



English Society of Maria College



\$100,000 Commentaries Contest

- Entry requirements: Open to the public. No limit to the number of one's entries.
- Adjudication criteria: Entries will be judged on their clarity, simplicity and writing to the point. The entry with the most brilliant, ingenious and exhaustive ideas among those similar viewpoints will be the winner. **Point-listing entries supported by authoritative sources are preferred.** The decision of the English Society will be final.
- Entry deadline: The latest accepted post mark will be 15 July 2000.
- Announcement of winners: Early August 2000 in the same newspaper.
- Prize money: Total prize money is \$100,000.00. The sums in the brackets will be suitably apportioned among all the winning entries, which are classified into grades A, B, or C. (A=3C, B=2C)

Commentaries are now invited on the following questions:-

Background

In the English language field, we are still in the tradition of the blind leading the blind, so it is necessary for us to describe a person whose English is so proficient that he can command our respect for his knowledge and inspire our confidence in his ability to promote the local English standard.

We have enjoyed endless amusement provided by our local university graduates with their desperate English language skills. We usually do not blame our secondary school leavers for such language incompetence.

Impudence is the order of the day, and has become the familiar pop culture in Hong Kong. A Chinese columnist (古XX) teaches English in Chinese by criticizing others' usage, but he himself does not know how to write correct English – not even a simple sentence. (no joking – a typical example of the blind leading the blind)

附註:

1. 本英文學會曾舉辦多次比賽，目的為提高香港的英文程度，獎金及廣告費動輒數十萬元，這比優質教育基金所辦之活動，效果更佳，更有用。
2. 上次英文改錯得獎者，與英文作文比賽得獎者，均為外國受教育回流之人士，本地教育機構未能培育如此人才。

Questions

1. What sorts and what extent of English knowledge do we expect from such a language scholar who ranks high among the elites of English masters? (\$40,000)
2. Are the secondary school English teachers the only culprits to be blamed for the poor English of our university graduates? (\$30,000)
3. Suggest reasons why using Chinese as a medium of instruction to teach English has done more harm than good to the learners? (\$30,000)

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