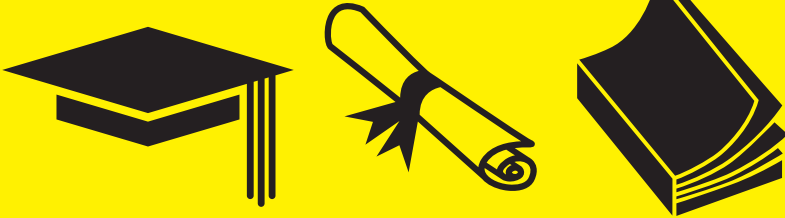


Name _____

Tedium



2013 TEST BOOKLET

A two + player game about going through the education system with an Asian upbringing.

Disclaimer:

This game is not meant to represent the life of all Asian people, simply mine (and a lot of other people I know). In addition, keep in mind that while a lot of the principles in this booklet are representative of my life growing up, some things are exaggerated to a degree to better convey how I felt about my schooling.

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Hello, student.

Today you are going to play a game that will simulate going through the American education system as an Asian-American. Some of the questions will be easy, and some will be harder. Don't worry about the ones that seem hard—if you don't do well on your assignments, expect some punishment to follow.

The objective of the game is to score high enough on tasks to graduate and make it to the end of your educational career. According to your score, you'll see what kind of person you ended up being after being shaped by 16 years of schooling and Asian parenting.

For more context, read my thoughts on the education system on page 48.

Game Start

1. Read over the graduation requirements before each section to get an estimate how high you need to score to graduate to the next set.
2. Players should all start/end their tasks at the same time using the timer.
3. Player start on **page 9** and should complete the following tasks according to the instructions on the page.

For the 'Homework' and 'Test' tasks:

Read the directions carefully and finish all of the questions within the time limit.

(Homework- 30 seconds, Tests - 1 minute)

You will receive points according to the amount you get correct— if you score less than the minimum (for Asian standards), turn to **page 47** and follow the Discipline instructions.

For the 'Study' portion:

You will receive 30 seconds to study for the upcoming test. Some sections may have two study portions before a test.

For the 'Extracurricular' section:

On Homework and Study sections, there will be an extra extracurricular task at the bottom that can be completed if there is time left during the time limit. You *must* finish all homework questions before proceeding to complete the Extracurricular task.

If you do decide to complete the extracurricular task and you do not score at least the minimum on the assignment or test, you are not allowed to complete an extracurricular for the next four tasks.



5. Do not go onto the next task/page before the end of the time limit. If you have extra time, re-check your answers.
6. When you reach an event card, follow the instructions written on it.
7. After each task, check the answers in the answer booklet, grade it according to how many questions you scored right and write the score in the box in the corner of the page.

Academic Merit points:

Academic merit is a measure of how well you do in school. Points are earned by answering a question correctly on homework or a test.

Personal Fulfillment points:

Personal fulfillment is a measure of how fulfilled you feel as an individual and how well-balanced you are in your interests and skills. (*i.e.: having personal interests/passions*)

Points are earned by doing extracurricular activities.

8. At the end of each schooling period, you will tally up the points that you received and use the chart to determine what your overall grade and whether you met the requirements for graduation.
9. If you fail to meet the graduation requirements, you automatically fail the game.
10. For discipline, other players may carry it out or a specially designated '**Tiger Mom**' non-player can be solely responsible for doling out punishment.



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Middle School

Asian Standard Assessment Grade 6 - 8

Materials required:

- No. 2 pencils with erasers.
- Answer booklet.
- Test booklet.
- Timer

Directions:

1. Immediately after the timer runs out, put your pencil down.
2. Correct your answers using the answer booklet and record the score in the box located in the corner of the task page.

IMPORTANT:

Do not start on the next page before timer starts. If you finish early, stay on the page you are on and think about which questions you got wrong and how you can improve on the next assignment.

Graduation Requirements (cumulative):

Academic Merit	Personal Fulfillment
10	0



Task One: Homework 1

Complete the following questions within 30 seconds.

(6 points)

1 $32 / 3 =$

2 $33 \times 11 =$

3 $15.2 \times 4 =$

4 $30 \times 3 =$

5 $56 + 11 =$

6 $74 - 16 =$

Extracurricular:

How applicable or useful do you think your middle school curriculum was ?

(1 Personal Fulfillment point)

SCORE

/ 6

Minimum: 4



Task Two: Homework 2

Answer the following questions within 30 seconds:

(2 points)

1 Why do I work so hard to study and do homework?

- a.) To please my parents
- b.) To get into college
- c.) To avoid being yelled at
- d.) All of the above

2 How will my parents feel if I get a C on a test?

- a.) Indifferent
- b.) Accepting, Loving
- c.) Slightly annoyed
- d.) Furious



Study List

Memorize the spelling/meaning of these words:

Apathy - *lack of interest, enthusiasm, or concern*

Sociophobia - *Fear of social gatherings, fear of socializing*

Atychiphobia - *abnormal, unwarranted, and persistent fear of failure*

Homogeneity - *of the same kind; alike*

Extracurricular:

How important is getting good grades in school?
And explain why.

(1 Personal Fulfillment point)

SCORE

/ 2

Minimum: 1



Task Three: Study

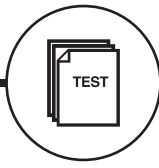
Memorize the spelling/meaning of these words:
Be prepared to face multiple-choice, matching, and fill-in questions.

- Apathy** - *lack of interest, enthusiasm, or concern*
- Sociophobia** - *fear of social gatherings, fear of socializing*
- Atychiphobia** - *abnormal, unwarranted, and persistent fear of failure*
- Homogeneity** - *of the same kind; alike*

Extracurricular:

Why do you think students hate learning?
(1 Personal Fulfillment point)

NO SCORE



Task Four: Middle School Final

Write the words that match the definition in the blank next to it.
(4 points)

- _____ - *of the same kind; alike*
- _____ - *fear of social gatherings, fear of socializing*
- _____ - *lack of interest, enthusiasm, or concern*
- _____ - *abnormal and persistent fear of failure*

Use two of the words in a sentence together.
(2 points)

SCORE

/ 6

Minimum: 5

Score Tally

Add up the scores for all tasks to see if you met the graduation requirements. If you did not meet them, game over. Your parents will probably excommunicate you the next day.

Task	Academic Merit
Homework 1	_____ /6
Homework 2	_____ /2
Final	_____ /6

ROUND TOTAL _____ /14

BLANK PAGE

Cumulative:

Total Academic Merit _____ /14
Total Personal Fulfillment _____ /3

<u>Graduation Requirements:</u>	
Total Academic Merit	10
Total Personal Fulfillment	0



You graduated Middle School!



BLANK PAGE

Score: 10-12

“Jennifer Lu’s daughter graduated with a perfect score, why didn’t you? We didn’t raise you to become a failure.”

Score: 13-14

“Just remember that this is the standard from now on. No more slacking in high school, the SATs are coming up.”

BLANK PAGE

High School

Asian Standard Assessment Grade 9 - 12

Directions:

1. Immediately after the timer runs out, put your pencil down.
2. Correct your answers using the answer booklet and record the score in the corner of the task page.

IMPORTANT:

Do not start on the next page before timer starts. If you finish early, stay on the page you are on and think about which questions you got wrong and how you can improve on the next assignment.

Graduation Requirements (cumulative):

Academic Merit	Personal Fulfillment
25	0

College Entrance Requirements (cumulative):

Academic Merit	Personal Fulfillment
40	3



Task One: Homework 1

Copy the following sentence within 30 seconds.
(2 points)

*"If I don't work hard in school and get into a good college, I will become a hamburger flipper for the rest of my life." **

**Something that was actually said to me many, many times growing up.*

Extracurricular:

Write a paragraph about a cause you feel passionate about.
(1 Personal Fulfillment point)

SCORE
 / 2
Minimum: 2



Task Two: Homework 2

Answer the following questions within 30 seconds:
(2 points)

1 How many A's are there in the following passage?

A+A+A+AAA AA-AAAA- AAAAAA AAAA-AA AAAAAA
AAAAAAAAAAAA AA+AAAA AAAAAA AAAAAA
AAAA+AA AAAAAA AAAAAA AA+AAAA AAA+AA+A

Answer =

Note: This should look something like your report card.



Study List - Part Two

Memorize the spelling/meaning of these words:

Despondency - a state of low spirits caused by loss of hope or courage
Menial - not requiring much skill and lacking prestige
Regurgitate - repeat (information) without analyzing or comprehending it

Memorize this statement:

"I believe that doing well in school is a reflection of my future success. If I do everything my parents tell me to do, I will succeed in life."

Extracurricular:

What do you think attributed to the successful career of dropouts like Steve Jobs?
(1 Personal Fulfillment point)

SCORE
 / 2
Minimum: 2

Score Tally

Add up the scores for all tasks to see if you met the graduation requirements. If you did not meet them, game over. Your parents will probably excommunicate you the next day.

Task	Academic Merit
Homework 1	_____ /2
Homework 2	_____ /2
Midterm	_____ /9
SAT	_____ /21

ROUND TOTAL _____ /34

Cumulative:

Total Academic Merit _____ /48

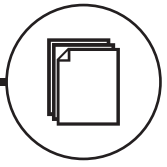
Total Personal Fulfillment _____ /6

Graduation Requirements:

Total Academic Merit 25

Total Personal Fulfillment 0

College application



Check your scores on the previous page and see if you met the college entrance requirements.

College Requirements:

Total Academic Merit 38

Total Personal Fulfillment 2

Alternate Entrance requirements:

- 1** If you don't meet the **personal fulfillment** requirement but have at least **43** cumulative academic points (including middle school), you can proceed to graduation.
- 2** If you don't meet the **academic merit** requirement but have over **5** cumulative personal fulfillment points, you may proceed.

If you don't meet any of the requirements:

Game over. You've shamed your family big time.



**You graduated
High School!**



**...And got into a
decent college!**

Your parents have been dreaming of this blissful moment since you were in kindergarten.

Time to see if you can get a job...

BLANK PAGE

BLANK PAGE

College

Directions:

1. Now that you live far from home, you don't have to meet any more minimum scores or undergo any punishment. You're on your own to stay on top of things!

IMPORTANT:

Do not start on the next page before timer starts. If you finish early, stay on the page you are on and think about which questions you got wrong and how you can improve on the next assignment.

Graduation Requirements (cumulative):

Academic Merit	Personal Fulfillment
45	0

Job Application Requirements:

Academic Merit	Personal Fulfillment
??	??



Task One: Homework One

Finish reading the following article:

(3 points)

There is a story of a young, but earnest Zen student who approached his teacher, and asked the Master, “If I work very hard and diligently, how long will it take for me to find Zen? The Master thought about this, then replied, “Ten years.”

The student then said, “But what if I work very, very hard and really apply myself to learn fast - How long then?” Replied the Master, “Well, twenty years.” “But, if I really, really work at it, how long then?” asked the student. “Thirty years,” replied the Master. “But, I do not understand,” said the disappointed student. “At each time that I say I will work harder, you say it will take me longer. Why do you say that?”

Replied the Master, “When you have one eye on the goal, you only have one eye on the path.”

This is the dilemma I’ve faced within the American education system. We are so focused on a goal, whether it be passing a test, or graduating as first in the class. However, in this way, we do not really learn. We do whatever it takes to achieve our original objective...

Extracurricular:

How do punishment and drills and tests get in the way of a child’s education?

(2 Personal Fulfillment points)

SCORE

/ 3

No minimum



Task Two: Homework Two

Finish reading the continuation of the article:

(3 points)

...Some of you may be thinking, “Well, if you pass a test, or become valedictorian, didn't you learn something? Well, yes, you learned something, but not all that you could have. Perhaps, you only learned how to memorize names, places, and dates to later on forget in order to clear your mind for the next test. School is not all that it can be. Right now, it is a place for most people to determine that their goal is to get out as soon as possible.

I am now accomplishing that goal. I am graduating. I should look at this as a positive experience, especially being at the top of my class. However, in retrospect, I cannot say that I am any more intelligent than my peers. I can attest that I am only the best at doing what I am told and working the system. Yet, here I stand, and I am supposed to be proud that I have completed this period of indoctrination. I will leave in the fall to go on to the next phase expected of me, in order to receive a paper document that certifies that I am capable of work. But I contest that I am a human being, a thinker, an adventurer – not a worker. A worker is someone who is trapped within repetition – a slave of the system set up before him...

Extracurricular:

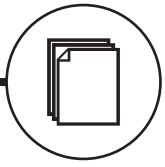
What was your experience going through middle and high school?

(2 Personal Fulfillment points)

SCORE

/ 3

No minimum



Score Tally

Add up the scores for all tasks to see if you met the graduation requirements.

Task	Academic Merit
Homework 1	_____ /3
Homework 2	_____ /3
Homework 3	_____ /3
Final	_____ /5

ROUND TOTAL _____ /14

Cumulative:

Total Academic Merit _____ /62

Total Personal Fulfillment _____ /12

Graduation Requirements:

Total Academic Merit 45

Total Personal Fulfillment 0

Job application

Check your scores on the previous page and see if your skills match the employer's needs.

A

Job Requirements:

Total Academic Merit > 57

Total Personal Fulfillment > 3

If you meet this requirement, proceed to **page 41**.

B

Job Requirements:

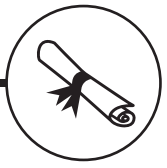
Total Academic Merit > 45

Total Personal Fulfillment > 9

If you meet this requirement, proceed to **page 43**.

If you don't meet any of the requirements:

Game over. Go to **page 45**.



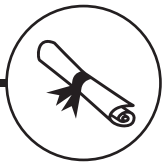
You graduated College!



...And got a job!

You became an engineer/doctor, just like your mother wanted. Good thing you had your razor-sharp academic skills and work ethic to make up for your lack of personal fulfillment.

BLANK PAGE



You graduated College!



...And got a job!

**You became whatever you wanted to become!
Congratulations to you for keeping up academi-
cally but still becoming a balanced and fulfilled
individual in the end.**

BLANK PAGE



You graduated College!



...with no job!

BLANK PAGE

Tough luck, buddy. All that studying and now what do you do with \$100k of debt and no job? Don't you know that it takes more than good grades to get hired?



Discipline

Corporal discipline is a common part of an Asian upbringing. To carry it out, other players or a designated 'Tiger Mom' (non-player) can assist.

Standard:

1st Offense:

One large slap with the flyswatter on the hand.

2nd Offense:

Constant flyswatting anywhere on the body during the next task.

3rd Offense (and on):

Constant flyswatting + verbal abuse during the next task.

Hardcore:

Switch out the flyswatter with a stick.

BLANK PAGE

My thoughts on the education system & asian work ethic:

I find myself being frustrated at the fact that high school has taught me much about work ethic, memorization, and drills, but little about my own thoughts or opinions. I don't know if it was because the Asian study/memorize/regurgitate work style drilled into me, but at times I was unable to produce original thoughts or statements, and this brainwashing flowed even into my social and personal life. I would memorize (and I still do now) trite responses and statements as if I were memorizing a speech and spit them back out in conversation, whether or not I believed what I was saying to be true. (When are we going to learn to slow down and say what we really mean?)

Maybe what I'm frustrated about isn't the schooling I had in high school. Maybe it's about the way that Asian cultures push their children to succeed in school, but they just end up producing so much of the same breed of super-student that colleges now have to take affirmative action against because we've learned how to work the score-based school system too well. We're all about pushing numbers, pushing scores out like there's no tomorrow. All regurgitation, no creativity, no real passion for anything.

I was lucky to have my art to cling onto. It was my sanity, my pride, and my joy. It was my baby that I worked hard to nurture when I was feeling depressed. And later that labor of love became my love of the Japanese language in high school, when it was my joy to work long hours every day to master it. I remember my mother would tell me I was wasting my time because I should've been studying for the SAT's or working on my homework. But to this day, I don't regret a single minute I spent on either of those pursuits because they made me feel alive, happy, and most of all they made me love learning. Is that so difficult to encourage in the education system? Why isn't the pursuit of knowledge an exciting thing anymore to so many students?

What I learned about myself is that you can't make me work willingly unless I love it myself. So yes, make us work, but let us love what we do, and do what we love.

So, what was the fruit of my hard work? I was able to speak Japanese with a pretty darn good native accent, write/read fairly well, and watch shows with a 60%-75% comprehension level. This actually helped me in random situations where I needed to speak Japanese to someone to communicate directions or read an important set of instructions or a notice on the door of a restaurant. With art, I was also able to get into every art school that I applied to, including RISD and other well-known schools with scholarships.

The point wasn't to brag (in fact, my skills in both areas are much worse than those of a lot of other people out there), but instead to encourage people to see that non-academic pursuits are a worthwhile cause. So don't just memorize facts and study, study, study. Experience life. Meet some people. Work hard on something that you enjoy.

Because in this economic climate and extroversion-favoring country, it takes a lot more than a degree and a high GPA in order to get a job. You need a personality, creativity, and originality on top of that — characteristics that most Asian parents fail to encourage their children to work to attain. Result: a bunch of disgruntled engineers and scientists with a degree from a well-known university but no job, no girlfriend, and no life.

I exaggerate a little, but you get my point.

I write these things because of the regrets that I have with myself— I wish that I didn't study so much and work so hard on my homework, but instead worked harder on my personal projects and on my own interests and skills. Because right now at UCLA, I may be one of the better students in my classes, but it doesn't mean I'm guaranteed a better job (or a job at all, for that matter). The Asian promise of success with education turned out to be a half-truth. And believe me, there are a lot of angry asian kids out there that have realized this fact.

Combine passion, individuality, and work ethic and you will be a force to be reckoned with in terms of worldly success.