

Arabic Transcript:

ا: في الابتدائيه وفي الاعداديه .. شو هي الدروس المفروضه عليكم؟

ب: كل السنوات .. احنه ماعدنه... هاي تختلف عن النظام الامريكي هنانه، ماعدنه يعني نختار دروس، مفروض كلها عليه، مفروضه. بالابتدائيه اكو عربي، دين، طبعا الدين يعني دين اسلامي، عربي ودين وانكليزي ورياضيات وعلوم. بعدين وراها لمن الواحد يدخل متوسطه تبدي العلوم تنقسم الى فيزيه واحياء وكيميه وبعدين بيدون ياخذون تاريخ وجغرافيه وعدنه درس اسمه وطنيه الي هو كله على الحرب، حرب ايران وحرب الكويت... حروب صدام حسين ببسكلي، صدام حسين شلون هو قائد عظيم، حياة صدام حسين، انجازات صدام حسين، يعني هوايه... على الجيش، ف.. يعني درس الواحد يتعب من وراه، كله على القائد.

English Translation:

Girl behind the camera: In primary and high school ... what are the mandatory classes that you have to take?

Zahraa: All years ... we don't have ... it is different than the American system here ... we do not choose classes, they are all mandatory! In primary school we take Arabic, religion, of course Islamic religion, English, math, science. Later on, when one goes into intermediate school, science will be divided into physics, chemistry and biology ... and students start taking history, geography and there is this one class called "nationalism" and it is all about the wars, the Iranian war, the Kuwait war ... basically the wars of Saddam, how Saddam is a great leader, the life of Saddam, the accomplishments of Saddam ... many other things ... about the army ... so ... it is a class that gives you a hard time to digest ... all about the leader.

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.