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### Examinations 'O' and 'A' Levels

Sir,

A letter of mine has been referred to by one of your correspondents; Sylvia Mortoza vide her letter of December 23.

'Better' is a subjective term. She says that I am not right in my contention in saying that Senior Cambridge 'O' levels are better. I am willing to go a long way for her right not to consider Senior Cambridge Examinations as "better" but I do disagree with her view that I am wrong in my contention.

Secondly, the London University GCE examinations do provide certificates to the successful candidates, but they are, in a way, incomplete as they merely mention the grades obtained, (A,B,C,etc.) but no Division/Class per se.

Thirdly, Senior Cambridge grades have a range from 1-9 (9 is fail, while 1 is the best) and "credit" is 6 and above. So, 1,2,3 is not necessary for an ordinary level pass as she contends.

Fourthly, and most importantly, the spirit of the letter was missed by your correspondent completely. It was a letter which called for an examination of the system in which the pupils are being taught. It was a letter which pointed out the role of the school teachers who teach (they say 'coach') the students at home instead of doing a thorough job at the school, in the classrooms. This would have to be done if the examination were Senior Cambridge (see why I called SC better?) as students would be taking their examination from a particular school, whose reputation would be at stake and where good results by the students would bring name and fame to the school.

For the information of your readers, the cost of appearing in one 'O' level subject for June '93 examinations is Taka 2,136.00. For 'A' levels it is much higher. A student has to pass several subjects (5) before he/she can proceed further. Just multiply!

Lastly, the importance of the 'O' and 'A' levels will diminish considerably if only the government allows the opening up of English-medium schools (proper schools, not tuto-

rials) and colleges, in the country. Listening, Mr. Sircar?  
Javed Helali, G-20, Zakir Hossain Road, Dhaka-1207

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