The Debate: Should Engineering Become A Compulsory GCSE Subject?

Engineering is where it all starts. It is where the thought switches on as well as the light bulb; should it really be made a compulsory subject? First of all, what is engineering? Engineering is to create – to build a form of something that (for example) could be in the fields of agriculture, mechanics, or biomedicine. However, what does engineering mean to you?

Engineering plays a massive role in human life. No corner of the world goes without engineering, especially in developing countries where it is needed the most. Having it as a compulsory GCSE subject would be majorly significant, due to the fact that children nowadays enjoy being more ‘hands on’ and practical rather than sitting down and being literal. Setting engineering as a compulsory GCSE subject would benefit the youth, especially because they are more capable of learning and can absorb more information than children did back in the 1800s-1900s. To teach it at an earlier stage of a person’s life can cover years’ worth of hard work and comprehending; this means that they can familiarise with engineering during their time at college and university.

This is particularly the case with women. Only 6% of females in the U.K. study some area of engineering, and the rest are males. Also, results from 2011 that 46% of all state secondary schools sent no girls to study Physics at A-level. These statistics show that the handful of females that do study engineering fill in a limited amount of space and are metaphorically barred. Women are constantly turned down for practical jobs, and if we decided to make it a compulsory GCSE subject, that there would be less of a controversy for career choice, because it would be a decision handled by the government.

When you hold a piece of equipment in your hand, do you ever wonder where it has come from? For example, your phone. How can such a petit piece of technology be powered by even more lilliputian fragments of technology? One of the main drives a human being constantly strives to banish is curiosity. Curiosity to know where things come from, curiosity to know how
things are made, and curiosity to know how to create things you want to welcome into our society. Engineering is the answer and the only answer.

A successful engineer by the name of Hayao Miyazaki stated that, “Airplanes are not tools for war. They are not for making money. Airplanes are beautiful dreams. Engineers turn dreams into reality.” And that dream will only soar if you dream at an early stage – that dream will only develop if you dream now. Just as Maths, Science and English are extremely useful theoretically, imagine what power they would hold combined. That is where engineering steps in.

Furthermore, adding engineering into the compulsory subjects for GCSE maintains a good balance of skills that are needed in future work experience.

English: verbal communication and creativity

Maths: intellectuality and problem solving

Science: discovery and group work

Engineering: verbal communication, creativity, intellectuality, problem solving, discovery, group work...adding on independence and leadership skills.

So, in my opinion, I strongly believe that engineering should be a compulsory GCSE subject, due to the fact that it is the most valuable access to the future we can grasp onto. The sooner taught, the better. To get a child interested in a crucial part of life in advance will benefit them dramatically in knowing what they want to do later on in life.

There are so many directions and paths that engineering can lead to, so why not take the risk and find out where your destination is?

Engineering will be the most wanted job in the future, so why not aim for it now?