

Levantine Arabic transcript:

البكالوريا هي آخر سنة دراسية بتكون بالثانوي، بتكون بالمدرسة الثانوية و بيقولوا سنة ال12، هي البكالوريا هي اللي بتحدد مصير الإنسان بعد ما تقدميها، بتقدميها بأخر الفحص يعني بأخر السنة، بضلي تقريبا 12 شهر عم تدرسي مشان تقدمي بالأخير فحص هذا الفحص و هي العلامات هي اللي بتحدد انتي شو بدك تدخل بيدين و شو بدو يصير بمستقبلك و شو رح تشتعلي امم، هي تقريبا بتبلش بأخر سنة الحادي عشر لآخر سنة البكالوريا.

يعني الواحد ببيلش بالبكالوريا بيدرس مشان يلحق المنهاج لانو المنهاج كثير ضخم عنا كثير مواد و مواد كثير ضخمة و مواد بتكون حفظية أكثر مما انو تكون فهمي و تحلي يعني بالمعنى المثالي يعني انتي بتحفظي الحل المعادلة الرياضيات حفظ، ما بتفهميها، و بتفهمي شلون بتحلي بعدين بتحلي عادي عليها. ممكن انو تحفظي المعادلة مثل ما هي تحفظيها حفظ من دون ما تفهمي شو هي الطريقة الحل. حتى أنو في كثير عالم بيحفظوا المسائل أكثر مما يفهمو شلون بتحل، لانو بالآخر الاسئلة بدي تجي نفس السؤال ما أنو بيجيبو سؤال ثاني، انو بقولو الطالب فهمان و لا لا، خلص انو هو حافظ و لا لا. نفس الشئ بالفيزياء، نفس الشئ بالكيمياء، و بكل المواد، فبالآخر انو البكالوريا هي عبارة عن حفظ اكثر مما تكون هي عبارة عن فهم، و هادا الشئ كثير يكون صعب انو الواحد يحفظ اكثر من انو الواحد يفهم.

فذلك الواحد ببيلش فورا بعد ما يخلص سنة الحادي عشر، بالصيف، ببيلش يدخل معاهد دورات رياضيات و فيزياء و كيمياء و علوم. مشان يلحق لآخرة السنة اللي هي الفحص يكون في حزيران.

هلا اول الشئ بالصيف يمكن ما كثير تتأثر حياتو الاجتماعية لانو يكون الضغط لساتو قليل و يكون عم ياخذ كميات قليلة يعني يكون مثل دوام المدرسة العادي بس يكون كميات قليلة فيقدر انو يطلع و يفوت مع رفقاتو يتسلى و هيك. بس الواحد وقت اللي بتصير حياتو الاجتماعية انو عنجد انقطع هي بالفصل الثاني، يعني حتى بالفصل الاول تبع البكالوريا، بيكون الواحد لسه مانو مستوعب، عم يداوم بالمدرسة و يتسلى و عندو أساتذة بالبيت و ممكن ما كثير يهتم باساتذة المدرسة.

بعدين نحنا طلاب البكالوريا منقطع تقريبا من الفصل الثاني، يعني منبطل نداوم بالمدرسة بالفصل الثاني أو حتى يمكن منداوم اسبوع أو اسبوعين، بعدين انو خلص منزل بالبيت و منزل عم ندرس فكمية الاعطاء اللي بتكون بالفصل الثاني ما حدا بياخدها بالمدرسة لانو بيكون عندو بالاصل اساتذة خصوصية فممكن كثير عالم انو ما يلحقو المدرسة و البييت انو يدرسلون و ما بيلحقو المنهاج، بيضطروا وقتها انو يقطعوا و بيقطعوا بيضطروا انو يحطو اساتذة خصوصية مشان يجو يفسرولون الاشياء اللي ما حضروها.

المنهاج كبير، فمابرح يلحقو انو يروحوا على المدرسة و يرجعو تعبانين و يرجعو يدرسو و يرجعو يخلصو الوظائف و بيكون في عندن اساتذة بالبيت. فمارح يقدروا يلحقو بين المدرسة و البيت و الاساتذة الخصوصية و المنهاج الضخم الكبير الي نحنا. فيضطروا انو يقطعو المدرسة مشان يقدر يلحقو من وقتون و يدرسو بهذا الوقت يقدرو يدرسو لانو بالمدرسة بروحو كثير وقت. فيضل الولد قاعد بالبيت عم بيدرس و بالقوضة و بيهنولون الال كل الجو لحتى يقعد يدرس، يعني اذا بدو ياخذ استراحة يمكن ياخذ استراحة بقلب البيت احسنلو من انو يطلع.

English translation:

Bakaloria is the last school year in secondary school; it is in high school, and they call it the 12th year. This *Bakaloria* is what defines the future of person after doing it. You do your *Bakaloria* during the final exams, I mean, at the end of the year. You spend almost 12 months studying so you can do your final exam. This exam and these marks define

what you want to study afterward, and what is going to happen to your future, what you are going to be doing. Hmmm, it starts almost at the end of the 11th grade until the end of the *bakaloria* year.

One starts the *bakaloria* and studies [very hard] to be able to finish the curriculum, because the curriculum is enormous here. And we have courses, courses that are very big, and they should be known by heart more than understood and solved. I mean, ideally, for example, you learn the mathematical equation's solution by heart, you don't just understand it. It is not like [normally] you understand it, and then you solve it naturally. You can also learn the equation by heart only, learn it as it is, without understanding how it is solved. There are so many people who memorize the problems by heart rather than learn how to solve it. Because eventually, exams questions are the same [as questions in the book]. They don't put different questions [on the exam] to see if the student understands or not. It is to test if he has memorized it by heart or not. The same with physics, the same with chemistry, and every subject. So, eventually, the *bakaloria* is considered memorizing [materials] by heart rather than understanding them. And it is very difficult to memorize instead of just learn.

For that, one starts [studying for *bakaloria*] right after finishing 11th grade. In the summer, he¹ begins to take mathematics, physics, chemistry, and biology at institutions, so he can finish by the end of the year examinations which are conducted in June.

Now, at first, during the summer, the student's social life might not be affected very much, because he is under a little bit of pressure, and he will be learning small amounts. I mean, the duration [of summer classes] is the same as normal school's duration, but the portions are smaller. So he can still go out with friends, and have fun, etc. Second semester is when social life vanishes for real. I mean, even in the first semester of *Bakaloria*, one doesn't realize [what is going on] yet. Between going to school, having fun, and having tutors at home, one stops paying attention to school's teachers.

Also, we *bakaloria* students stop going to school beginning in the second semester. I mean, we don't attend school in the second semester, or perhaps we attend for one or two weeks, and then we stay at home and we keep studying, because the amount of materials we learn in the second semester ... no one takes it in school. They would originally have private tutors, and many people wouldn't be able to follow up with school and home, as in to study for both of them. So they don't finish the curriculum [in time]. In that case, they have to stop going to school, and they have to get private tutors to come and explain things they haven't learned yet.

The curriculum is enormous, and they [students] won't be able to go to school, get back tired, and study, [then] come back home and study for their homework and still have tutors at home. They won't be able to balance between schools, home, private tutors and this enormous curriculum we have. For that, they have to stop going to school so they can save more time and study more in that saved time. So they could study more, because in school, there is a lot of wasted time. The kid stays at home, studying in the room. Parents

¹ The masculine form is used in Arabic when describing a person's actions in general.

prepare the environment for him to study, I mean, if he wants to take a break, he will take a break at home. It is better than going out.

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.

© 2003-2010 Five College Center for the Study of World Languages and Five Colleges, Incorporated