

上外版大学英语写作精选第二册(9) PDF转换可能丢失图片或格式，建议阅读原文

https://www.100test.com/kao_ti2020/285/2021_2022__E4_B8_8A_E5_A4_96_E7_89_88_E5_c83_285083.htm UNIT 9 TEXT Asimov

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 didnt mean anything. The next day I was still a buck private with KP as my highest duty.) All my life Ive been registering scores like that , so that I have the complacent feeling that Im highly intelligent , and I expect other people to think so , too. Actually , though , dont 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 , Id prove myself a moron. And Id 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 , "Ive been trying that on all my customers today." "Did you catch many ? " I asked. "Quite a few , " he said , "but I knew for sure Id catch you." "Why is that ? " I asked. "Because youre so goddamned educated , doc , I know you couldnt be very smart." And I have an uneasy feeling he had

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