

Competitive Exams Shouldn't Be Replaced by Holistic Assessments

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Should competitive exams (Gaokao-style tests) be replaced by more holistic assessments like portfolios and interviews? Some people says yes, but my answer is not. In this essay, I will refute their viewpoint.

Before I talk about my position, I want us to confirm that the exams what we talk about in this essay are exams that select talented people, like university entrance examination. These exams have a bearing on every students' future. These exams are very important so that we should consider them carefully.

And I will present my opinion. I agree with that competitive exams especially Gaokao shouldn't be replaced by more holistic assessments like portfolios and interviews. First, holistic assessments are unfair. There are two reasons. The first one is that using holistic assessments will increase cheating. That's because holistic assessments decrease the difficulty of cheating. The student just needs to collude with the teacher who assesses the student. And it cannot be avoided that the decreasing of difficulty of cheating will cause the increasing number of cheating, and it cannot be accepted when it happens in exams like Gaokao. The second one is that the results are too subjective to be used to select talented people. The results of holistic assessments especially interviews are just related with the teachers totally. We can assume that some teachers don't like a student who isn't like math and give him a low score, but it's unfair to this student.

Some people may support that it should be replaced. They say that holistic assessments have a higher efficiency. That's because students no longer need to prepare for many tests, and they just need to prepare for maybe only one assessment. But I will told you that holistic assessments will have a lower efficiency in fact. When in very big exams like Gaokao, the traditional exams can provide millions of students at the same time, so that it can be finished in several days. But holistic assessments especially interviews just provide several students in one test. So it may take a few weeks to finish it. Besides, using holistic assessments also needs to teach teachers how to judge, and that also takes much time. So actually holistic assessments have a lower efficiency.

Therefore, I disagree with that competitive exams should be replaced by more holistic assessments. They shouldn't be replaced by more holistic assessments.