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## Study on the Current Situation of Credit Transfer in Higher Education Self-study Examination and Its Countermeasures

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### *Abstract:*

Higher education self-study examination credit transfer refers to the higher education self-study examination candidates in the process of self-study examination, the use of the previous study of baked test results or other forms of test results to replace the professional course examination results to learn, and a form of credit. Through the method of literature analysis and interview, this paper investigates the status quo and existing problems of credit transfer in self-taught examination of higher education in China. At present, the credit transfer of self-taught examination in higher education is mainly manifested as the exemption of the courses that the examinee has studied before. At present, the national and local governments have issued the corresponding exemption policy. At present, there are some problems in the credit transfer of self-study examination in higher education, such as the lack of clear and single form of specialized courses and the need to improve the policy system. The following Suggestions are put forward: Encourage self-study examination and transfer credits to the greatest extent; Rich conversion content; Add conversion forms, such as MOOCs; Ensure the quality of credit transfer at the same time.

*Keywords:* Higher education self-examination, Credit transferring, Problem, Countermeasure.

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### I. INTRODUCTION

Higher education self-study examination is one of the important educational forms for academic degree in China<sup>[1]</sup>. Learners take all courses in their major and then the country issues formal schooling degree certificate. The self-study examination has been piloted since 1981, and more than 90 million people have registered for it. Higher Education self-taught examination credit conversion refers to the process of self-taught examination candidates in higher education, the use of the prior study of the ready-made test results or other forms of examination results in place of the professional courses to be studied, and a credit given. At present, emerging technologies such as Artificial Intelligence and 5G networks are developing

rapidly. The rapid development of information technology has brought the opportunity and foundation for the reform of self-study examination learning mode. Self-study examination in higher education can grasp the opportunity to realize the reform of education mode. Credit transfer has many advantages. First, most of them are adults, who are working and taking care of their families while studying. The course exemption can save students a lot of time, and enable them to devote more time to the study of other courses to achieve better learning results. Second, higher education self-taught examination courses are basically self-taught by candidates, but also by the way of social institutions to assist learning. Self-study examination in higher education may have problems such as lack of quality resources, lack of guidance and lack of interaction among students. The rapid development of information technology provides support for solving some problems existing in higher education self-study examination. Take MOOC for example. MOOC has many advantages, which can realize the sharing of high-quality resources and solve the problem of lack of teachers to some extent. Higher education self-learners can also interact with other MOOC learners and teachers. MOOC are mainly offered at the vocational and undergraduate levels, which is consistent with the higher education self-study examination including the vocational and undergraduate levels. The characteristics of MOOC provide a certain basis for its integration into higher education self-taught examination. This paper studies the current situation of credit transfer in self-study examination of higher education in China by means of literature research, interview and questionnaire survey, and puts forward relevant countermeasures and Suggestions on this basis.

## **II. HIGHER EDUCATION SELF-STUDY EXAMINATION CREDIT CONVERSION CONDITION**

From the existing documents, we can see that an essential principle of the course that can be exempted from examination is that the course that can be exempted from examination should not be lower than the requirements of the original course, either the same as the original course or higher than the requirements of the original course. Through the summary of the existing literature, it is found that the current higher education self-study examination credit conversion mainly focuses on the following categories.

### **2.1 Self-study Examination and Non-self-study Examination**

Non-self-taught examination points to the education of all kinds record of formal schooling degree that the country appoints commonly, for example General undergraduate and junior college education and Radio and television University undergraduate and junior college education. Self-study examination allows relevant personnel to register from Regular university students or graduates and non-regular university students or graduates. For general college students or graduates, because the need of individual job or life, they can choose to enter oneself for an examination of higher learning self-taught, obtaining relevant diploma or degree certificate. At this time, they may have the same or similar courses with their original majors in the self-study examination learning stage, at this time there is an opportunity for credit conversion. For the same reason, self-taught examination learners or graduates are also facing

similar problems, they can enter for the second or more self-taught examination major. At this time, compared with the original major, learners may also face the problem of the same course or similar course, as well as the problem of credit transfer. To this, national self-study examination board makes clear regulation: education background of College graduate or above in higher education recognized by the Ministry of Education who take part in higher education self-study examination each major specialized subject (foundation course) or undergraduate course study examination, can skip the course that the name is the same, and the requirement is equal to or lower than the original major. For example, He Nan Higher Education self-study examination Office regulates that education background of College graduate or above in higher education recognized by the Ministry of Education who take part in He Nan higher education self-study examination each major specialized subject (foundation course) or undergraduate course study examination, can skip the course that the name is the same, and the requirement is equal to or lower than the original major.

## 2.2 Conversion between Courses

Conversion between courses mainly includes the following types. First, the public course exemption. The public courses here mainly refer to the courses that basically all majors need to learn, such as the course of political theory. The exemption of public courses is more common, many provinces have clear provisions. Shanghai education examination institute issued 'the Shanghai higher education self-taught examination curriculum exemption regulation' points out : The following courses can be exempted, including 'Marxist philosophy principle', 'introduction to Deng Xiaoping Theory', 'Legal basis and moral cultivation', 'College Chinese'. Second, public basic courses and specialized courses which is same as and not lower than the requirements of the original course. Here is mainly aimed at a variety of specialized specialized basic courses and specialized courses. For example, Jiangsu province stipulates that Mathematics major graduates can be exempted from 'higher mathematics', 'linear algebra' and other mathematics courses. English majors are exempted from public English courses for non-English majors. English majors are exempted from public English courses for non-English majors. Graduates majoring in computer can be exempted from taking courses such as 'computer application foundation', 'computer application in the management system' and 'basis of Software of Computer'.

## 2.3 Conversion between Grade Certificates

This mainly includes English computer and other subjects. Relevant documents of Jiangsu province point out that college graduates who take the examination of this school and obtain the certificate of Cet-4 and CET-6 during the period of validity can be exempted from self-study examination course 'English 2'. Sichuan relevant documents point out that Candidates who have passed the PES-3 written examination of the National English Examination can be exempted from self-study examination course 'English 2'. Candidates who obtained the certificate of National Computer Rank Examination Level 1 or above can be exempted from 'basis of Microcomputer Operation'.

## 2.4 Transfer Credits between Different Majors

This mainly refers to the specific professional provisions. According to the relevant documents of Shanghai municipality, when all kinds of higher education economic management college and above graduates apply for higher education self-examination non-economic management undergraduate course, those who have obtained certificates of higher education self-examination course 'political economy' can be exempted from 'The principles of Marxist political economy'.

### **III. PROBLEMS EXISTING IN CREDIT CONVERSION OF HIGHER EDUCATION SELF-STUDY EXAMINATION**

In view of the current situation of credit transfer in self-study examination of higher education in China, credit transfer is diversified. On the basis of the unified national policy, all provinces, municipalities directly under the Central Government and autonomous regions have formulated differentiated transformation policies according to the specific conditions of each province. These policies have both similarities and differences. Some policies are simpler, others more detailed. It mainly focuses on the two categories of subordinates. The first kind is the public course and the public basic course. Public courses mainly refer to the courses that are required for almost all majors, such as ideological and political theory courses. This kind of public course has the characteristics of similar majors and unified national standard, which is a typical case of course exemption. The second category is courses related to professional certificates. These courses cover a wide range of subjects, including English computer science and other basic public courses. Meanwhile, details of provincial policies vary. Various provinces have different levels of detailed policies on higher education self-taught examination credit conversion, some are more detailed, some are simpler, for example, Xinjiang is very detailed, and Jiangsu is relatively simple. And each school also has more specific policies through analysis, higher education self-taught examination credit conversion exists in the following problems.

3.1 The Scope is not Wide Enough, For Example, the Provisions of Professional Courses are not Clear Enough

At present, the credit conversion of higher education self-taught examination mainly focuses on public courses and public basic courses, and the regulations of specialized courses are not clear. Although a lot of province regulation can avoid the name that take an examination is same, and the requirement is not lower than course of former major, but this regulation still has very big limitation and fuzziness. This paper makes an in-depth analysis from the aspects of course objective, course content, course difficulty, course assessment and so on.

3.2 Form Simple

The main consideration in the content, the lack of different forms of transformation. At present, MOOC (Massive Open Online Course) is developing rapidly. Due to some outstanding advantages, such as free and high-quality resource sharing and learning anytime and anywhere, it provides an opportunity for the credit conversion of higher education self-taught examination. First of all, MOOC is mostly high-quality resource-sharing courses offered by famous teachers

in famous universities, which are probably not lower than the requirements of similar courses in higher education self-taught examination in terms of content difficulty and other aspects. However, self-study examination in higher education mainly focuses on students' own learning and lacks teachers' guidance. The introduction of MOOC can be said to make up for this deficiency to some extent. Secondly, many self-taught examination learners in higher education are adults with jobs and families. MOOC learning is also very flexible and can be studied at its own pace anytime and anywhere, which is suitable for self-taught examination learners in higher education.

### 3.3 The Policy System is Imperfect

First, the total amount of convertible credits is not clear. Only a few provinces have restrictions. There is no clear limit on the total amount of conversion. Sichuan self-study examination sets among them non-self-study examination graduates enter oneself for an examination of similar major, exempt from examination course not more than half. Most provinces do not have clear regulations on the total amount of convertible credits. It is necessary to explain the total amount of credit transfer. On the one hand, to ensure that a certain number of courses can be converted credits, at the same time, in order to ensure the learning quality and effect of the new major, the upper limit of convertible credits should be stipulated. Second, incentives are not yet be built. At present, all provinces have only issued some credit transfer policies, but generally speaking, they are not simple enough, the policy system is not perfect, and the relevant incentive mechanism is not perfect. Students should be encouraged to transfer credits.

## IV. COUNTERMEASURE AND SUGGESTION

### 4.1 Encourage Self - study Examination, Maximum Credit Conversion

Allowing college students to minor in a second major in the form of a self-taught examination provides an opportunity for the student to broaden his interest in learning and future career development. Students can choose a second major according to their interests and future career development needs. Self-study examination is completed in the form of self-study and may not produce great conflict with students' original major. Students can use their free time or spare time to complete the study of self-study examination major. Students can choose self-study examination major according to original major, maximum degree to undertake credit conversion. For example, students majoring in educational technology can choose the education major of self-study examination, which can not only make up for the lack of original knowledge learning, but also have a lot of public courses for credit conversion due to the similarity of the two majors.

### 4.2 Rich Transformation Content

Further increase the number and range of courses that can be converted to credit. At present, the provincial policies are relatively clear and mainly focus on public courses and professional public basic courses as well as credit conversion with grade certificates. More attempts can be made in professional courses. Related organization can make more specific and clear professional course exempt from examination and credit conversion rules. The scope of credit

transfer of specialized courses is clearly stipulated from the aspects of course objectives, course contents and assessment methods. It is necessary to establish subject expert committee, carry out credit transfer evaluation and suggestion.

#### 4.3 Add Transformation Form

It is necessary formulate corresponding rules, including the procedures for the quantity conversion of credits, etc., and try to convert MOOC credits. Some courses can be chose to pilot. MOOC can be recommended to students. Some self-taught examination learners are relatively weak in learning foundation. MOOC has outstanding advantages such as being able to be watched repeatedly and learn at their own pace. If MOOC can be introduced to facilitate learning, it will be of great help to learners. At present, MOOC in higher vocational colleges is booming, and more and more national high-quality online open courses are emerging, which provides a good resource environment for MOOC learning [2]. Some colleges and universities in China and many foreign countries have tried to convert MOOC credits [3-4]. This can provide some reference for the credit conversion of higher education self-study examination. At present, many colleges and universities have built one or more MOOC courses and carried out flipped classroom practice based on MOOC. In this context, the higher education self-taught examination of these schools has a good background and conditions for MOOC credit conversion. In particular, self-taught students majoring in their second major should be encouraged to make full use of MOOC resources to achieve MOOC credit conversion.

#### 4.4 The Quality of Credit Transfer is Guaranteed at the Same Time

The transfer of credits does not mean the loss of learning quality. At present, there are many courses that can be converted into credits as part of graduation credits. We can follow. For example, Lanzhou University chooses courses on the online wisdom tree of Tsinghua Xuetang for credit conversion. Countries such as India and Malaysia have also formulated MOOC credit conversion policies at the national level [5]. In India, relevant measures have been implemented from the teaching process of MOOC construction and examination links to strictly guarantee the quality of MOOC credit conversion. Malaysia has also stipulated relevant certification mechanism from MOOC learning process and other aspects. The credit transfer quality of self-study examination should be guaranteed from the aspects of students' learning process.

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