

# *Hollow Man*

## Real competence counts

Nowadays, many college students are keen on applying for various certificates indicating versatile skills through attending all kinds of competitions and training programs for that they try to show their competence and their edges over the others. Nevertheless, as far as I'm concerned, such certificate fever is pathological. We should be down-to-earth, instead of being over-ambitious about those certificates. My reasons are as follows.

To begin with, there are certificates that are precious and hard to get. To name only a few, such certificates include CET6, TEM-8, ACCA. It may take hundred hours of study to get them finally. But the design of the test for the certificate may be problematic. Take the CET6 test for example, you may get an extremely high mark at CET6 while still having the exceedingly weak ability to express yourself in English. How can you say a man is excellent in English when he is poor in his oral English? For the same cause, how can you judge a man's English ability according to his CET6 grade?

Moreover, influenced by the traditional examination-oriented education, quite a few certificates require exams to evaluate the candidates. In order to apply for the certificates, many students merely accentuate examination-taking skills rather than knowledge itself. It's also rare to see the training program teach systematic learning methodologies for acquiring the specific skill. What's more, to maximize fairness, such exams for the certificates must have a clear set of criteria. That's why certificates-oriented learning has become the pursuit of standard answers, and learning becomes the rote learning, yet real society and life often have no standard answers and are full of complexity. As a result, once those students who successfully get the certificates leave the examination papers and face practical issues, there is no way for them to apply the skills into real life.

In a nutshell, certificates are not everything, and they can't evaluate your skills in a comprehensive way. Your real competence counts, and it's high time we stood on solid ground to acquire knowledge step by step.