**6) A nation should require all of its students to study the same national curriculum until they enter college.**

Is that true that all students should be required to learn some fundamental courses before they enter college? I bet your answer is yes. However, do you agree that those fundamental courses need to be the same in a nation? People’s opinions mainly fall into two categories and I tagged them as the ‘uniformity’ oriented and the ‘diversity’ oriented. The ‘uniformity’ supporters assert that a nation should persuade students study the same course to make sure the equity of education. Meanwhile, the ‘diversity’ believers insist that we need to preserve the features of different area. Both sides justify themselves well with sound reason. From my perspective, in most cases, I wouldn’t recommend a nation ask all students study the same curriculum before college.

1. 公平教育

The ‘uniformity’ supporters may argue that a standard nationwide curriculum before higher education would be conducive to ensure every student reach to the same level when they enter a higher education. Here is an example, educational resources like teachers of China are not evenly distributed. Most of the small provinces like Liangshan, known as micro provinces, have populations below 100,000(est. 2009). Because they have tiny populations, the provinces cannot spread the fixed costs of government over a large number of people—that is, they cannot achieve educational scale in the same way that larger provinces can. A standard curriculum could guarantee students in those areas learn the essential knowledge. In sum, a standard curriculum could avoid widening the **disparity** in education between developed and underdeveloped region.

1. 基础课

Nevertheless, a nation who endorses a unitary curriculum probably facing the question: which courses are the fundamental for students and play a significant role in all field a student might study in college? For instance, philosophy is the foundation of all disciplines and philosophy trainings can greatly benefit students in critical thinking and problem solving which is the prerequisite of every discipline. Does that mean all student should be pushed to study philosophy? Moreover, for those students who are eager to become a dancer, is that necessary to require them to spending tons of time in mathematics and physics? In short, students have various interests and it’s hard to satisfy all students’ requirements.

1. 民族多样

Furthermore, one serious drawback for a unitary curriculum for a nation is obvious- it erases the cultural diversity for a country. The indigenous culture will be put in high risk if teenagers don’t study their own culture. In China, there are 56 ethnic groups let alone hundreds of dialects within country. Which dialect the standard curriculum should use? Which culture the textbook should bring into focus? If extra emphasis is placed on the Han nationality, the dominant ethnic group in China, it might not benefit those national **minorities** in preserving and developing their own cultures, languages and **customs**. In conclusion, it’s not reasonable to require all students using the same textbook and learn the same courses.

**17) Formal education tends to restrain our minds and spirits rather than set them free.**

…that formal education constrains students time and place of study? ... that it also limits students mind and spirits?... ‘street smart’ ‘book smart’ … The ‘street smart’ supporters assert formal education is outmoded since informal education provide various and unrestrained form. Meanwhile, the ‘book smart’ believers insist that lack of understanding in fundamental knowledge will lead to total simplicity and naivety… I would suggest formal education undermine education and informal education is the future of our society.

1. 学会思考

…the ‘formal education’ believers may argue that the advantages of schools are evident. Formal education teaches us the **methodology**- the approaches to search for literature, to establish the framework of knowledge, and further to conduct a research - the way to solve problem by his/herself. A good case in hand is my intern experience at IBM, a multinational technology company. In the workplace, the common programming language is Python, instead of Java and C which is popular in academic settings. So my manager required me to learn the new programming language in a week! Although I never used Python before, I mastered it in a week as required. How I did it? Thanks to my professor who not only taught me a computer language but also taught me how to learn. I followed the same method to understand the features of Python; by comparing and contrasting, use one to learn the other. In sum, the magic of the classroom-teacher-student education is a systematic approach- teach you to fish.

1. 学校弊端

…could also list some serious drawbacks. First, formal education tends to be rigid uniformity. Usually, lecturers in formal education are required to meet certain teaching standards and follow a preset curriculum, which cannot be **customized** by students’ interest. Schools generally ignore the personal needs of their students. Moreover, too much emphasis is placed on **numerical** ratings. School officials define success of education in terms of dropout rates, **enrollment** rates and “teach to the tests”. Last but least, some schools turn to be a vocational school. Students are limited in a specific field and constrain their creativity. In sum, at least in some cases, formal education restrains students’ development.

1. 在线教育

…. with the fast technology innovation, there are many novel products to help us study at any time on any contents, like online education. Students only need a computer and Internet access to take online classes. Distance learning makes it possible for parents, working students, and professionals on the move to attend classes no matter their work schedule. Besides, students may be able to choose from a wider breadth of degree programs. Some online colleges develop and offer degree programs that might not yet be available through nearby public or private institutions. In addition, Online studies unite thousands of students worldwide. In online learning, students can take advantage of an extended network and even establish future contacts. In sum, the essence of true education is **far beyond** gaining certain scientific facts from textbook or mastering marketable skills for a student and the formal education is outdated comparing to the online education because of the flexibility they provide.

**1) As people rely more and more on technology to solve problems, the ability of humans to think for themselves will surely deteriorate.**

Is that true that humans can't live without machines in every aspect of our life? I bet your answer is yes. Then, do you agree that we human-being are going to be fooled by those products? People’s opinions mainly fall into two categories, and I tagged them as the ‘Human Vs technology’ oriented and ‘human + technology’ oriented. The ‘Human Vs technology’ supporters regard technology as the most significant reason that the ability of human are reducing. Meanwhile, the ‘human + technology’ believers asserts hi-tech products such as computer, smart phone and robot are just a tool for people. Both sides justify themselves with sound reasons. From my perspective, although technology is a double-edged sword, in most cases, it could serve human interests rather than bring harms.

1. 依赖科技

The ‘Human Vs technology’ supporters may argue that as people’s everyday work and life dependency on technology gets more, eventually human would become the slaves of technology. A good case in hand is the wide use of calculator. Calculation is the base of mathematics, but with the **popularity** of calculators, it’s become very common that people use a calculator when paying or buying. And due to its **portability**, people don’t bother their head any more. Another example is AlphaGo, a narrow AI computer program developed by Alphabet DeepMind Group. Since AlphaGo beats Lee Sedol in a five-game match(Go), some people pronounce the eventual victory of the machine. Human intelligence is surpassed by Artificial intelligence in many aspects, like data mining. In short, human creativity and uniqueness might be replaced by technology.

1. 人和机器

Furthermore, the most defining characteristic of homo Sapiens is that they could can create new things, like concepts, business models and ideas; while, machines are only good at computing. Human and computer have strengths in different field. Scientists design novel **algorithms**, a unique bits of code that make computations, to examine problems and machine execute the algorithms that run on them. The nature of **collaboration** is to **partner** with others to **transcend** our own limitations. It is wise to think the machine as a friend not an enemy which will **conquer** us. In short, technology design by human, built by human, and ultimately, serve to human needs.

1. 节约时间

Nevertheless, the ‘human + technology’ believers could also demonstrate technology benefit human in saving time and improving efficiency. Take the processing of big data as an example. With the fast technology innovation, more and more software and application collate users’ information and create a great amount of data sets that are so large or complex that traditional data processing **method** is inadequate to deal with them. Typically, scientist and engineering use machine learning, a computational model, to help them analyze data. The time saved by machine learning could be used by scientist to do more creative and meaningful work. Moreover, some problems are too complex and mysterious that human can’t solve them alone. One example is Foodborne Chicago, which uses computers and code to search Twitter for tweets related to food poisoning. From computer-generated leads, humans take over to determine if there was likely a case of food poisoning. As machines become more complex and also learned much of our skills, they only boost us performance. To sum up, technology provides people with effective instruments for intellectual work.

**91) The primary goal of technological advancement should be to increase people's efficiency so that they have more leisure time.**

节约时间

在线教育

1. 沟通

Furthermore, technological advancement could provide us a better way to communicate. **Instant** messaging application like Facebook and Twitter allows one to communicate with another person over a network in real time. Online discussion **democratizes** community voices bringing new thoughts, ideas and suggestions to the light of day. We have seen this happen over and over again. But my favorite story is an online discussion about changes to the local park. Two participants in the debate were a retired man in his late 50s or early 60s, and a usually **taciturn** twelve-year-old girl. Online discussion gave the girl the freedom and courage to speak her mind. To sum up, students/individuals in online environments enjoy the equity in the ability to share thoughts and ideas.

**43) The increasingly rapid pace of life today causes more problems than it solves.**

**101) Although innovations such as video, computers, and the Internet seem to offer schools improved methods for instructing students, these technologies all too often distract from real learning.**

**132) Some people believe that our ever-increasing use of technology significantly reduces our opportunities for human interaction. Other people believe that technology provides us with new and better ways to communicate and connect with one another.**

1. 沟通/学习问题

…today’s technological communication tools, ranging from cellphones to the Internet, often become educational and social **crutches**. A study published in the Journal of Social Media reported that students spend a great amount of time, an average of 11.43 times, in class checking their smartphones. Instead of interacting face-to-face, many teens opt to interact via text messages, social media and email. None of us leave these electronic devices for more than a few hours during the day, so then who has the time or energy to talk face to face with others? Social isolation is becoming more prevalent in our lives and the lives of our loved ones. In sum, People are increasingly isolating themselves via technology.

在线教育

节约时间／沟通

**56) Many important discoveries or creations are accidental: it is usually while seeking the answer to one question that we come across the answer to another.**

Is that true that some discoveries are found by accident? I bet your answer is yes. Then do you agree that important innovation should depend on those accidents rather than continually attempt? Peoples’ opinions mainly fall into two categories, and I tagged them as the ‘accident’ oriented and the ‘effort’ oriented. The ‘accident’ supporters regard accidental things as the most significant role of innovation. Meanwhile, the ‘effort’ believers assert any innovation can come up with great effort. Both sides justify themselves with sound reasons. From my perspective, in most cases, I would insist continually attempt pave the way for accidental innovation.

1. 偶然

… might argue that some important discoveries are accidental. A falling apple prompts physicist Isaac Newton to formulate his laws of gravity; Greek polymath Archimedes takes a bath and figures out how to calculate volume and density; Coincidently, Alexander Fleming spent August on holiday with his family and on returning, he discovered penicillin. These are iconic “light bulb” moments in the history of science. Or, as Archimedes reputedly said when insight struck, Eureka! In short, the ‘accident’ supporters could cite many story about Eureka moment.

1. 故事真实性

… question those story’s authenticity. The story of Newton and the falling apple is recorded by his friend and first biographer. They are having tea under apple trees in Newton's garden, and Newton is telling the story as an old man to a young disciple. Is that story true or just **embellished**? Let’s consider another famous eureka moment—the Greek mathematician Archimedes and the story of how he solved a problem for the king by taking a bath. In fact, Archimedes himself never wrote about this episode, although he spent plenty of time detailing the laws of buoyancy and the lever. The oldest authority for the naked-Archimedes eureka story is a Roman writer, who included the tale nearly 200 years after the event is presumed to have taken place. In short, the eureka moment is not credible.

1. 必然

…demonstrate that those so-call accidents are actually inevitable. Those ‘Eureka’ story ignore how diligent and careful those scientists are. Eureka moment doesn’t give people any sense of the steps or preparatory stuff, but they love those story because it simplifies things and takes away all the hard slogging. Moreover, Important discoveries are often made simultaneously by different people, suggesting that the field is ripe for a new idea. Perhaps the pieces of a new theory are available in different scientific publications, just waiting for someone to put them together. Or perhaps new observations seem to independently point toward a unifying principle. Ultimately, Eureka stories are a compression of decades and decades of work into one inspirational moment. It's like a parable.

**39) College students should be encouraged to pursue subjects that interest them rather than the courses that seem most likely to lead to jobs.**

Is that true that some fields, like Computer Science, are more lucrative nowadays? I’ll bet your answer is yes. However, do you agree college students should be inspired to choose those fields? People's opinions mainly fall into two categories, and I tag them as the 'personal interest' oriented and the 'job marked' oriented. The 'personal interest' believers regard developing interest as the most significant gold of higher education and education institutions should not push students take courses that don’t interest them. Meanwhile, the 'job market' supporters assert finding a good job is the first and foremost thing for college students, hence students should register a **curriculum** to match the job requirement and prepare themselves for a position in the vast job markets. Both sides justify themselves with sound reasons. From my perspective, in most cases, I would suggest students take courses interest them regardless of the job market.

1. 软件优势

The 'job market' supporters may argue that some field’s jobs are plentiful owning to their market requirements, and it’s understandable that college students are directed to choose a lucrative regions and look for a well-paid job. Here is an example, computer science, now is a smoking hot area, needs contribution from lots of talents. A new survey, conducted by Looksharp, a marketplace for internships and entry-level jobs, found that of all students who had graduated the year before, less than half, 45%, had full time jobs at the time of the survey. However, of those students who studied computer science, 61% had full time jobs, tops among all majors and better than the rate of 50% overall for STEM grads in **general**. On the contrary, some students in **theoretical** science such as mathematics, physics, etc., may find it difficult to combine their research with relevant professional fields. Although **philosophy** is the foundation of all **disciplines** and philosophy trainings can greatly benefit students in critical thinking and problem solving which is the **prerequisite** of every discipline, it’s a little bit hard for them to find non-academic job if they don’t receive any specific training. In sum, it’s profitable for the college students to choose the curriculums fit into the job market demand.

1. 兴趣

Nevertheless, no doubt that some field are beneficial, empirical evidence suggests that young people are more likely to succeed in a career that interests them. As Albert **Einstein** once stated, interest is the best teacher. A great case in hand is the founder of the CEO and the chief software **architect** of Microsoft, Bill Gates. During his childhood, Gates took an interest in programming the GE system in BASIC, a kind of programming languages, and was **fascinated** by the machine and how it would always execute software code perfectly. While a student at Harvard, he did not have a **definite** study plan and spent a lot of time using the school's computers. In order to pursue his own interest, he gave up the opportunity and immediate fame to study at Harvard, and started his own computer software company. Educational institutions are responsible for **cultivating** talent for society. Therefore, encouraging students to choose fields that interest them probably help them avoid consuming their precious and limited time, and maximize their potential. In short, the essence of true education is **far beyond** gaining certain scientific facts from textbook or mastering marketable skills for a student, and college students should persist their interests.

1. 领域变化

Furthermore, no one can guarantee your chosen field is a sure bid after four year’s collage study. With the fast technology innovation nowadays, new **mythology** or new electronic products can emerge within years. Take my study field Computer Science as an example to illustrate how fast the innovation can be. When I entered the college, Cloud Computing and Big Data was the fashion in computer science and even a catchy phrase in mass culture. Four years later, when I graduated to apply jobs in market, experience with machine learning, a computational and mathematical model, was the hit and on every job requirement. In summary, the job markets demand is on constant change; the market favorite discipline and your chosen field may totally phase out. Moreover, even if your chosen field happens to be in high demand and the situation lasts for years, it is possible you are facing **fierce** competitions when so many students with same skills as yours enter the job market as a result of choosing the “right” field or major as you do. To summarize, choosing college courses according to the current job market demand could put your career in risk because the market focus changes fast over time.

Thus, there is no doubt that some fields are rewarding, but it doesn’t mean students should be encouraged to study those fields of study that are easy to find a job. As a student, the most salient thing is to find out what they are really interested in, not just pursue so-called success.

**13) Universities should require every student to take a variety of courses outside the student's field of study.**

Is that true that individuals who attain more knowledge are likely to succeed? I bet your answer is yes. However, do you agree to require all students to take multifarious courses just for enriching their knowledge? People’s opinions mainly fall into two categories, and I tagged them as the ‘personal interest’ oriented and the ‘integrated development’ oriented. The ‘integrated development’ supporters assert that no one can guarantee which course may become inessential in the future, hence universities should encourage them to learn more. Meanwhile, the ‘personal interest’ believers insist that developing interest as the most significant gold of higher education and education institutions should not push students take courses that don’t interest them. Both sides justify themselves with sound reasons. From my perspective, in most cases, I would suggest students should not be recommended by universities to take too many courses outside their field of study.

1. 领域交叉

The ‘integrated development’ supporters may argue that college students should be cautious to narrow down to a field, since disciplines are not independent but interdependent. Here is an example, the founder of modern economist John F. Nash. Nash was known by public of his achievement in economics but less is known he is also a genius in mathematics. He credited his works in economics theories and models to the mathematical trainings. Moreover, some disciplines in theoretical science such as mathematics, physics, chemistry etc., might be ignored by students but are essential. For instance, as philosophy is the foundation of all disciplines and philosophy trainings can greatly benefit students in critical thinking and problem solving which is the prerequisite of every discipline, it’s understandable that students are directed to take those courses. In sum, universities, of course, are not vocational schools and their primary goals are to educate, to help students develop their critical faculties, and to **broaden** their **intellectual** **horizons**.

兴趣

1. 时间紧迫

Nevertheless, becoming truly educated requires great amount of time to practice in one field. As Malcolm Gladwell said in “Outliers: The Story of Success”: the key to achieving world-class expertise in any skill, is, to a large extent, a matter of practicing the correct way for a total of around 10,000 hours. Bill Gates met the 10,000-Hour Rule when he gained access to computer in a high school at the age of 13, and spent 10,000 hours programming on it. In the limited four years of undergraduate study, a student register too many courses outside his or her field will inevitably squeeze time spending on their major. In short, by suggesting students scatter their attention is not helpful to time management.

**73) Colleges and universities should require all faculty to spend time working outside the academic world in professions relevant to the courses they teach.**

Is that true that professors, in a sense, could benefit from practical work? I bet your answer is yes. However, do you agree all faculty should be inspired to involve in non-academic work? People’s opinions mainly fall into two categories, and I tagged them as the ‘professional training’ oriented and the ‘academic training’ oriented. The ‘academic training’ supporters assert that professors should focus on teaching and doing research. Meanwhile, the ‘professional training’ believers insist that off-campus practice could ignite new research idea. Both sides justify themselves with sound reasons. From my perspective, I would suggest colleges and universities should avoid recommending all researchers to work outside academic world even the job is relevant to the subject they teach.

1. 工业界

The ‘professional training’ may argue that by keeping abreast with the changing industrial development, faculties could come back to his or her research with fresh insights. Here is an example, Google, a multinational technology company, dominates many fields such as big data, machine learning, cloud computing, etc. Since AlphaGo, an AI computer program developed by Google DeepMind group, beats Lee Sedol in a five-game match(Go), Google demonstrates that at least in some specific areas industry might have the resources and talents to do things that academic world can’t do. More and more computer scientist, like Fei-Fei Li, the director of the Stanford Artificial Intelligence Lab (SAIL) and the Stanford Vision Lab, are associated with Google DeepMind group to follow the trend. In sum, experience in the field can help a professor find **appropriate** subjects for research and publication.

时间紧迫+可以加上学科变化快

Nevertheless, professors who want to obtain academic achievements require great amount of time to practice in one field. As Malcolm Gladwell said in “Outliers: The Story of Success”: the key to achieving world-class expertise in any skill, is, to a large extent, a matter of practicing the correct way for a total of around 10,000 hours. Bill Gates met the 10,000-Hour Rule when he gained access to computer in a high school at the age of 13, and spent 10,000 hours programming on it. Since working outside might requires great amount of time, a professor who is directed to work outside the academic world will inevitably **squeeze** time spending on their teaching and researching. In short, by suggesting faculties scatter their attention may consume their precious and limited time and may not be a good news to students who registered their courses.

1. 学科没办法找工作

Furthermore, the **lecturer** in theoretical science such as mathematics, physics, etc., may find it difficult to combine their teaching with relevant professional fields. Although philosophy is the foundation of all disciplines and philosophy trainings can greatly benefit students in critical thinking and problem solving which is the prerequisite of every discipline, it’s a little bit hard for them to find non-academic job if they don’t receive any specific training. It will be unfairly to require them find a job outside the academic world. To sum up, not all faculty need to work outside.

Thus, there is no doubt that working outside has some benefits but it doesn’t mean all faculty should be encouraged to do that.

**54) In order to become well-rounded individuals, all college students should be required to take courses in which they read poetry, novels, mythology, and other types of imaginative literature.**

1. 文学的好

The ‘integrated development’ supporters may argue that advantages for take imaginative literature courses are evident. First, college students should be cautious to narrow down to a field, since disciplines are not independent but interdependent. For instance, since philosophy is the foundation of all disciplines and philosophy trainings can greatly benefit students in critical thinking and problem solving which is the prerequisite of every discipline, it’s understandable that students are directed to take those courses. Moreover, great literature makes them better. According the studies by Raymond Mar, a **psychologist** at York University in Canada, her findings suggest that those "who often read literature appear to be better able to understand other people and view the world from others perspective." In sum, universities, of course, are not vocational schools and their primary goals are to educate, to help students develop their critical faculties, and to broaden their intellectual horizons.

兴趣

Nevertheless, even if there are benefits in taking literature courses, they still could not coerce them to do what they might not interest in.

时间紧迫

**37) Society should identify those children who have special talents and provide training for them at an early age to develop their talents.**

Is that true that if a talent spends more time to train, they might become more successful? … that society should inspire so-called talents to study at an early age? … ‘elitism’ and ‘egalitarian’ … regard finding and developing talents is the most significant goal of a society… all students have the equal rights to study … society should not be haste to determine which child is a talent and provide more opportunities for them.

1. 早教的好

… We do witness lots of gifted individuals reveals their exception at an earlier age and certain amount of training will put them on the hall of fame. A great case in hand is the founder of the CEO and the chief software architect of Microsoft, Bill Gates. The **prodigy** showed exceptional talents at his early childhood. He took an interest in programming the GE system in BASIC, a kind of programming languages, and was fascinated by the machine and how it would always execute software code perfectly. While a student at Harvard, he did not have a definite study plan and spent a lot of time using the school's computers. In order to pursue his own interest, he gave up the opportunity to study at Harvard, and started his own computer software company. In sum, with proper practice at the earliest time, geniuses will produce amazing works and creates a genre on his/her own.

1. 天才怎么定

…the serious drawbacks of electing and training talents at early age are evident. First, not all talents reveal themselves at childhood. For instance, Albert Einstein, the most influential physicist of the 20th century, was a regular boy in primary school. Moreover, if a child doesn’t gain access to certain field, say computers, it’s impossible to find that whether he or she has talent. Last but least, those so-called talents might be just out of curiosity. For example, Fei-Fei Li, the director of the Stanford Artificial Intelligence Lab (SAIL) and the Stanford Vision Lab, first found herself interested in literature when she was young. However only when she shifted toward computer science, she found the magic which drawn all her time and efforts. In sum, there is no aptitude test which can detect children’s talent or fields they could succeed at earlier stage.

1. 训练

In fact, those supposed talents might not really have a gift, they just spend more time on training. As Malcolm Gladwell said in “Outliers: The Story of Success”: success, or seemly talented kid may just be a result of a lucky birthday and a national election system. In this book, Malcolm examines why most of Canadian ice hockey players are born in the first few months of the calendar year. He found out the eligibility cutoff for age-class hockey programs is Jan. 1 in Canada and coaches start streaming the best hockey players into elite programs, where they practice more and play more games and get better coaching. Hence, those so-called talents are just lucky to born nearest the cut-off date, who can spend as much as almost a year practicing than kids born at the other end of the cut-off date. Ultimately, It’s unfair for other children who might be a real talent but lose his opportunity to get better train.

**3) Educational institutions have a responsibility to dissuade students from pursuing fields of study in which they are unlikely to succeed.**

Is that true that some fields, like Computer Science, are more likely to succeed in secular life? I’ll bet your answer is yes. However, do you agree college students should be inspired to choose those fields? People's opinions mainly fall into two categories, and I tag them as the 'personal interest' oriented and the 'job marked' oriented. The 'personal interest' believers regard developing interest as the most significant gold of higher education and education institutions should not push students take courses that don’t interest them. Meanwhile, the 'job market' supporters assert success for a college student is to find a good job, hence students should register a curriculum to match the job requirement and prepare themselves for a position in the vast job markets. Both sides justify themselves with sound reasons. From my perspective, in most cases, I would suggest students take courses interest them regardless of the job market.

软件优势

兴趣

训练

Thus, there is no doubt that educational institutions should give useful information to students on the career choice or on the major choice, but it is not wise at all to suggest a student to pursue a “success” pathway. As a student, the most salient thing is to find out what you really want to do, not just pursue secular success. Educational institutions should disseminate the true meaning of success, that is happiness not just your future salary.