**Department of Curriculum and Instruction / ELT Unit College of Education**

**My Educational Philosophy**

**Introduction:**

Teaching is the mother of all other professions. It is a source of honor and pride for it qualifies students to enter any major in future. I chose to be a teacher because I want to be an effective and productive member of the society. I want to be brave enough to tackle challenges and become a change agency. Doing so will allow me to contribute to build the economy of my country and take it right to the peak of success. Through an effective education, Oman is going compete with the best countries in the whole world.

**Purpose:**

Teaching is never only about delivering a particular curriculum, but it is an integrative and systematic process. Teachers should act as a role model, teach and assess proper behavior, teach content, and guide students to succeed. Being a teacher who graduated with a high GPA does not guarantee his/her success in the profession at all for teaching is not only about your competency in the content you teach but also about your ability to deal with all aspects of education at the same time. Effective teachers are those who can deliver a difficult content in an easy way. Not only that but they should also be able to prepare their students to be confident, qualified, and successful in their societies.

**Curriculum:**

Curriculum does not only mean books, as many teachers wrongly think. Following the school book or considering it as the only source of teaching kills students’ motivation and causes them to be passive learners. In addition, the knowledge that those books provide is never enough to be taught for today’s students. They have a huge amount of knowledge about various aspects of life that is able to challenge teachers themselves. Thus it is highly essential for teachers to use different methods other than the school books and to be intellectually prepared in order to deal with the different kinds of knowledge the students come up with. This does not mean the school books are not important, but the point is that they are not enough. Activities, educational games, and technology are amongst the most effective contemporary teaching methods. They help

students become more motivated and challenge the idea that English is difficult. Basically, learning by fun is an effective way of teaching especially for young learners.

**Teaching Methods:**

Unlike in the past, where teachers used the grammar-translation method almost in all classes, today we have a variety of teaching methods to use. Personally, I do not see that there is any teaching method that is too old to be used today. The point is that teachers should not stick to one method because each method is used for a different purpose. Nowadays, the communicative method is one of the most used methods in the classrooms for it allows students to be active, communicative, and confident. In fact, it contributes to building a personality that is able to function well and communicate properly in the society.

Besides those teaching methods, it is important to implement technology in the contemporary classrooms. It has become a very effective way of teaching for students are skilled enough to use it and communicate through it. Having, at least, a projector, a laptop, and speakers inside the classrooms makes a huge difference in the teaching and learning process. They will provide teachers with a quick and easy way to present and share particular contents clearly with the whole class.
Technology can be very effective when it comes to teaching grammar, because you can use a smart board to explain the rules, or play a YouTube video, or even some relevant pictures. For speaking, it is good that teachers themselves start the discussion, or they use pictures to trigger the students’ interest. The most important thing is to leave speaking for the students and give them the time to express their thoughts. For reading, flashcards of even the students’ notebooks are good enough to allow students to brainstorm their thoughts about a particular text so that they share new ideas with the whole class. For writing, planning an outline is a very fundamental stage that all students should practice. For this purpose, teachers can use a projector to show the students a sample of an outline or the steps to create a good outline so that they can design their own outlines.

**Classroom Management:**

Classroom management is not only about reward and punishment, which is a wrong spread conception; it is way more than that. Since the classroom is the students’ second home, it should be well organized, safe, and proper to their age. The chairs and tables should be designed in a way that allows whole class, individual, and group work. They should be easy to move and in a safe condition. The walls and the ground of the classroom should motivate students. This can be achieved through choosing a flourishing and motivating color or even through designing posters. It is also important that teachers manage the usage of methods in the classroom. For example, they should make sure that the technological devices work properly before they start the lesson so that they do not waste time. In addition, time is the framework that the whole class should be based on.
It has to be managed properly. Students should be informed with the time they have to finish a particular task and teachers should take advantage of each single minute they have.
According to behaviorism, students’ behavior needs to be managed in order to provide good education. A checklist is a good method that helps you and students to manage classroom behavior. It is also good if those checklists are hanged on the wall of the classroom where everybody can see his/her performance. They also help teachers to have a record of students’ behavior if needed in any meeting with the parents. When punishing students, teachers should be careful not to harm students either physically or psychologically for the purpose of punishment is adjusting behavior not harming students. Punishment can instead be implemented verbally or through extra work beside other ways. Reward should also be considered in classroom for it highly encourages students to boost the good behavior and stay well behaving through the whole semester. It can be verbal or through gifts or marks or any other effective way. The most important thing to remember is that without classroom management, a lesson can never succeed.

**Teacher Role:**

Teachers’ role is never limited to the classroom confines. According to the Essentialism school of thought, the teacher is the one who guides and directs the educational process. They are responsible for the classroom environment, for each student, for the school, and for the whole society. They are the ones who should provide a safe and quiet classroom environment. Teachers can achieve active learning by showing enthusiasm and confidence in their students’ work in order to make them achieve academic success. They also need to consider individual differences and try to identify and solve students’ problems. They are responsible for teaching the students concepts of sharing, cooperation, respect, and success, because according to Progressivism, group work is a much more effective way to succeed than competition. They should give students equal chances to succeed and participate in class. Teachers should not prefer some students over others based on their gender, race, or economic or physical condition. Thus, I follow Idealism school in considering that mind is over matter. Many students are from rich families and they look very tidy, but this does not mean that they are smarter than the other students. It could be, but it is not a condition. I think there is no benefit from being rich without having intelligence, because intelligent students succeed even if they are poor. Also, there are many handicapped students in the society and they achieve even better than some normal students. Teachers also should use appropriate teaching methods in order to provide education of a high quality. In addition, they should be an effective member of the school through participating in the management of school activities and representing the school properly outside. Moreover, they should contribute to the whole society through some activities like volunteering. In fact, the teacher being a good role model helps students to be good role models in their society as well.

A point that should not be ignored is applying the Islamic principles while teaching the language, according to the Islamic philosophy. For example, teachers can ask students to form sentences which include the meaning of honesty in a grammar lesson. I believe that every teacher can apply this, not only Islamic Studies teachers. In addition, involving the history and culture of Oman in education is important. As an English teacher, I can for example ask my students to do a presentation about the Omani culture which is one of the Essentialism School’s purposes.

Teachers should not forget the importance of involving parents in the educational process. The teachers can organize meetings with parents every week in order to discuss the academic level of their children and find causes and solutions for the difficulties if found. This may be useful for the teacher to know the students’ social situation in order to recognize the best way to deal with them. Also, these meetings are useful for the parents to know what their children need improvement in.

**Students Role:**

Having a good teacher does not guarantee producing good students. Students themselves need to accept the positive change and cooperate with the teacher to achieve it.
Basically, the teacher can open the door for the students, but he/she cannot force them to enter the class if they do not want to do so. According to the Progressivism philosophy, students are the focal point of the whole educational system. They should recognize their importance to build the country and work hard accordingly. They are responsible for themselves and for their classroom; keep it well organized, clean, and in a good condition. They are also responsible for their time and efforts to learn. In addition, they should know that they are the main source for the teacher to receive feedback and suggestions to make their education better. Fulfilling those roles properly gives students a better chance to succeed in future.

**Assessment and Evaluation:**

When teachers have done their preparation and implementation of the appropriate teaching methods, the time to assess and evaluate comes. Summative assessment was the only type of assessment used in the past; however, teachers today use continuous assessment besides it. The latter gives more accurate information about the students’ levels because it does not rely on written tests only, which fails in some cases to give a real indication of students’ levels for many reasons, but on many other ways such as oral assessment and short quizzes. Unlike in summative assessment, through continuous assessment students keep active throughout the whole semester not only at the end of it. This ongoing evaluation is suggested by the Reconstructionism philosophy.

**Conclusion:**

In choosing to become a teacher, I will try to make my students the best academically, personally, and ethically and I will do my best to be a good model for my students. My aim is to make the teaching process enrich me, the students, and the other teachers. I am able to deal with the challenges of teaching in the future in the technology used in the educational institutions, the ways of teaching, the curriculum, or any other changes. I will do the best I can in order to educate the students in a correct way, help them to succeed and prepare them for future.