

### **Malay Transcript:**

Selain itu, pelajar-pelajar di sini juga haruslah menduduki perik...peperiksaan mereka iaitu SPM, Sijil Pembelajaran Menengah.<sup>1</sup> Dan mereka menduduki peperiksaan ini, um.. um.. pada usia tujuh belas tahun atau, umm... ya tujuh belas tahun. Peperiksaan ini merangkumi dua tahun, um.. persekolahan mereka iaitu pada 16 tahun dan 17 tahun.<sup>2</sup> Dalam peperiksaan ini kita juga diuji dengan banyak-banyak mata pelajaran yang lain.<sup>3</sup> Selain bahasa Melayu, kita juga diuji dalam bahasa English[Inggeris], bahasa, um.. Cina untuk beberapa orang<sup>4</sup>, baha..um Matematik, Sains<sup>5</sup>, Kimia dan lain-lain. Sijil Pembelajaran Malaysia iaitu SPM merupakan satu ijazah yang diberikan kepada pelajar-pelajar yang har.. yang sudah, um.. tamat dengan pelajaran menengah mereka di sekolah menengah. Sijil ini digunakan oleh kolej-kolej dan universiti-universiti di luar untuk um.. untuk mendapat tahu tentang.. tentang kemahiran pelajar dalam subjek-subjek mereka tersendiri.<sup>6</sup>

### **English Translation:**

Besides that, students here have to sit for an examination - that is the SPM, the Malaysian High School Leaving Certificate<sup>7</sup>. And they sit for this examination, um.. um.. at the age of 17, or, umm.. yes, at the age of 17. This examination covers two years, um.. of their schooling - that is when they are 16 and 17 years old.<sup>8</sup> In this examination they are tested

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<sup>1</sup> Sijil Pembelajaran Menengah adalah sebuah peperiksaan nasional. Sijil ini merupakan sebuah kelayakan wajib apabila memohon pekerjaan berdasar kemahiran di Malaysia. Pelajar hanya perlu lulus subjek Bahasa Malaysia untuk mendapat sijil ini.

<sup>2</sup> Topik yang diuji dalam peperiksaan merangkumi semua topik yang dipelajari dalam tingkatan empat dan tingkatan lima sekolah menengah, atau tahap sepuluh dan sebelas dalam sistem Amerika. Peperiksaan ini di ambil pada akhir tingkatan lima.

<sup>3</sup> Biasanya, setiap calon akan diuji dalam sepuluh mata pelajaran.

<sup>4</sup> Malaysia mempunyai sistem persekolahan vernakular dan awam. Sekolah vernakular menggunakan bahasa Cina atau Tamil seperti bahantara mereka. Sekolah awam menggunakan bahasa Melayu seperti bahantara mereka. Di sekolah Cina, bahasa Cina dijadikan sebuah subjek kompulsori manakala di sekolah awam, bahasa Cina merupakan sebuah subjek elektif.

<sup>5</sup> Subjek Sains tidak sama seperti subjek Kimia, Biologi dan Fizik. Sains ialah sebuah subjek yang diambil oleh pelajar kelas senian. Pelajar kelas sains mengambil subjek elektif seperti Fizik, Kimia, Biologi dan Matematik Tambahan manakala pelajar kelas senia mengambil subjek elektif seperti Perniagaan, Akaun, Ekonomik dan Geografi. Pelajar dari kedua-dua kelas diwajibkan mengambil sebuah kurikulum teras yang mengandungi subjek bahasa Inggeris, bahasa Malaysia, Matematik Biasa, dan Sejarah.

<sup>6</sup> Kolej-kolej dan universiti-universiti luar negara seperti di USA, UK, dan Australia menggunakan transkrip sekolah menengah tempatan bersama dengan ujian standard untuk melihat kemahiran calon-calon.

<sup>7</sup> The Malaysian High School Leaving Certificate is a standardized national examination. It is almost always a required qualification when applying for skill-based jobs in Malaysia. The only criteria one needs to fulfill to be awarded this certificate is to pass the Malay Language subject.

<sup>8</sup> The material covered in the examination encompasses all material learned in the secondary four and five levels of high school, or the equivalent of tenth and eleventh grade in the American system. The exam is taken at the end of the secondary five year.

in many subjects.<sup>9</sup> Besides the Malay language, they are tested in the English language, the, um.. Chinese language for some people<sup>10</sup>, Mathematics, Science<sup>11</sup>, Chemistry, and others. The Malaysian High School Leaving Certificate or SPM is a qualification that is given to students who.. who have, um.. finished their high school studies in high school. This certificate is used by foreign colleges and universities to gauge.. the caliber of the students in the subjects being tested.<sup>12</sup>

**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 every day. 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.

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<sup>9</sup> Typically, each candidate is tested in an average of ten subjects.

<sup>10</sup> Malaysia has both vernacular and public school systems. Vernacular schools use languages like Mandarin Chinese or Tamil as their medium of instruction. Public schools use the Malay language as their medium of instruction. In Chinese vernacular schools, Mandarin Chinese language is a compulsory subject, while in public schools, Mandarin Chinese language is an elective subject.

<sup>11</sup> General Science is a distinct subject from Chemistry, Biology and Physics. It is a subject taken by the students in the arts stream. Students in the science stream take elective subjects like Physics, Chemistry, Biology and Additional Mathematics while students in the arts stream take elective subjects like Business, Accounting, Economics and Geography. Students from both streams are required to take a core curriculum which comprises English language, Malay Language, Normal Mathematics, and History.

<sup>12</sup> Foreign colleges and universities in countries like the USA, the United Kingdom, and Australia look at local exam transcripts in addition to standardized test scores when evaluating international applicants.