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Exam

Exam, is a very old way to select special people from a large amount of people. The history of exam is almost as long as the history of human civilizations. After using and developing for thousands of years, exam has proved that it is a relatively good way to select people. Be careful, I said exam is a relatively good way, but I did not say that exam is the best way or the fairest way. Why is that? How is this possible? How could a select method be both unfair and good? Isn’t that sounds weird?

Actually, not at all. First, a fair selection is not always the best selection, for example, if we want to pick some fruits to eat and we want fruits to be as big as possible. To fairly do this selection is only use the size of the fruit as a standard, after the selection process, we did found all the big fruits. However, is this the best selection? No! Because we pick fruits for us to eat, not for put it at home and look at it every day. The best selection method should be giving different fruits different weight by how delicious they are.

Also, if we use this method to simulate the exams in human society, we can see a lot of problems. For example, again, the college entrance examination in China. Just like that example of picking fruits above, we want to pick out as much intelligent students as we can, so we set up a whole bunch of tests. Super faire for everybody, no matter who you are, where did you came from, what do you like most or what are you good at, all need to finish the same exam. And that is not the best way to select intelligent people! Instead of looking at how much score you get for every subject, collages only care about the total score. Which means, if you are a super genius in math or physics but you are not very good at politics, you will fail the exam.

This is completely not good for geniuses this exam can only pick out people who did well on every subject, but people who are the best on some specific subject and not good at some other subject will have a bad score and future. However, the second group of people can do much better on their specific areas that the first amount of people, in another way to say it, they will improve the efficiency of the society, they are the people we need most: who cares about how many poems can you remember when your job is new material developing? The correct way is to look at how much score people got on each subject and decide a best-fit collage, this will save more resources for the country and society. The government is stupid.

However, we all know that the government is not stupid, not on this one. People working in the government are absolutely knows that this exam cannot pick out the most intelligent people for the country. The reason for this can only be explained when the government did not want to pick out intelligent people though this exam at all. They are looking for something else.

What is it? What is the “side effect” of this exam? The answer is clear: fairness. The government want the exam to be super fair that the even the quality of result can also be sacrificed. I am not sure what the government is up to, but I can see the bad side of fairness though this.