

CultureTalk North Africa Video Transcripts: <http://langmedia.fivecolleges.edu>
Libyan Education System
Part 1

English translation of Libyan Arabic:

Abed: ...aaa... of course I will talk about education in Libya. Of course, education is divided between 2 periods I mean. I mean the previous period, I mean ...aaa... it was...aaa... I mean, education, especially I mean after, I mean after it reaches high school, I mean was, I mean, general high school used to be divided into a literature branch and a scientific one. I mean, and we can, for example, talk about it from the beginning. People preferred to send their kids to a kindergarten; I mean before, I mean before they officially go to school which are public schools, and ...aaa... then, of course he [any student] starts first grade, and second, third, fourth, fifth, sixth, elementary. This period is called, I mean, elementary school, or, this period's name is elementary school.

Then of course, he moves to secondary school¹ that starts from, I mean, freshman, sophomore, and senior. Next of course, after secondary school, he moves to high school. This was in the past of course as high school period is divided into scientific and literature branches. Sure, he goes to high school, I mean he specializes based on what he wants whether the scientific branch or the literature branch. The literature branch of course includes literature contents such as texts, and reading, and grammar, and English of course. As for scientific materials, they only have Statistics. I mean this is one of the scientific materials that are studied at the literature branch. As for the scientific branch, they focus on scientific materials such as: ...aaa... mathematics, and physics, and chemistry, and others; I mean chemistry and physics. I mean focus starts, I mean, on the scientific side.

Then of course, after a student graduates after 3 years of high school: freshman, sophomore, senior; literature and science choice specialization starts in the sophomore year. During freshman year, he studies general education of course, both scientific materials and literature materials. Then a student, of course, specializes in sophomore year, and then he moves to senior year during which, of course, he ...aaa... passes an exam. If he doesn't pass the exam, certainly he will fail and repeat the year... or... or it depends if he was, for example, I mean if he fails more than 3 subjects, he repeats studying the year, I mean, he would repeat senior year of high school. If they are less than 3 subjects, he tries the second attempt². I mean there will be a second chance for him to work harder and study... I mean ...aaa... in order to graduate from high school.

¹ Some countries have different names for the 3 years between elementary and high school phase. Some call it 'secondary' others call it 'middle school'.

² A second attempt is another chance granted for students who fail less than 3 subjects. This system exists throughout the entire academic years (i.e. all academic stages have this system). It usually comes a couple months after the main and first final exams, in other words around September or late August. If a student fails in the second attempt, he will fail the entire year and will be obliged to repeat it.

Sure after a student graduates, he gets sent, of course, by the...aaa... Ministry of Education based on his ...aaa... certainly acceptance is decided based on the average of a student. ...aa... if say the student's average, for instance, is good; for example, very good or excellent, of course he gets accepted at a college of medicine or a science college. If he was, for instance.... Also, it, of course, all depends before everything on if he graduated from the scientific branch, he's sent for example to colleges with scientific fields I mean, for example, college of science, college of medicine, ...aaa... etc of course. Otherwise, if he has finished the literature branch, of course he has the College of Arts, College of Economics, etc of course, and in any literature field. Of course, as I have told you, I mean a student gets accepted based on his average. Then of course, he starts studying. Universities differ from one another; there is of course a semester system and an annual one. ...aaa... and the majority has 4 years of university study. After he graduates, of course, he has a chance in some fields, of course, there is a chance for him to go for high education of course. Of course, there are opportunities in Libya in some, for instance, fields such as Geography, English language, chemistry, physics, I mean most specializations, I mean, we can say, there are most of the majors...aaa... I mean have higher studies in Libya, for example at Al-Faateh University and Tripoli, University of Gan Younes in Benghazi city, Sabha University, I mean, in the city of Sabha ...aaa.. and there are, I mean, different universities in Libya. ...aa... then of course a student graduates. Of course, for example if he was in the literature field, I mean...mm... I mean based on his studies, I mean based on his hard work... I mean if he studies English, for example, he will specialize in that during the Master's degree in, in...will specialize, specialize, of course, in translation, ...aaa...linguistics, English literature, etc. the same thing for physics and chemistry, I mean all of them with their branches I mean. After that... I mean, this, in general, is how the process of education works.

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