

5D Grand Tour

Seoul

Group 1



26th March 2015 – 29th March 2015

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Introduction

The destination this time was Seoul, Korea. Thanks to the success of K-pop and Korean TV dramas, Korea has been one of the most must-go countries in Asia. It is worth learning from their culture as well as learning to be independent.

With the participation of Grand tour, it is hoped that our horizon will be widened based on the rich culture. What is more important is hold bonds between classmates and teachers. To know more about each other and has a final enjoyment before the DSE examination.



(Who are the best? We are!)

Day 1

Hongdae Street

Spot Description:



(There were a lot of beautiful socks!)

Hongdae Street is an area near Hongik University in Seoul, South Korea. It is an enticing spot with its well-known indie spirit, urban street arts and underground band musicians.

Similar to Mong Kok in Hong Kong, visitors can enjoy shopping and tasting snacks in Hongdae Street. Cosmetic shops like Etude House and The Face Shop is definitely suitable for young ladies. Boutiques can also be found on both sides of the street for everyone to jump on the bandwagon.

Boys will not feel disappointed though. Although boys might not feel interested in girly products, they can choose to taste some local cuisines like Ddeokbokki, Sundae, Fish Cakes and Corn dogs.

Doubtlessly, Hongdae Street is a shopping paradise and everyone can find the place enjoyable and would surely plan for the next visit. Beyond a shadow of doubt, it is a favorable place for people to chill out with families and friends.

Reflection:

Hongdae Street was the first site we visited in the first night. The place was imbued with alluring shops which sell inexpensive goods that we were being completely captivated. Although the street was cramped, it could still immerse us in excitement and arouse our ardor. We went to a shop which sells socks at a low price. The patterns on the socks were cute and our members have bought a lot for self-consumption or souvenirs. It is difficult for us to find a place in Hong Kong which sells inexpensive goods with good quality. Therefore, all of us were so excited.

Other than that, we realized the local food culture when we walked through the night market. The style of tuck shops was so different compared to Hong Kong. Our female group mates were attracted by the cosmetic shops especially by the masks. It showed the quality assurance of Korean products and we were reassured in buying Korean cosmetic products.



(We were craze in buying souvenirs.)

The rising global status and popularity of Korea can be attributed to the Korean waves in recent years. Koreans constantly improve their products' quality development; their culture in different aspects like music, TV dramas and cosmetic products.

We all think that Hong Kong can learn from the promotion of Korea culture like the night market. It is uncommon to find a night market in Hong Kong nowadays. However, it is very popular in other places like Korea and Taiwan. The night market attracts tourists the most because of its food diversity. Hong Kong now is occupied by overseas brand shops and is losing its own local culture. A lot of featured stores are forced to close because of the unaffordable high land rent.

Therefore, developing night markets in Hong Kong can undoubtedly preserve the local food culture in Hong Kong. In the night market, shops selling remarkable snacks like rice noodles, Gei Dan Jai, wrapped wafers, fluffy steamed cake and fish balls can be included with low price. It can be a new tourist spot in Hong Kong, at the same time, it can also keep the local culture in Hong Kong.

Visiting Hongdae Street is a memorable experience to all of us. We have tried a lot of local street food and experienced the fun of shopping. At the same time, the idea of developing night market in Hong Kong has also pop up in our minds. We all felt blissful when we visited this place.

Day 2

Hongik University

Spot description:



(Happy memories were all captured!)

Hongik University, which is commonly called as "Hongdae", is located at the central Seoul in the Mapo-gu district.

Having a lot of acclaimed alumni in the arts field, it is also best known for its School of Architecture and Fine Arts. Being hailed as the most famed and renowned Design Institution in South Korea, it has nurtured numerous students with comprehensive skills and programs, making them versatile and competent.

Reflection:

Having a visit to Hongik University perhaps was the most memorable and splendid itinerary throughout the whole journey.

Not only did we learn more about the education system in South Korea through the talk, but we also gained ample knowledge in the Arts field by visiting the Arts Centre.

At the beginning, we were having a talk and watching a video clip with five local students in the hall. Though the video was entirely in Korean, our class watched it attentively.

In a bid to obtain more knowledge, we grasped chances and took the initiative to ask meaningful questions. We learnt more about arts and cultural customs, for example. With self-discipline, the talk ran smoothly and it was successfully held with lots of fun.

Then, we were led to visit the Arts exhibition. Being bounded by the artworks done by the local students, we immersed ourselves into the mysterious world of Arts, having a lot of excitement and strong sentiments.



(We were learning enjoyably in the Hongik University! ☺)

Trick Eye Museum

Spot Description:

We visited the Trick Eye Museum, a popular tourist spot, on the second day. Although we were not art fanatics, we felt surprised when we saw a host of paintings. The paintings on the museum walls and floors were realistic. There are various themed galleries such as historical, religious belief, nature and animals which attracts people in different age group. We chose the theme that we like and took photos.

Taking the funny photos, we felt exhilarated. To render the photos more realistic, we adopted different poses. For example, a painting is about people trying to escape in times of flooding. Therefore, one stood on a wood with one leg only and pretended to be frightened. Another painting is about ballet. We acted like the elegant ballet dancers. Moreover, the designer played tricks on the famous art work- Mona Lisa. The face of that new 'Mona Lisa' amazed us.

There is an ice museum too. Not having been there before, we were excited. Although it was extremely freezing, all of us were enthusiastic. We have never thought that ice could be art.



(We made our unique story!)



(One of our group mates pretended to be dancing with a charismatic boy.)

Reflection:

Although this activity seems childish, it was indeed meaningful and inspiring. After looking at the paintings, we learnt different cultures such as Buddhism. Moreover, we were inspired by the art works. Using 2D photos to become 3D illusions seemed to be whimsical dream, but the designers rendered it possible. With perseverance, one of our school mottos, it is not impossible to make the dream come true.

Without our participation, the paintings were some art works only. However, we turned the paintings into our story- we were the playwrights. Visiting the 3D Trick Eye Museum was definitely a remarkable experience. It was really a real eye opener to us.



(Our enthusiastic group mates played happily under the cold environment.)

Myeongdong

Spot description:

Myeongdong, a famous tourist destination, is one of the women's favorite paradises. This is a place where people can find an array of shops selling different kinds of products, from cosmetic and skin products, to clothes, bags and even shoes. The prices are usually higher than in other tourist spots owing to its central location. All of the goods mainly come from well-known Korean brands. Also, with the prevalence of foreign goods, various foreign brand-name shops are everywhere to be found there such as Uniqlo and H&M, famous for their young and simple clothes, tempting plenty of teenagers.

Lots of Korean celebrities are being used as a gimmick to attract young customers particularly those from overseas. Their pictures are usually printed on the promotional leaflet or board in front of the shops so as to catch the eyes from people, and go inside shopping. Most importantly, many shops' sellers can speak other foreign languages like Putonghua and English in an attempt to cater for the need of people from overseas. They are friendly and active which create a good impression from my first sight.

Besides Myeongdong is a shopping paradise, street food is probably not uncommon to be found too. There is a main street with loads of hawkers selling food and beverages located on the both sides, making a crowded and warm ambience. Scrumptious food like long ice-cream, fish cake and deukboggi (Korean fried spicy rice cake) are common. They all are not costly and are incredibly attractive.



(Taeyeon is a member of GirlsøGeneration which is one of the popular Korean groups.)

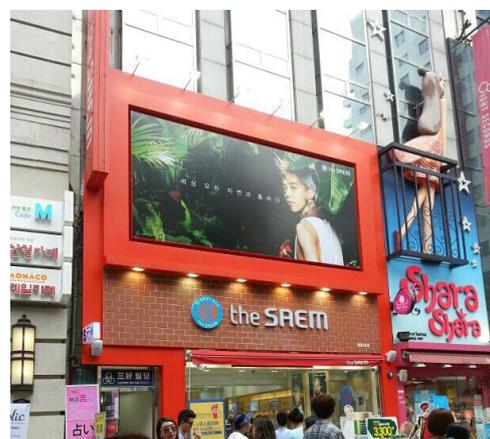
Café shops are ubiquitous in Korea and so in Myeongdong. Numerous café shops are in every narrow street there and a myriad of Korean youngsters and tourists like to relax from busy life. The shops offer kinds of coffees and desserts like waffles. These are great places to relieve from our stressed life.

Reflection:

Myeongdong is definitely one of the marvelous places we have ever been, because of its wide variety of food and fashion and cosmetic shops, allowing people to buy plenty of things more conveniently without searching from places to places.

Apart from the satisfaction of goods we have, beyond all doubt, the understandings on Korean culture are enhanced during the visit. We certainly know how huge and influential cosmetic and skin markets in Korea are, which have allowed more and more branches opened in different countries, including Hong Kong, a metropolitan city.

We all enjoyed the street food we got in Myeongdong. We found that the sense of hygiene is high in Korea as there is a lack of rubbish bins on the street. As a result, we found it was difficult to throw our garbage after eating. However, the streets still remained clean. It reveals the Koreans are mostly well-educated and willing to create a



(Cosmetic shops sweep Myeongdong.)

comfortable and tidy environment. Unlike Hong Kong, there are loads of bins wherever in shopping malls or main streets, and sometimes those are out of capacity, which the supply is bigger than the demand. In other words, the number of rubbish bins in Hong Kong is insufficient. Much garbage is always seen on the ground.

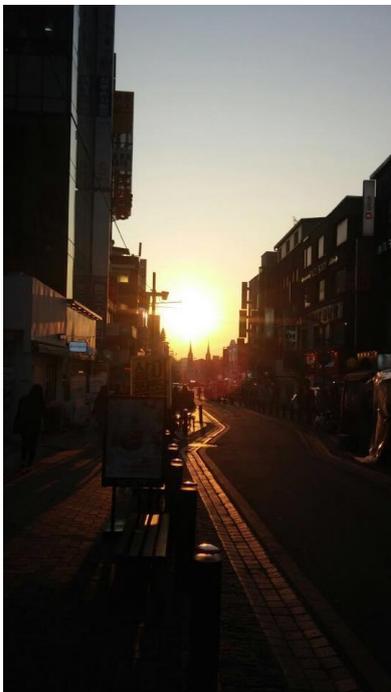
Hence, Hongkongers should take Koreans as role models and learn to protect and make an eco-friendly environment in Hong Kong.

Myeongdong is actually similar to Causeway Bay in Hong Kong, a crowded and bustling place, with numerous large local and foreign brand shops and small boutiques. Tourists may need a day to search for countless traditional as well as special products. In both Causeway Bay and Myeongdong, there are a few big shopping malls selling clothes or hand-made goods.

Indeed, we had so much fun in Myeongdong!

Sinchon

Spot Description:



(The stunning sunset in Sinchon)

Sinchon is known to locals of Korea for being a shopping and dining paradise but not for tourists. Stepping in the street of Sinchon, we can smell the taste of mouth-watering street food and enjoy the unique and eye-catching Korean style all over the street.

Conceivably, Sinchon is a hub of different kinds of Korean style and a place to cater all the needs of teens in Seoul. Having a myriad of shops, ranging from boutique to peddler selling snacks, Sinchon provides mainly teenagers with goods in reasonable and affordable price.

Photo Description:



It was the first time many classmates ate the egg muffin for many classmates, which is actually a ubiquitous food among all Koreans, and it didn't let us down. The egg muffin was exquisitely delicious in terms of flavor and texture. While our stomach was complaining about being too full and satisfied, the bouncy and the fragrant egg muffin attracted me to eat one more.

(These were the traditional egg muffins.)

Photo Description:



Not only did the flavour of kimchi melt my heart but also the chewy rice cake, it made me fall for Korean food head over heels. The combination of rice cake and kimchi might be too fatty and heavy for somebody's liking, and therefore the restaurant provided us with perillas to balance the salty taste. We could not help devour the perillas thanks to its unprecedentedly fresh and succulent taste.

(The dinner we had was frying Korean rice cake with vegetables and kimchi.)

Reflection:

The time we spent together in Sinchon was indisputably great and memorable to all of us thanks to the palatable food and the street was rife with our joy.

Never in our life could we shop and spend our time like we did this time. We were not shopaholics, but exploring new excitement and enjoying new stuff with our beloved ones was absolutely incredible to us. We were glad to have ourselves blessed with our classmates and have the chance to get there together.

The trip to Sinchon had also rectified our fallacy of language barrier in Seoul. Originally, we were worried about the problem of speaking different language, however, to our surprise, most of the merchant in street do speak Mandarin, and even some of them could write Chinese.

Sinchon seems to be a place that reflects the prosperity of Seoul. People down the street were all helpful and willing to point us the way to go. It was a high time for us to learn from the beauty of other culture and escape from the busy and tedious lifestyle we have in Hong Kong.

Sinchon will undoubtedly continue to be one of the destinations in our next visit to Seoul



(Street food in Sinchon)

Day 3

Strawberry Site

Spot Description:



(We had a special experience at the strawberry site!)

On the third day of our journey, we started our day by a one-hour-travelling to the strawberry site located at the countryside, which is far away from the M Hotel. After our arrival, one lady warmly welcomed us to the site, who is one of the owners of the strawberry land.

After a brief introduction to ways to pick strawberry, all of us walked into the glasshouse with excitement. The classification of two groups into two different glasshouses made the place less crowded. Although we have just finished our breakfast in the hotel, we could not resist the extraordinary taste of strawberry.

As we are not mature enough in the skills to choose strawberry, many of us picked the large one without any consideration. Therefore, not even half an hour, the distributed box had been full of freshly-picked strawberry. In order to keep this once-in-lifetime-experience moment, all of us took this photo together with strawberry, no matter in the mouth, hand or box. With a shiny smiley face, no matter students or teachers enjoyed this great dessert time together. All in all, we could use one word to conclude this special experience: ðBravo!ö

Reflection:

Before the trip, a majority of us decided to take the strawberry-picking as one of our destinations in the grand tour. However, a small group of us might have a thought that we can easily have it in Hong Kong, maybe just a 15-minute walk to the nearby supermarket. Besides, the strawberry site is clearly far away from our accommodation, it might be a waste of time to travel between urban and rural area. Therefore, some of us did not hold a positive attitude towards the activity.



(With much joy, we enjoyed our time there.)

However, we all changed our mind after the interesting and meaningful try. First of all, we all have a common ground that the activity was a unique experience. Although we are now sixteen, or some of us may be seventeen, rarely do we have the opportunity to travel to rural areas to relax ourselves in this busy city. Moreover, not many of us have tried picking strawberry in Hong Kong. Large group of us can enjoy the taste of strawberry by opening the refrigerator at our home. Therefore, we believe that the activity provided us with a special opportunity to get a taste of really fresh strawberry in a comfortable environment.

To many of us, it was a special try as we can hardly have the same kind of experience in our city.

Furthermore, the nice attitude of the owners impressed us a lot. Before the grand tour, we all had an impression that Koreans are polite and nice, no matter through news or Korean drama. However, few of us got a taste of it as we have never been to the place before. Through the time spent in the strawberry land, we could definitely feel that Koreans are really polite and nice. For instance, the staff there would bow and greet us although they were of seniority. Just imagine, will we, the younger generation do it in Hong Kong? We believe that our attitude, no matter to our family members or teachers at school could improve in the future.

All in all, the activity on the third day not only provided us with an excellent opportunity to have a taste of strawberry-picking, but also enriched our own personality. After the experience, all of us could take a full box of strawberry

picked in the glasshouse. With joy and a full stomach, we all believed that it was a worthwhile place to go. No matter the experience or the sweet strawberry we ate, we could surely have great fun in this 1-hour activity with our beloved friends.

Great Dinner

Photo description:

(Dinner of the third night, ♂Pork Chop Barbecueö)



It was one of our dinners in Korea, Fried Pork Chop together with various exquisite side dishes and traditional seaweed soup. We had it after our tiring journey to Everland.

When our tour guide Jinnie told us that we are going to have it for our dinner in the coach, we were so exhilarated because this is a must try while travelling in Korea. Indeed, most of us were extremely hungry at that moment because the lunch we had in the theme park was relatively small compared with those we had before and we all wanted to spend every precious second on the amusement facilities so we just spent little on our lunch. Even though we had some snacks in the park, our belly were still not satisfied. It was not uncommon for us to find Korean restaurants in Hong Kong, especially the barbeque ones. However, to some of our group mates, this was their first time ever to try the Korean style barbeque and the most impressive thing was that we can try it in its origin!

We had to serve ourselves and each of us took different responsibilities, some of us

prepared the utensils and some of us took care of the king size pork chop. What made the meal so special and remarkable was not because of its taste, but the unity it brought us.

Everland

Reflection:

Among our 4-day trip in Seoul, we all looked forward to the third day because we could go to the strawberry garden and Everland, one of the famous theme parks in Korea. After a long journey, we arrived at Everland! There were 5 unique-theme zones, such as Global Fair, American Adventure, Magic Land, European Adventure, and Zootopia.

Our group had already planned to play various amusement facilities while we were having our lunch. We picked some exciting facilities such as T Express and Columbus Adventures which are roller coaster and pirate ship respectively. Unluckily, the day we arrived Everland was a Sunday when the theme park was filled with many people. We were told that we had to wait around 2 hours for one of the two facilities and we were shocked. At first, we thought that theme parks in Hong Kong such as Disneyland and Ocean Park already got a long waiting time for each facility, but what we experienced in Korea was even worse. We were left with no choice but to pick another facility which cost us fewer time and less people were queueing.

Eventually, we got to Double Rock Spin. Its theory of ðscaringö people is similar to pirate ship, by centrifugal force. One of our members felt more comfortable with this facility because he was not good at those horrible facilities (T express and Columbus Adventures) and he was more confident in playing it. Indeed, we walked a long distance to get to the facility and already made us really tired. After a relatively short queueing time (actually cost us around 75 minutes), we got to the machine. Out of our expectation, the machine did not go with the flow we wanted, it was quite scary. To be honest, one of our members told us that she enjoyed the game so much not because of the excitement it brought



(Yummy Churros found in Everland.)

but seeing others' facial expression while playing the game. We did not have so much feeling toward the facility at that moment, we just felt tired that time.

We did not enjoy other facilities except this one just because our time is limited, we spent our time and money on snacks and souvenirs. We were surprised to find our childhood favorite, the Mini Mints, in the park. It was a kind of ice cream but in small pieces, just like little snowballs. It brought our childhood memories back as such kind of food can hardly be found in Hong Kong nowadays. Besides, we tried



Churros which is a fried-dough pastry. It was the first time ever for most of our group mates to try Churros. Not surprising, it was tasty and crunchy but we were a little bit messy because it was covered with sugar.

It was a pity for all of us since we could not spend a day in the theme park, enjoying most of the facilities. However, we did enjoy chit-chatting with each other while queuing and walking around. We got to know each other more because we discussed everything other than study which we usually talk about in class. Although we may just wanted to kill time and it may be meaningless in others' eyes, it meant a lot to us because it was a remarkable memory that will last forever.

(Feeling excited to find Mini Mint!)

Day 4

38th Parallel

Photo Description:



(Near the boundary within North and South Korea, we could feel the tense atmosphere.)

At the end of Korean War, the 38th Parallel separated the North and South Korea till now. Soldiers from North and South Korea are paying highly attention to each other. Taking their weapons seriously is putting pressure on us because little inappropriate action can lead to a big consequence.

From the first impression towards the whole view, there is the Bell of Peace. Hoping the unification of the Korean peninsula, tourists can have strikes in the name of peace. Looking from the sight of the Bell of peace, we can see that the armed soldiers are patrolling along the 38th parallel. The atmosphere is tense from the facial expression of the soldiers.

There is also the stele noticed that the history of the war of reunification is how hard that the Korean people suffer from heavy casualties and the separation of the family because of war. The stele shows that the South Korea soldiers are brave enough to fight against the enemy from the north in the purpose of keeping their own country safe.

Reflection:

(We were visiting the Demilitarized Zone!)

In 1945 to 1949, a civil war happened in China between the Chinese Communist Party and Kuomintang. Hopefully, China can unify with a single political party to rule over the whole country. However, Korea is not that lucky that because of the different social values and rules, North Korea and South Korea are still under the spilt till now.



Suffering from heavy economic loss and separation of family, the Koreans are still upholding the hope of “End of separation, Start of unification”. It is easy to see that at least the Koreans in the Southern part are willing to see their country to unify and no more barriers between them.

We feel ashamed that even with the different values towards life, the Koreans still hope to have a complete country. China has achieved the unification. However, we don't treasure this opportunity that 56 provinces in China are united and the issue like the independence of Tibet or Xinjiang often happens. Conflicts often exist between different races in China. People have to tackle the problem by the peaceful means for example they can reach the compromise by discussion rather than using the violent means which lead to the hatred between each other.

From the experience of the 38th parallel, Hong Kong people can learn from the lesson that when come across the controversial issue, communication is indispensable to solve the problem. It is not easy for all of the people to hold the same values towards all social issues. However, we have to treasure all things we have now.

People in the past put a lot of effort to build up all the systems for us. Having such convenience and fruitful life we have to thank all the people who have contributed to the development in several aspects of Hong Kong.

Under different viewpoints towards the same issue, people should respect each other's opinions which are the basic behavior in daily life, to avoid the happening of the separation of the South and North Korea.

No one would like to see a country is under the separation with the relatively different social norms. Reaching the consensus must be better than splitting up of the whole country. Therefore, we hope that different parties in the society can respect and unite together to have a brighter future in Hong Kong.



(Try to maintain a balance while standing on the railway.)

Kimchi School

Spot Description:

(Try to make traditional Kimchi.)



It was a kimchi-making lesson. The tutor prepared the ingredients, Chinese cabbage and chili sauce, and taught us how to make traditional kimchi. We had to apply the chili sauce on each slice of the cabbage and at last fold them into half. Waiting for kimchi's three-month ferment,

After making, we tried different kinds of kimchi. Not only did we try cabbage kimchi, we also ate seafood kimchi, carrots kimchi and the like which would not be exported. Some of our classmates bought special kimchi as souvenirs to family and friends. Undoubtedly, it was a rare chance.

Photo description:

(We had a chance to wear Hanbok.)



At the same building, we had opportunity to dress the Hanbok, traditional Korean dress. Some became the king and some became the queen. We all looked like the protagonists on the Korean dramas.

Digital cameras were everywhere since we had to capture the scene at that time. What is the most funny was some boys dressed the female Hanbok and took photos around. With teachers' participation in putting on Hanbok, the activity was more fascinating and enjoyable. It was because teachers and students were able to have fun together. It was absolutely a great day for the grand tour.

Reflection:

Kimchi is one of the traditional cuisines in Korea. It is also a healthy food which is beneficial in combating pimples and digestion. According to the tutor in the kimchi-making class, each household in Korea will definitely make it every year at any time. Moreover, they will prepare a dish of kimchi every meal. It is no longer about habit but the sense of protecting own food culture.

In Hong Kong, we, Hongkongers, seldom make special food, let alone having such a habit. Due to the hectic pace of life, people usually buy them directly at the shops while only few people go for the alternative, do it by themselves. The country must have done so much on preserving the country's culture and consolidating citizens's sense of belongings, if not, the making of kimchi would not be widespread throughout the history. Hong Kong has to learn from it.

What touched me most in the kimchi lesson is the use of kimchi we made. There are lots of the needy and the underprivileged in every nation. We should always lend a helping hand to them. As mentioned, kimchi requires at least three-month for fermenting; it is just wastage if we taste immediately. It is therefore possible that the Kimchi School will help donate kimchi we made to the orphanage and the elderly for free or sell at a low price.

It is such a good idea for doing charity and learning new stuff at the same time. Therefore, special attention and extra compassion were paid while making the kimchi in order to give a good kimchi to needy. Imagine there are continuous kimchi classes every month, many low-price kimchi items will be sent. That is meaningful.

As the last spot for the whole Grand tour, the dressing of Hanbok marked a perfect ending. Rarely do we have chance to dress Hanbok, not to mention dressing with all classmates. We took lots of photos together and made jokes with each other based on the Hanbok. Though the duration was relatively long, the happiness and joy made time fly as arrows.

Kimchi School was no doubt a good place to visit.

Individual Reflection

5D Au Tsz Wing

If anyone asks me the most valuable moments in my secondary school life, I will have grand tour as my answer. In the four-day trip, I spent my precious time with my adorable 5D classmates and teachers.

I am one of the K-pop fans and I love listening to Korean music very much. The fashion of Korea also entices me a lot. When noticing our class will visit Seoul, I felt extremely excited. In the 4 days, our class has visited various well-known spots in Seoul for example Hungdae Street, Everland, Myeongdong, Strawberry Land and the DMZ. The places that I found memorable are the DMZ and the Strawberry Land.

(Feeling so glad to visit Hongik University.)



The DMZ is an area between North Korea and South Korea. The division of a country is a repercussion of the Korean War. The tour guide has told us about the history of Korea and the war. Families are forced to separate because of the oppressive war. It is really woeful and heartrending when hearing about the history of Korea. Immediately, I realized

how lucky I am living in Hong Kong. The whole form five students also gathered in the DMZ and took a group photo. It was the remarkable moment in the whole trip too.

In the Strawberry Land, we picked the strawberry by hand and tasted it directly. The strawberries were fresh and juicy. We could even have our own box of it. The moment of recording the video in the Strawberry Land was the highlight of the whole trip.

Our group danced at that place with enthusiasm. I have never tried to dance in an outdoor area with such a large group of mates. It was wondrous to dance with my classmates in the place. Others might think our action was silly, however, beyond a shadow of doubt, the dancing experience was an illuminating moment and has

engraved on my mind. I realized the true meaning of team spirit and did really enjoy the time dancing with my lovely classmates.

The Seoul trip has brush up my communication skills as I have to constantly keep in touch with my group mates. We shared our happiness and sweat in the 4 days. This trip has also broadens the spectrum of my experience. Although one day I have to part with my classmates, I will never forget the valuable 4 days. Thanks for giving me a chance with my class 5D. 😊

Individual Reflection

5D Chan On Ying

Time flies as fast as the speed of light and the trip ended in a wave of laughter. Though a 4-day trip might not be enough for some, however, I enjoyed it to the fullest. Looking at the photos triggers a flashback to when we were in South Korea. The laughter we enjoyed were all captured and preserved in the photos. Not only did I focus on playing around, but I also seized every chance to learn and taste the local culture and custom. No doubt, it is a magnificent tour with loads of fun and joyful memories.

Arts are ubiquitous in Seoul. Being stunned by the street artworks, I was deeply engrossed by the surrounding environment. I couldn't stop looking around and lauding the superb artworks such as the architectures and the fashion trend. Compared to Hong Kong, Seoul has a more comprehensive development in the field of arts. Hong Kong is a hub of many cultures, yet they are diminishing as our city progresses. Worse still, there is also an assortment of arts disappearing as time passes like graffiti and Chinese opera. If our precious arts are left unattended, they will dwindle away, leaving behind nothing but regrets. It is therefore paramount for each of us to take the initiation and promote arts in our society.

(Girls made Kimchi successfully!)



Through the journey, I realized that it is high time everyone made an effort to develop a better Hong Kong. If all of us are exposed to and enriched by arts, it will be conducive to our mental health and art sense. In the long run, it will polish our city's reputation, reaching the apex of the global economic pyramid and the arts one.

Individual Reflection:

5D Lam Hiu Tung

Visiting a foreign country with 34 classmates was an irreplaceable experience. After this trip, we learnt more about others' interest and personalities. In the past, some bashful classmates seldom talked with others. However, they were active in this Seoul trip. Thanks to the trip, all of us shared our interests and feelings to our classmates.

What is more, we learnt the Korean culture. Koreans like eating kimchi and pork. Their cooking methods are far different from Hong Kong. The dining experience in Korea was unique. Besides, we wore the Korea costumes for the first time. The photos that we took there must be memorable.

Visiting the university was unforgettable because we spoke English to communicate with Korean. It shows that English is of paramount importance to our daily lives. The Korean university students introduced themselves and their school by a video first. Then, we visited a museum about art. The art works are captivating and creative.



(The Hanbok suit us well☺)

The trip could definitely broaden our horizons. We learnt more about Korea's history and culture.

Individual Reflection

5D Lo Yin Ting

I feel honored to be given this golden and rare opportunity to take part in this grand tour. The 4-day visit to Korea is undoubtedly tired yet memorable and amazing. Not only can I raise my understandings towards Korean culture, but I can also get closer with my classmates.

The hands-on experience in Korea is definitely a real eye-opener. I feel elated to enjoy the enthusiasm and nice altitude from the Koreans, which lures me to have a second visit to Korea. I feel delighted to communicate with the local, especially I was surprised to hear from their fluent Mandarin, which may be better than us, the Chinese. Every moment was great here.

When it comes to food, they are all tasty and full of Korean elements. One of the favourite meals is the Korean barbecue. We took turn to become a chef as the meat was cooked by ourselves. It was also stunning to see many appetizers each meal which we have never had in our Chinese cuisines.

Moreover, appreciating the eco sense in Korea, we will certainly lead a green life from now on, creating less garbage and making a clean environment to live.

Most significantly, I have nothing more than getting a deeper understanding and precious moment spent with my classmates. The more time we are together, the more united we are. The experience is priceless. What an unforgettable and exceptional experience!



(Staying calm while sliding down.)



(All girls were wearing colorful Hanbok.)

Individual Reflection

5D Poon King Tin

Five years ago, the school asked us to save 2 dollars a day for a grand tour in Form 5. Everyone expected the tour a lot because it would be a great moment to have fun with classmates stayed for 3 years.

Seldom do schools have grand tour which let the whole form go abroad. The grand tour is high risk because the teachers have to take care of so many sons and daughters at the same time. It would be a strenuous task. Thanks to Principalø and teachersø trust if not we would never have such an indispensable tour in our secondary school life.

The most fascinating moment I had was the visit to DMZ (Korean Demilitarized Zone). Not only because of the spectacular view, but also the touching messages it interpreted. Learning from history, we knew that there was the split of North and South Korea. Till now, the two governments still have a confronting status towards each other. What is so surprising is that citizens in two sides want to alleviate the relationship of two Koreas.

It is believed that some family, couples and friends were forced to part company due to the war in 1950s. They could hardly meet each other in their lives again unless the countries relaxed their relations.

Compared to Koreans, Hongkongers are so lucky. On one hand, we do not need to care much about neighborsøthreat. On the other hand, we could always stay with family members and friends. However, owing to chase a better quality of life, people usually work around the clock which is at the expense of family and friends communication. The funniest is that communication with the beloved ones is the best leisure without costing us a penny. I guess family and friends communication should always prioritize the earning of money.

The Grand Tour will always be one of the most unique activities I had. It is a good

(This is a great photo taken in the Trick Eye museum.)



connection with the grand tour I had in my primary school. The current grand tour recalled my memories in primary 6. Time flies, my past schoolmates and I studied in different schools and it is hard to meet each other so often because we all have a bustling life. It is of paramount importance for us to cherish every moment we have now with our classmates and schoolmates.

In not a distant future, we have to face the DSE examination. As our Principal mentioned, we have to play very hard at the tour and work very hard afterwards. This Easter was full of memories and an important holiday to recharge ourselves and face the next challenge.

I would always keep this as my greatest experience in my secondary school life.

Individual Reflection

5D Tsoi Wing Ki

First of all, I would like to take this opportunity to thank my school for providing such a meaningful and fascinating grand tour to all Form Five students. I have never imagined I could have the opportunity to go travelling with my beloved classmates, a group of people who I met them five years ago. It was surely an unforgettable trip, which in the future when I think of my mother school, I would definitely think of this memory first.

From form one till form five, we were being asked to save 2 dollars a day for the grand tour. When I could finally use all of them for the trip, I felt like a great mission was completed and I was impressed by my own perseverance. From the grand tour, not only can I enjoy my time with the whole class, but also learn the



(All of us listened to the introduction to the school carefully.)

importance of being a perseverance person.

One of the highlights of the grand tour would be going to the border between South Korea and North Korea. As a student studying history, I surely know the Korean War from 1950-1953 divided Korea into two separate

parts. However, what I could not understand would be the broken hearts of many separate families. Due to the civil war, they were forced to be separated till now. Hardly could they have a chance to see each other in their lifetime. Besides, after visiting the underground tunnel of South Korea and watching a video clip about Korea, I was clearly shocked by the power of war. Although having underground paths to other countries or building more armies could be ways to self-defense, it clearly threatened world peace. As a student living in a developed and stable city, although I have never experienced a war, I understand the disaster and unbearable consequences in victorious countries or defeated countries. Therefore, let's wish world peace.

Last of all, I believe that the trip would be a treasured memory in the future. Although we will graduate in a year time, I am definitely sure that our friendship will never fade. Five-year time being together, which is already around 1/20 of our lives. Although we may be going to different universities or even going to different counties in the near future, I believe that whenever we think of these four days, we would carry a smile in our faces.

Individual Reflection

5D Tong Ka Wing

I heard a sentence long time ago, even forgot who said that. But still, I can remember the content of the sentence, the saying is like this, "No matter how many new friends you can meet in your university life or even when you get into the society, those you can never forget in your life, must be the one you met in your secondary school life". I agree with the sentence without a doubt but at that time, I could not get the strong emotion that the speaker gave me. After the trip, I can finally understand that emotion.

It was my third time travelling to Seoul. Indeed, I am not that passionate compared with some of my classmates just because I understand a little bit more about Seoul than they do. What makes me feel excited is spending those 4 days with my best friends and travelling without families aside.



(Exciting experience in the Trick Eye Museum!)

Luckily, the whole trip went smoothly and we all had great memories.

It was my ever first time trying to pick strawberries and getting to the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ). To be honest, I was stunned with what South Korea and North Korea did during the Korean War. As a History student, it was my honor to be in the tunnel. Other than feeling how much did the Korean paid while they were constructing the tunnel, I could understand their history in a close way. To be honest, I really wanted to give up in the middle of the tunnel because it was just too steep and little bit slippery. Thanks to the encouragement of my friend, we reached the ground again.

As a F.5 student, I feel like my daily routine is being cramped with works. It is not uncommon to see Revision exercises, Mock Tests or notes in our schoolbags. Sometimes, you may feel depressed and lost when seeing them because they cannot guarantee a university sit for anyone of us and you have to spend a lot of time to finish them all. But you still willing to do them, all because there are someone beside you, offering support at any time and you desire to go to university with him/her.

We only have less than a year to prepare for our DSE in 2016. It also signify that 5Dersö do not have much time left to spend with each other. I am really thankful to have a precious chance travelling with my beloved classmates during the Easter holiday. It is definitely my unforgettable memory and treasure over my life.

Individual Reflection

5D Mak Hiu Yan

The trip to Seoul was so remarkable in my entire life, albeit tough and tired sometimes, the pictures of these few days kept rewinding inside my head.

The grand tour was the most unique one among all tour I have ever experienced,



(A picture of our group standing in front of Dorasan Station.)

combining both educational and entertainment as purpose. Had it not been for having this precious chance, my classmates and I could not be capable of travelling overseas together. It was more than glad that I could be able to learn outside the classroom and gain a valuable friendship with my group mates through the trip. Without the contribution of our principal, teachers and the alumnus, everything in the trip to Seoul could not go so smooth, therefore I am here to thank everyone for their honorable efforts.

It is beyond dispute that we have to surmount some challenges by ourselves when we are travelling alone, including grand tour. It was my first time to leave my home without the company of my parents, but fortunately, nothing went atrocious to me. What I have learnt within these days that I be with oneself was õto make do with everything even if it is a nuisance to youö Traveling alone is still a big scholarship to me, I hope to have more chance to learn from it.

Unwillingly, we put a perfect end to our trip on the day of 29th March. We left Seoul alongside satisfied stomach and luggage, and continue our journey to university. The end of the trip symbolizing the start of our DSE battle, and I am now feeling invigorated to rise to the upcoming challenge.

Individual Reflection

5D Lu Tung Ming

Enjoying the four days trip in Korea (Seoul), being with teachers and friends all the days, friendship, cooperation, communication is inevitably wonderful for all of us.

Before the trip, we are all excited with the local cultures or traditions in Korea. When we are really arriving on the airport, the feeling at that moment cannot use any words or expressions to represent. It marks the beginning of the fruitful four days trip.



(We took a photo with Dr. Yang!)

During the tight schedule, times spend on knowing the local culture is not enough. However, the brief information in Korea can be provided to us when we are just visit Korea for once. Throughout each of the activities is really a real eye-opener for us to look inside the Korean customs or eating habits.

Walking on the streets of Korea can feel that the people there are enjoying their life no matter what their occupation is and this fill up the atmosphere of Seoul with happiness and joyful. A myriad of variety of food is presenting in front of our eyes. The appearance and flavor attracting us to buy more and more till our money are all spent.

Visiting the university is a precious experience to broaden our horizons from knowing more scope of study in university is interesting. There are slightly difference between the university in Hong Kong and Korea. Focusing on the art or design these kinds of development is more likely to be presented by the Korean university. Enjoying more freedom of life is the major purpose there.

Finishing the whole trip and get back to Hong Kong is a bit sad, but by these four days , I have known more about the outer world and relax myself from the endless pressure of study in Hong Kong. It is a valuable trip for me, for my friend, and for my secondary school life. |

Member List

- 5D Au Tsz Wing
- 5D Chan On Ying
- 5D Lam Hiu Ting
- 5D Lo Yin Ting
- 5D Mak Hiu Yan
- 5D Tsoi Wing Ki
- 5D Tong Ka Wing
- 5D Lu Tung Ming
- 5D Poon King Tin

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- Ms. Kelsi Lee (alumus)

