

# 淡江大學八十七學年度博士班入學考試試題

系別：西洋語文研究所 科目：英文作文

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## Chinese classics good for kids

The Taichung City Government's Department of Education is planning to provide elementary school teachers with training in teaching classical Chinese. The purpose is to produce teachers who can teach the Chinese classics to primary school students. This is a commendable initiative.

Social values have become increasingly pluralistic and increased juvenile delinquency is reported, the department said. Children's exposure to foreign cultures and the pressures they sustain from competition while growing up have made many of them unaware of how to interact properly with other people.

An elementary school in Taichung city has for many years had a program for teaching classical Chinese to students. The program has been supported by the students' parents, the department said.

At present, Chinese classics such as the Analects and the Three-Character Classic are not part of the regular curriculum at the island's elementary schools. These books are, in fact, part of the most valuable traditional Chinese heritage. The wisdom in these classics would help anyone who studies them.

It is not easy, however, to teach these classics, for they are philosophical and written in the language of the ancients. Teaching them would therefore require special training.

This initiative being taken by the Taichung city government is an unprecedented measure in Taiwan. If the books are introduced to children as a formal school course, the valuable concepts in the books will have a stronger influence on the kids. This should help very much in giving each child a clear idea of how to deal with life's problems and interpersonal relationships.

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Instructions:

A short editorial from the China Post is attached for you to read. Explain your opinion about the various views expressed in this editorial, and elaborate on two issues: first, the role of education in society, especially in regard to moral cultivation of students (at all levels of education); secondly, the value of studying literature, especially classics (both Chinese and foreign). Give an appropriate title to your composition.