

## Some Tips on Reading Skills of Book and Materials in Self-Learning of Political Theories for University Level Students

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### ABSTRACT

*In fact, reading skill of textbooks, reference materials is a critical skill for studying political theory subject of students. Textbooks, reference materials are the most important learning means, they express most succinctly the knowledge of political theory which offered to students (special is textbooks). So, in order to study political theory subject effectively, firstly, students need to know to exploit the knowledge in the textbooks, references of these subjects. The learning materials are more and more plentiful, students increasingly need to have effective reading skill, how to read, grasp the knowledge required, do not read discursively, not intentionally, must read effectively. That requires each student to build their reading skill of textbooks, reference materials for political theory subjects. This is a practical need which set for the process of learning the political theory subjects of the students.*

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### I. THE MEANING OF READING BOOKS

Book has come into our lives for a long time. It has become an indispensable spirit "dish" of each person. Reading helps us accumulate experience, expand our knowledge and especially, reading help us feel relaxed, enjoyed the life more. As Mongtengkio said: "Like reading a book, students know exchange the sad and inevitable moments in your life to the exciting moments." Reading can make a difference for a person, a life. In brief, reading has many benefits.

Reading is the need of everyone, because book is the favorable learning facility to help people raise the awareness, understanding. Books are treasure of knowledge that humanity created, saved, transmitted to the next generation. That is a very important source of knowledge and endless for everyone, the book with good content will lead us not only to new knowledge but also to the researches and changes on the soul. All human's successes are based on a combination of personal experience with knowledge gained of learning from life and from the books. If reading regularly and having the scientific method, the knowledge of each person will constantly expand, improve and access to the development of science, train to improve the logical thinking ability, scientific working method, career, occupational love and the right attitude for the world around us as well as for myself, especially, foster the excitement, ability and self-study habits all their life... In teaching activity in general, as well as the teaching and study of political theory in particular, reading is a mandatory requirement of teaching activity including teachers and students. When reading, in addition to the overall aim is to enhance the understanding ... Depending on the requirements of the common work, everyone also has private requirements, purposes and methods...

### II. PRACTICE OF READING BOOKS, DOCUMENTS IN THE SELF-STUDY ACTIVITY OF POLITICAL THEORY SUBJECTS OF UNIVERSITY LEVEL STUDENTS IN VIETNAM TODAY

The subjects of political theory have a large role in the learning process of political ideology stance for students of colleges and universities. So, from the first years, students have started to reach the most basic knowledge of these subjects. Currently, the universities have moved from forms of training form of yearly training to the training form of the credits system, set out requirements to improve the quality of teaching and learning towards the student-centered, promote the self-learning and self-study capability of students. With the requirements for improving the quality of teaching and learning time, besides the efforts of the teachers and universities, they require students also need to change the awareness and actions in order to achieve high efficiency in the learning process.

The fact shows that many students do not really like to study the political theory subjects leading to the self-learning activity of students on these subjects is relatively modest, reading skill to find material, accumulating knowledge for themselves has yet to meet the requirements which set forth.

With many current students, the study of political theory subjects is not simple indeed, they face many difficulties in learning skills of these subjects, so, the learning outcome of the political theory subjects of few students is not high. Learning is really the cognitive development process of learners, in that process, by the application of methods, skills, artifices, the learners convert to change the ample knowledge of mankind to their understanding. In other words, learning is activity that learners recreate the historical – social experience through the implementation of learning tasks. So, the learning requires learners must actively seek the knowledge, build the learning skills, methods.

### **III. SOME SUGGESTIONS ON SKILLS, METHODS OF READING, SEARCHING MATERIAL IN THE SELF-STUDY PROCESS OF STUDENTS**

Self-learning is a cognitive acting form of learners to achieve the knowledge, form the skills; help students find new knowledge, new way for action by the efforts of ourselves. In the process of self-study, students can explore on their own, search the knowledge to meet the needs of knowledge, add and expand the knowledge outside the program taught in universities. For university students, self-study activities are independent cognitive activities and take many forms as well as large range such as: self-study on class with direct guidance of teachers; self-study outside the class with indirect guidance of teachers or self-study with a completely independent way.

Any self-study activity always involves the reading books, scientific materials; reading is considered the major work, is essential task for every university student. However, we need to understand that the nature of this work is not how many books should be read, that is how to read and study, we must think and brood, acquire all of what is read. In self-learning activity of political theory subjects, reading books and documents have important implications in order to enhance awareness, education and holistic development for students: help better understanding and strengthen their knowledge; help to train the students the right attitude in learning and research; constant reading helps to form the skills and capabilities to make self-learning capacity of ourselves more and more perfect. In the process of reading, students finish, engrave, expand knowledge, train the ability to analyze, synthesize, perfect the reading skill, presentation and expression. This is one way to learn not only directly serving the learning process for students, but also supporting them with study and learning habits for a long time.

Recognizing the role of reading books and documents in the self-study process on political theory subjects, but in fact, students still quite confuse on how to read accordingly and achieve high efficiency. Here are some skills required to help the study of books and materials of the students achieving their objectives:

#### ***Firstly, to select appropriate books***

This is the first requirement in reading skill because if students choose the books inconsequentially or with unreasonable request, the materials research work of students will not guarantee knowledge as well as goals to be achieved during learning process. In teaching process of Marxist - Lenin and Ho Chi Minh Thought subject, many teachers introduce the books as well as documents related to the content of the module. Students sometimes cannot read all them, so, students should read the books in line with the knowledge indoctrinated. It is important to ensure that the selection of appropriate books that students should determine the purpose of reading books to find the right books, right place to meet the requirements. Before seeking books, students should make the question: "What should we read", "what for?" from that to orient the exploitation of knowledge and find the appropriate books or documents serving the self-study work to improve knowledge.

To be able to select appropriate books and documents quickly, students can consult the previous students, ask directly teachers, search on the Internet and computers system of the library.

#### ***Secondly, to have a thorough grasp of the different reading methods.***

Each type of book, document has different reading method, so, students need to understand the reading method to be able to exploit the information in a book or document.

The references in the subjects of political theory are written with many different forms meaning that content is also mentioned according to the separate directions. Sometimes, they study a same array of topic, but with many different authors, the contents will differ. The main thing that requires students to know the reading method so that they can enjoy and understand the problem in each different type of book, material.

To be effective, students can read in the following ways:

- Skimming once to understand overview of content of books or documents such as reading the first page, seeing the table of contents, the conclusion.

- Reading entire books or documents, in this process, students can comment, evaluate detailed content, style, texture and draw useful things for their learning by themselves.
- Reading according to main point, carefully mull important arguments, the parts related to research issues or manipulate knowledge learnt on solving the problems in life. For example, the subject of Ho Chi Minh's Ideology has many problems that can apply, contacting with the self students to create the firm political bravery such as: *the content of the path of transition to Socialism Assembly of Vietnam, the presentation of ownership and owner of clean and strong State building, the leadership role of the Party in the period of ruling party .....*, or to cultivate, train the personality such as: *learning according to the moral example of Ho Chi Minh; preserve and acquire in order to build a new culture in Vietnam in the current stage of integration ...*
- On the other hand, students need to pay attention to reading speed, must learn how to read faster, read by eye and not be out loud, read and remember at the same time, summarize quickly the contents read.

***Thirdly, to positively think and record scientifically when reading.***

Thinking when reading is a very important part which helps students to visualize ideas, compare, compare such ideas, and thus discover the contents of the book; draw conclusions and correctly evaluate on the issues raised in the book. Besides, students should record the content which is considered as importance, significance in handling the educational purposes or personal needs. Reading and recording are always associated with each other, have complementary effects each other in the process of self-study and the effectiveness of the reading shown in the recording result when reading.

For example, if students want to find out the *creativity of Ho Chi Minh on the revolutionary path of national liberation in Vietnam* in reference of "Ho Chi Minh's Ideology and Vietnam revolutionary path" of General. Vo Nguyen Giap, students must really think, carefully mull the relevant content in the document to find arguments shown the creativity such as: creation of the national liberation revolution path, about socialism and the transition to socialism in Vietnam, on building Party, a new State ... students need to record the problems, summarize and draw final content for the answer. In the process of such thinking and recording will help students have a thorough grasp of knowledge more, not only finding out the answer, but also understanding more about the other contents of the documents and strengthening the knowledge and applying appropriately the learning process of this subject.

When writing a document section, students can extract an entire paragraph or summarize a part depending on their using purpose but need to keep the document verbatim, the right idea of the author. Students need to record the address of quote for easy searching later if necessary.

For example, when reading documents in order to apply for the knowledge of the Vietnam Communist Party's Revolution Line subject, when referring to the opinions, students need to have specific quotes, must search the name of author of such opinion, name of work, document, publication year and in pages quoted... and need to positively think to be able to make their own judgments, comments on the matter should be discussed.

It can be said that, thinking helps students understand the important content, point in the book or document to have the methods to record most appropriately with their brooding. Record is the way which helps students look at their own minds, think about the origin of problems, how to acquire new things from books. These are two very important processes, to create conditions for students to improve their thinking capacity and the recording ability, create good habits in the process of reading and effectiveness of self-learning activities.

For students who are not specialized in political education, the reading and recording sometimes serve the self-learning activities or to ensure knowledge of the seminars, group discussions with the specialized students of political education, the record when reading even has a large role in providing the knowledge to serve the requirements of the subjects as well as for jobs after graduated. Specialized subjects in training students of political education always have cohesion with each other, to learn well the below subjects, students should have a thorough grasp of knowledge of the previous subjects. Therefore, the accumulation of specialized knowledge by recording content of readings has significance to meet subject objectives.

#### **IV. CONCLUSION**

Reading is one of skills requiring the effort to be able to get the knowledge. At university level, reading books and documents not only help students meet the requirements of the subjects, but also help them improve their own intellectual capital. However, in order to improve the thinking ability, creative ability, students should read more relevant documents. Please remember that the learning process is always a difficult process to occupy knowledge and inculcate learned knowledge, learning is not only in high school but also in outside society with self-education of yourself. Therefore, you should choose the books, materials suiting for profession as well as the purpose of life to help yourself become more complete with the knowledge increasingly diversified. Knowledge resource in society is endless, the book is a valuable asset, so, you should choose for yourself the useful,

effective reading method to train yourself as well as your level of awareness. Trying to be person who knowsto choose and read books - important assets for personality development luggage each individual.

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