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By -

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Standardized testing has become a ubiquitous feature of American life. As a major source of information for reducing uncertainty in the allocation of merit-based educational, training, and employment opportunities, testing affects the life chances of individuals. Moreover, testing influences the way in which our society judges itself and provides for our collective future. Test scores may determine a child's admission to kindergarten and promotion to the first grade. Most states award the high school diploma only if a student has passed a minimum competency test. Major institutions of higher education typically require applicants to supplement their records of academic achievement with scores on college admissions tests. In the labor market, as a condition of employment or assignment to training programs, more and more employers are requiring workers to sit for personnel selection tests. Additionally, it has become commonplace to use test scores to calibrate our national sociopolitical condition and our capacity to compete with other countries in the global economy. In short, with increasing frequency and intensity, scores on examinations that purport to be objective and precise measures of individual knowledge, abilities, and potential are...


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