

Malay Transcript:

Chan: Pendidikan sekolah menengah boleh dikatakan, kalau di menengah rendah, iaitu dari tingkatan satu hingga tiga, dia lebih umum; umum dari segi semua murid mesti ambil mata pelajaran yang sama. Mata pelajaran biasalah¹, bahasa Melayu, bahasa Inggeris, matematik, sains, geografi, sejarah... Untuk pelajar yang bukan beragama Islam, dia ambil pendidikan moral², untuk murid yang beragama Islam, dia wajib mengambil pendidikan agama Islam³.

Baru-baru ini juga, kerajaan dah memperkenalkan mata pelajaran kemahiran hidup⁴ dan juga pendidikan sivik⁵. Tujuan kemahiran hidup diperkenalkan ialah untuk memberi pendidikan dalam bidang bagaimana seorang murid itu boleh menguasai kemahiran sebagai seorang manusia di zaman moden ini. Dan pendidikan sivik ini, kita mahu memupuk perasaan perkauman, perasaan bekerjasama, faham saling memahami, semua murid di sekolah-sekolah Malaysia yang berbilang kaum⁶. Pendidikan sivik ini penting sebab melalui mata pelajaran ini, murid-murid di sekolah, dia belajar ya, apakah kebudayaan dan amalan kawan-kawannya dari kaum yang berlainan.

Itulah sedikit tentang sistem pendidikan di Malaysia. Selepas di tingkatan lima, murid-murid di tingkatan lima, dia terpaksa ambil satu lagi peperiksaan, iaitu dinamakan SPM, Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia⁷. Peperiksaan ini sangat penting, kerana kalau seorang pelajar tidak dapat lulus dalam peperiksaan ini, peluang untuk dia melanjutkan pelajaran di maktab tinggi atau di universiti tidak ada. Jadi, kelulusan dalam SPM sangat sangat penting.

English Translation:

A secondary school education [at the] lower secondary [level], which is from form one to form three⁸, is said to be more general; general in the sense that all pupils will be studying the same subjects. [They will study] the typical subjects, [such as] Malay,

¹ -lah – ‘-lah’ is a Malaysian suffix tacked on to the end of a word for verbal emphasis, but it doesn’t actually mean anything

² *Pendidikan Moral* translates to ‘moral studies,’ in which students learn about moral values

³ *Pendidikan agama Islam* is Islamic studies, a compulsory subject for all Muslim students in Malaysia

⁴ *Kemahiran Hidup* literally translates to ‘living skills,’ but it is basically a home economics class

⁵ *Pendidikan sivik* translates to ‘civic studies,’ where students learn about general Malaysian civic life

⁶ Multi-racial identities are fostered in public schools, as Malaysia is a multi-racial country consisting of the Malays, Chinese, Indians and indigenous people, among other minorities

⁷ SPM is the acronym for *Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia*, which is called the Malaysian Certificate of Education in English

⁸ Forms one through three are the 7th to 9th years of education in Malaysia; secondary education, which ends at form five, lasts for five years and primary education prior to that consists of six years. Students graduate from secondary school when they are 17 years old after 11 years of formal education

English, mathematics, science, geography, history... Non-Muslim students will take moral studies⁹, and it is compulsory for the Muslim students to take Islamic studies¹⁰.

Recently, the government has introduced home economics¹¹ [as a] subject and also civic studies¹². The reason why home economics was introduced is to educate the pupil on how to gain skills in order to live as a person in the modern world. And [by teaching] civic studies, we can foster racial diversity, cooperation, [and] mutual understanding [between] all the multi-racial pupils in Malaysian schools¹³. [Learning] civic studies is important because it is through this subject that a pupil in school will learn about the cultures and customs of their friends who are of a different race.

That is a little bit [of information] regarding the education system in Malaysia. As for students in form five, they will have to take another examination, which is called SPM, Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia¹⁴. This examination is very important, because if a student does not pass this examination, he¹⁵ will not get the chance to further his education at a college or university. So, passing the SPM (examination) is very, very important.

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¹⁵ The speaker uses the word *dia*, a third-person pronoun that is gender-neutral. Here, ‘he’ is used just for translation purposes and refers to the pupil or student