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explains why there is much more in intelligence than just being able to score high on intelligence tests. What Is Intelligence, Anyway? Isaac Asimov What is intelligence, anyway? When I was in the army I received a kind of aptitude test that all soldiers took and, against a normal of 100, scored 160. No one at the base had ever seen a figure like that and for two hours they made a big fuss over me. (It didn't mean anything. The next day I was still a buck private with KP as my highest duty.) All my life I've been registering scores like that, so that I have the complacent feeling that I'm highly intelligent, and I expect other people to think so, too. Actually, though, don't such scores simply mean that I am very good at answering the type of academic questions that are considered worthy of answers by the people who make up the intelligence tests - people with intellectual bents similar to mine? For instance, I had an auto-repair man once, who, on these intelligence tests, could not possibly have scored more than 80, by my estimate. I always took it for granted that I was far more intelligent than he was. Yet, when anything went wrong with my car I hastened to him with it, watched him anxiously as he explored its vitals, and listened to his pronouncements as though they were divine oracles - and he always fixed my car. Well, then, suppose my auto-repair man devised questions for an intelligence test. Or suppose a carpenter did, or a farmer, or, indeed, almost anyone but

an academician. By every one of those tests, I'd prove myself a moron. And I'd be a moron, too. In a world where I could not use my academic training and my verbal talents but had to do something intricate or hard, working with my hands, I would do poorly. My intelligence, then, is not absolute. Its worth is determined by the society I live in. Its numerical evaluation is determined by a small subsection of that society which has managed to foist itself on the rest of us as an arbiter of such matters. Consider my auto-repair man, again. He had a habit of telling me jokes whenever he saw me. One time he raised his head from under the automobile hood to say: "Doc, a deaf-and-dumb guy went into a hardware store to ask for some nails. He put two fingers together on the counter and made hammering motions with the other hand. The clerk brought him a hammer. He shook his head and pointed to the two fingers he was hammering. The clerk brought him nails. He picked out the sizes he wanted, and left. Well, doc, the next guy who came in was a blind man. He wanted scissors. How do you suppose he asked for them?" I lifted my right hand and made scissoring motions with my first two fingers. Whereupon my auto-repair man laughed heartily and said, "Why, you dumb fool, he used his voice and asked for them." Then he said, smugly, "I've been trying that on all my customers today." "Did you catch many?" I asked. "Quite a few," he said, "but I knew for sure I'd catch you." "Why is that?" I asked. "Because you're so goddamned educated, doc, I know you couldn't be very smart." And I have an uneasy feeling he had something there. NEW

WORDS aptituden. natural ability or skill 能力 , 才能 normal n. the

usual state or level 正常的状态或水平figuren. 数字fussn.  
unnecessary expression of excitement, anger, impatience, etc. 大惊小怪buck private n. (sl.) common soldier of the lowest rank 列兵  
KP (abbr)kitchen police (a military duty of helping the cooks prepare and serve the food, wash the dishes, and clean up the kitchen) 炊事值勤 (员)  
registervt. achieve. write in a list or record 取得 ; 登记complacenta. self-satisfactory. pleased with oneself 自满的 ; 自鸣得意的highly ad. to a great degree. verysimplyad. just. only 仅仅 ; 只不过academica. scholarly, theoretical, not practical. of a college or university 学术的 , 学究的 ; 学院的worthy (of) a. deserving 值得的bentn. natural tendency or inclination 嗜好 , 倾向similara. alike. of the same sort 类似的auton. (short for) automobile 汽车  
estimatenvt. judgment or opinion about how much, how many, how good, etc. 估计grantvt. give or allow (what is asked for) 授予 ; 准予hastenvi. go fast. be quick 赶快 ; 急忙explorevt. search or examine thoroughly 探索 ; 探究vitalsn. essential parts of anything. the main bodily organs 主要部件 ; (人体的) 重要器官  
pronouncementn. formal or authoritative statement. opinion 声明 ; 见解divinea. coming from God. sacred 神的 ; 神圣的oraclen. 圣言 ; 神谕devisevt. think out. plan 想出 ; 设计carpentern. 木匠  
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