

Examination brings
more harm than good



**ASSIGN
BUSTER**

As the government, I fully agree that the SPM examination does more harm than good. The low standard of one of the most important subject in the world, English which is without a doubt the actual universal language is insulting and ridiculous. The standard of the questions asked in the examinations are fixed easily by the ministry so that students from rural areas who are struggling with the language can at least pass the subject. Approximately 375 million people speak English as their first language and 470 million to over a billion speak English as their second language.

It's also the official language in over 70 countries and also the 3rd most spoken language. Therefore, the significance of a person's English speaking and writing skills is not only important for communication, but also for further studying purposes. In the year 2005, it was found that 36.41% of Malaysian students furthered their studies in Australia, 26.86% went to the United Kingdom and 15.02% went to the United States. All three of those countries have English as their official language as well as having the highest percentage of English speakers in the world with a percentage of 92%, 96% and 98% respectively.

The low level of English will not prepare the students for the higher English level used abroad. These students will be struggling to compete for a place in a good college compared to students who have a higher level of English. Therefore, English which is a definite requirement to help foreign students to succeed is very important. In contrast, the standards of Bahasa Melayu is very high. "The rural candidates' performance in Bahasa Melayu is better than that of urban candidates." Datuk Abdul Ghafar Mahmud, the 'Ketua Pengarah Pelajaran' said of the 2011 SPM results.

Our country is made up of 3 main races: Malays, Chinese and Indians.

Chinese and Indian students were raised in different cultural backgrounds from the Malays, using their own language. The Malay students have a higher exposure to Malay, especially in the rural areas where traditional values are still intact. The government has raised the Malay standards of the SPM papers but has lowered the English paper standards to lighten the load for these students. When students fail the Bahasa Melayu paper, the students are required to re-sit the paper until they pass the subject.

Perhaps the student is good in other subjects or has planned out a future whereby he or she does not live or work in Malaysia and will never need the use of Bahasa Melayu. This does not just apply to failing the subject but also obtaining very low grades in the subject which will make it even harder for them to get accepted into colleges. This holds them back, wastes them months when they could have been studying overseas. Besides that, the SPM marking scheme is not transparent. It is human nature for us to be afraid of uncertainty. First and foremost, we do not know who is marking our test paper.

Every human being is different and we do not know if the examiner is a strict or a too lenient examiner. The fate of our future is in the examiner's hands, basically. A student who has constantly been getting great results suddenly gets something that he or she does not expect to be getting will be affected greatly. This student will not know where they went wrong in the paper and will never learn from their mistakes. Whereas in other examinations such as the ICAS examination, they give you back the papers after they have

examined it and they actually show you where you went wrong as well as the reason why it is marked that way.

The marking scheme changes from year to year and this will confuse the teachers marking from giving the correct marks to the students. The students as well as parents do not have a great trust in the examination when it comes to the marking as well as the grading. Now let me ask you this, what good is an examination if the people who take the examination does not even trust it? With that I'd like to end my speech by fully agreeing with the fact that the SPM examination brings more harm than good.