

Exercise 10:

- a) Study the text in the box below and make a list of reasons why ethnic minority students are not receiving the CSL programme well. What other reasons do you imagine to be behind such the response?
- b) What does the term “reform” in line 1, paragraph 2 refer to?
- c) In line 4 of paragraph 3 it reads: “whether this is the case has to be verified”. Elaborate what it means by “this case” and what the newspaper story means by “it has to be verified”.

Box 1 **Ethnic minority students not receiving the CSL programs well:**

“If a policy is snubbed by nine in 10 of those it intends to serve, commonsense would say that it is probably worthless. In the case of the Chinese-language courses for ethnic minorities in local high schools, they risk degenerating into something futile if no improvements are made. Designed explicitly for ethnic minority pupils, the two courses - Chinese language for service industries and Chinese for hospitality professions - were to offer them an alternative route to qualifying for university admission and civil service recruitment. But enrolment has been low, with only 150 pupils from 15 schools signed up, representing just 12.5 per cent of the 1,200 eligible.

Skepticism was rife when officials announced the much needed reform last year. While the new courses will free ethnic minority pupils of pressure to compete with native speakers in the more difficult Chinese language curriculum under the Diploma of Secondary Education Examination, they were criticized as preparing those who fail to move to universities to do low-end jobs in service industries.

As reported in this newspaper earlier, local schools generally lack confidence in the new course. Some schools stayed away due to concerns over the instructors’ qualifications. Many teachers were said to be part-time instructors with only one or two years of experience. Whether this is the case has to be verified.”

(SCMP editorial, April 9, 2015)

<http://www.scmp.com/comment/insight-opinion/article/1761236/hong-kongs-ethnic-minority-students-ill-served-chinese>