεma wo achoose na woaye.

Baaba: Nti course no a woreyε no wowie school na woko university a course bεn na wohwε a wopεsε wode koyε anaa se adwuma bεn saa na wobεtumi akoyε?

Kwesi: Accounting. Wobεtumi akoyε accountant. Chartered accountant anaa em... kyerεsε business manager anaa biribi εwε eyi... company bi.

Baaba: Na kyerε sε woyε sa a wowε choices bebree kyen se wokoyεε arts bi saa anaa?

Kwesi: Yeah. General arts. General arts nso wonya chances bebree kyen saa.

Baaba: Eeee? Adεn na woreka saa?

Kwesi: San se wokε business mu a maths no ne calculations no wobεtumi de akoyε science. Woduri university a wobεtumi achange de akoyε science but wobεbrε kakra. Physics ne wei no...

Baaba: O ok. San sε εno no ebi a wonnyεε εno no da?

Kwesi: Aane. Nti wobεbrε kakra but calculations no diε wobεtumi acope with. But general arts no diε woreade. Wowε general arts no a woyε literature εna saa wei no, history ne eyi no woreade nti wokε university a wobεtumi de akoyε law wayε wei pilot anaa sε biribi babree bi firisε lawyerfoc no cmo wε opportunity εkyen businessfoc no... students no bebree. εna saa nso na sciencefoc no wε opportunity kyen general arts foc no εnε the whole eyi courses no...

Baaba: Aane? Adεn na woreka saa?

Kwesi: Efirisε science foc no every part bi ara cmo wε mu. Because yen... Fano sε business maths and costing ne accounting pε na cmo nnim.

Baaba: Nti kyerese εno pε na cmo nnim.

Kwesi: Electives no nso cmo tumi choose between econs εna elective maths εwo science hc. Aane. Cmotumi choose bebree.

Baaba: Ok. Endie meda ase. Akyireyi.

Kwesi: Ok.

English Translation:

Baaba: So which subjects did you have to take in primary and JSS? Were they similar to what you're doing in SS now? Did you find your old subjects useful?¹

Kwesi: Well, in SS you have your elective and core subjects. The core subjects are like those you do in primary and JSS.

Baaba: What were the core subjects?

Kwesi: They were RME, umm . . . science, which was physics, biology and chemistry but

Baaba: Did you take the science courses together?

Kwesi: Well, in primary school it's called science, and we take all the science subjects together as science, but in SS we take them individually. However, in Ghana... in SS, when you take exams, you get chemistry, biology and physics back as one paper even though you write each separately. They look at all three subjects to determine your grade. You don't find that in other subjects.

Baaba: You're talking about the end-of-year exams, right?

Kwesi: Yeah.

Baaba: Okay. I see. So you mentioned RME. What course is that?

Kwesi: RME. That's religious and moral education.

Baaba: What's that course about?

Kwesi: Well, we learn about, umm... Muslims, umm . . . religion, we learn about religion . . . Christian religion, traditional religion and Muslim religion as well as stuff in the Bible. We

¹ Primary = primary school, JSS = Junior Secondary School, SS = Senior Secondary School.

learn about a number of things. We also learn good moral values for living. Another one of our subjects is social studies, where we learn about the things around us . . . both current and past events.

Baaba: Oh, okay. You take some history with that, right?

Kwesi: Yeah. Now, primary and JSS students get some history in their social studies class. We [SS students] don't do that.

Baaba: I see. So history and social studies are two different things in SS?

Kwesi: Yeah. Another difference in SS is that we don't take Pre-tech.²

Baaba: Okay. But you took it in JSS, right?

Kwesi: Yeah, I did. Some schools offer Pre-tech in SS, though.

Baaba: In SS?

Kwesi: Yeah, in SS.

Kwesi: It's called, umm... metal. Metal works. And . . . umm . . . I think architecture students take Pre-tech in SS too.

Baaba: In SS?

Kwesi: Yeah, in SS.

Baaba: And then they continue taking architecture classes at the university?

Kwesi: Yeah. The schools that offer Pre-tech are those sec. tech. schools like Koforidua Sec. Tech. and Kumasi Sec. Tech. Those are the schools you can take metal, crafts work, etc. in.³

Baaba: So, since your school is not a sec tech, you won't find that there, right?

² Pre-tech=pre-technical skills, a technical course in metal work, wood work, craftsmanship, technical drawing, etc.

³ Sec. tech. = secondary technical. These are technical schools you can attend after JSS.

Kwesi: Yeah, you won't. Another difference between primary and SS is that you take core math courses in primary, but, in SS, everyone takes core math courses and some other electives. For example, some students have an elective called elective math and costing.

Baaba: You might have to take elective math?

Kwesi: Yeah, elective business math and costing, not elective math.

Baaba: I see. It's not the same as elective math.

Kwesi: And it's not the same as core math, which is compulsory for everyone.

Baaba: It's only for business

Kwesi: Yeah, it's only for business students.

Baaba: So which course do you major in?⁴

Kwesi: Business.

Baaba: So you're required to take that subject too, right?

Kwesi: Yeah, I have to.

Baaba: And then you take core math too, right?

Kwesi: Yep. Another one of my electives is econ. [economics], which some of the other students take. For example, the arts 1, general arts, general arts 3, and science classes take econ, while the general arts 2 and visual art classes don't. In addition, the business class has to take elective math.

Baaba: I see.

Kwesi: The business class is also the only class that has to take accounting. However, only the business 1 has to do that. We have the same classes they take except for accounting; we

⁴ Students in SS can "major" in business, arts, general arts, science, general science, or agricultural science. In addition to core subjects, which every student has to take, students take subjects in the courses they are majoring in. The core subjects are English, core math, social studies, etc.

take elective math instead. At first, both classes had to take both subjects, but now you get to choose to do either econ. or elective math. Students choose which one to take depending on what they want to do in the future.

Baaba: So after taking business courses in SS, what can you do in the university and what would you want to be in the future?

Kwesi: Accounting. You could become an accountant. A chartered accountant or a business manager or you could work in a company.

Baaba: So, in other words, you have more options than a student who took, say, art?

Kwesi: Yeah. Well, actually, the general arts students have more choices.

Baaba: Really? Why do you say that?

Kwesi: Well, if you take business, you take math and learn to do calculations, so you could eventually take some form of science. You could switch to science in the university, but you'll probably have a difficult time because for example, physics . . .

Baaba: Oh, okay. You might not have taken it before?

Kwesi: Yeah. So you'll probably have a difficult time, but you'll probably be able to cope with the calculations. However, if you take general arts, you take literature and history and so on, so you can easily take, for example, law, or learn to become a pilot ,or take many other courses in the university. Everyone knows that, for example, law students have more opportunities than business students and many other students. In the same way, science students have more opportunities than general arts and many other students.

Baaba: Yeah? Why do you say that?

Kwesi: Well, science students take many subjects that other students take. I would say that the only subjects they don't take are subjects like business, math and pricing and accounting.

Baaba: So that's all they might not know.

Kwesi: Yeah, and they also have many choices in SS. For example, they can choose between econ. and elective math.

Baaba: Okay. Well, thanks and talk to you later.

Kwesi: You're welcome.

About CultureTalk: CultureTalk is produced by the Five College Center for the Study of World Languages and housed on the LangMedia Website. The project provides students of language and culture with samples of people talking about their lives in the languages they use everyday. The participants in CultureTalk interviews and discussions are of many different ages and walks of life. They are free to express themselves as they wish. The ideas and opinions presented here are those of the participants. Inclusion in CultureTalk does not represent endorsement of these ideas or opinions by the Five College Center for the Study of World Languages, Five Colleges, Incorporated., or any of its member institutions: Amherst College, Hampshire College, Mount Holyoke College, Smith College and the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

© 2003-2008 Five College Center for the Study of World Languages and Five Colleges, Incorporated