

Study Guide for 2021 Debate Propositions

NON-POLICY DEBATE (非政策性辯論)

Resolved: That the use of standardized English proficiency tests as a college graduation requirement in Taiwan should be discontinued.

Currently, dozens of colleges and universities in Taiwan have set English proficiency requirements as part of the threshold for graduation. For this reason, undergraduates usually scramble to take standardized English language proficiency tests outside school, such as GEPT and TOEFL, in hope of meeting the benchmarks established by their respective colleges. Such a practice has, in recent years, provoked a wave of discussion among students and scholars alike, some of whom argue that this requirement unnecessarily burdens undergraduates. Others, by contrast, maintain that this is a legitimate practice to elevate students' English language skills. What role does this graduation requirement play? And does the threshold/benchmark really make a difference?

As this is a non-policy debate, your emphasis should NOT be placed on how to prohibit colleges in Taiwan from setting such a criterion. The affirmative thus need not detail the plan for a nationwide ban, nor should the negative ask questions concerning that issue. Instead, they should focus on contending the reasons and evidence for or against the abovementioned graduation requirement.

Following is a list of references to serve as groundwork, which means it is in no way comprehensive or flawless. Many of them also contain information or arguments that may not be directly relevant and thus warrant closer examination. Do exercise caution when reading and/or using them.

References:

56所大學設英文畢業門檻 3所綁校外英檢挨轟圖利廠商

<https://tw.appledaily.com/life/20190119/GPO73AJO2BWB7SCKWOJ3AVPME4/>

English Benchmark Policy for Graduation in Taiwan's Higher Education: Investigation and Reflection

<https://www.academypublication.com/ojs/index.php/jltr/article/view/jltr080610631072>

大學強迫你考英檢，合法嗎？（as well as other essays by the same author）

<https://opinion.cw.com.tw/blog/profile/351/article/7269>

<https://opinion.cw.com.tw/blog/profile/351/article/7819>

傳說中的政大外語畢業門檻 是大學自治還是大學自縊？

https://opinion.cw.com.tw/blog/profile/52/article/5212?utm_source=opinion&utm_medium=extend&utm_campaign=XX

The impact of implementing English proficiency tests as a graduation requirement at Taiwanese universities of technology

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/44008561_The_impact_of_implementing_english_proficiency_tests_as_a_graduation_requirement_at_Taiwanese_universities_of_technology

大學需要英文畢業門檻嗎？

<https://www.viewpointtaiwan.com/columnist/大學需要英文畢業門檻嗎?/>

教師對英語畢業門檻之態度初探

<http://libwri.nhu.edu.tw:8081/Ejournal/AV01010107.pdf>

唐嘉蓉. (2011). 英語畢業門檻考試對大學生英語學習的影響. 外國語文研究, (14), 1-24.

<http://nccur.lib.nccu.edu.tw/bitstream/140.119/72484/1/1-24.pdf>

POLICY DEBATE (政策性辯論)

Resolved: That the Taiwanese government should legalize gender designation of transgender people on ID documents.

Taiwan has come a long way as far as gender equality is concerned, making history in 2019 through adopting Asia's first law that allows same-sex couples to marry. That said, there is still a long road ahead toward true inclusiveness, especially when it comes to transgender people. LGBT rights advocates emphasize the need for boosting legal recognition of transgender individuals, but some hold that other measures, such as public education about LGBT groups, would suffice. With Taiwan set to introduce electronic national ID cards soon, it is thus an opportune moment to look into the issue of gender designation of transgender individuals on ID documents. Should there be a policy that allows transgender citizens to choose their gender marker, and to do so without a surgical procedure when such a marker does not correspond with one's physical sex? Do the benefits of this policy outweigh its cost, or the other way around? This debate offers an opportunity to reason through this controversy. In this proposition, "gender designation" refers to how an individual's gender is legally recognized. "ID documents" refer to documents (national ID being one) that contain information which can be used to legally identify a person.

As this is a policy debate, both the affirmative and the negative have to address a comprehensive policy conceived for this proposition. Here is **a word of caution**: This debate tournament, aligning with "traditional" policy debate, prioritizes use of logic and evidence, as well as arguments from the pragmatic perspective, instead of something philosophical or derived from advanced debate theories or strategies. Thus, no kritiks are allowed in structuring the affirmative or the negative case, and the negative counterplan, if the negative decides to run one, has to be non-topical (meaning the counterplan cannot affirm the proposition) and non-conditional (meaning the negative cannot ditch their counterplan during the debate).

Following is a list of references to serve as groundwork, which means it is in no way comprehensive. Many of them also contain information or arguments that are not without flaws and thus warrant closer examination. Do exercise caution when reading and/or using them.

References:

各國跨性別登記制度 (Research on transgender recognition around the world and the implications for Taiwan)

<https://www.ris.gov.tw/documents/data/8/6/a8d8e8df-b7e3-4a35-a7c5-49d30e7634e2.pdf>

跨性別訴訟：性別登記、免術換證、與空間使用 (How transgender people in Taiwan, Japan, and Hong Kong strive to have their identity recognized by law)

<https://tapcpr.org/hot-news/event/international-affairs/各國婚姻平權運動進程與阻力/2019/11/28/跨性別訴訟-性別登記-免術換證-與空間使用>

現行內政部身分證性別變更相關規定是否有違憲疑慮？（The constitutionality of altering the gender designation on one's ID in Taiwan）

<https://www.legis-pedia.com/QA/question/839>

Israel Approves Allowing Transgender People to Change Gender on IDs Without Surgery

<https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/.premium-israel-approves-allowing-transgender-people-to-change-gender-on-ids-without-surgery-1.8589457>

Guide to Legal Gender Recognition (from the Council of Europe)

<https://rm.coe.int/1680492119>

The Rights of Transgender Persons Globally (from International Bar Association)

<https://shorturl.at/ckAC3>

Trans People and Legal Recognition: What the U.S. Federal Government Can Learn from Foreign Nations

<https://core.ac.uk/download/pdf/56360383.pdf>

Hungary's Parliament Votes to End Legal Recognition of Transgender People

<https://time.com/5838804/hungary-gender-recognition-vote-transgender/>

Advocating a Broader Understanding of the Necessity of Sex-Reassignment Surgery Under Medicaid

<https://www.nyulawreview.org/issues/volume-77-number-6/advocating-a-broader-understanding-of-the-necessity-of-sex-reassignment-surgery-under-medicaid/>

The Gender Recognition Act needs reform but self-identification is not the answer

<https://morningstaronline.co.uk/article/gender-identity-debate-explored>