Sunway's A-level grounding for tertiary studies

By Jasbir Singh

STUDENTS may think that the A-level course is more difficult than other pre-university courses.

"But many students do not realise that the qualities that they pick up while studying the programme will benefit them for the rest of their lives," said A-level lecturer K.F. Chong.

Commenting on the apparent belief among students that other pre-university programmes, where the assessment was spread out over the year compared with the A-level which had one examination, was easier, Chong said the A-level programme inculcated two traits that were fundamental for success.

"Consistency and hard work."

"A-level students will learn how to work hard consistently, building on their knowledge and preparing for their examinations."

Chong said these traits would also be useful to students during their university years where they will have to pretty much study on their own.

"This is the time when they will need to be consistent in their studies," he said.

And preparing students for their university years is the main aim of the course, Chong said.

He said the A-level course at Sunway was geared towards preparing students for university, giving them the solid foundation that they needed for degree studies.

Among the areas that are looked into are the students’ English skills (English is a compulsory subject) and also their involvement during class.

Students weak in English are given additional classes.

He said students were assessed through regular assignments.

One of the more effective approaches taken by the college to ensure students’ welfare is the Mentor-Mentee programme where students are assigned to a lecturer who will act as a mentor to them.

The programme, which began this year, has received an excellent response from lecturers and students, said the A-level programme director Hor Poh Choo.

"Every week, the mentor spends at least 30 minutes with the mentee to have a frank discussion on things, academic or otherwise."

"There are many students who are from outstation and do not have anyone here that they can relate their problems and joys to. The programme gives them this someone, someone who keeps an eye on their progress in college and who they can turn to for assistance," Goh said.

The college will also be offering 30 scholarships this year to students with good Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia results.

For more information on the A-level programme and scholarships, call 03-7358622. More information is also available at its website at www.sunway.edu.my.