

Core Competence Oriented Vocational Senior High School Students Based on Curriculum Guidelines of 12-year Basic Education – an Initial Exploration of the Trend of Item R&D

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ABSTRACT

The Ministry of Education announced the Curriculum Guidelines of 12-year Basic Education (108 Syllabus for short) on November 28, 2014 and proclaimed in May 2017 that they would apply to students who would take the technological vocational senior high school entrance exam for the academic year 108. The curriculum guidelines for 15 career groups of technological and vocational senior high schools were declared formally in December 2018. The 108 syllabus was based on core competence for curriculum development, realization of screening students for entering TVE schools and inspection of students' learning achievements in TVE schools. 45-60 credits were adjusted for the required specialty and practice courses prescribed by the MOE. There were five subjects to be tested in the TVE Joint College Entrance Examination, including Chinese, English, math, Vocational Subject I and Vocational Subject II. The assessment was based on the learning content specified by the 108 Syllabus and question items were practically and diversely directed. Items were designed and presented in a systematic way and the ability of integrating disciplines and interdisciplinary subjects was focused. The Curriculum Guidelines of 12-year Basic Education were served as the foundation and the core competence to be developed on Chinese and Business Management in the TVE Joint College Entrance Examination was used as an example in this research. Items under study were described as follows:

1. items oriented by the core competence of the Chinese subject: specific goals to be tested, knowledge application in the classroom, emphasis on local themes and diversified texts and message retrieval, application and integration.
2. items oriented by the core competence of the Business and Management Group: integration of industrial practical experiences and lessons, solving problems by applying strategies and system thinking, extension and application.

The results and suggestions provided by this research may help teachers, students and parents of technological and vocational senior high schools to be concerned about the combination of learning and living, instead of a mere emphasis on subject knowledge and skills. Furthermore, they also can be served as a reference for adapting to the current life and facing the challenges of core competence oriented exam items and related researches in the future.

Keywords: Curriculum Guidelines of 12-year Basic Education, core competence, vocational senior high school, the 4-year TVE College Entrance Examination