

Re: Is this math test too easy?

Source: <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.math/2004-12/0621.html>

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Herman Rubin <hrrubin@odds.stat.purdue.edu> wrote:

>In article <fbr0q05vd4jgeae77em3mvhqe0h9nkfh7@4ax.com>,

>Mxsmanic <mxsmanic@hotmail.com> wrote:

>>k wallace writes:

>

>>> *ok, then, so in your opinion, what IS useful and relevant? Not math, not*

>>> *literature, not history, what?*

>

>>*Reading, arithmetic, problem solving, critical thinking, technology,*

>>*business, cooking, parenting, and things of this nature ... almost none*

>>*of which are taught in school.*

>

>*One cannot do critical thinking to any real extent without*

>*mathematics. To do so, one needs to be able to at least*

>*attempt to evaluate ALL the "major" consequences of one's*

>*actions, and this requires stating them precisely, which is*

>*mathematical formulation.*

That's a pretty unrealistically broad conception of what mathematics is. One might have a good logical thought processes without being able to articulate them mathematically.

In other words, instruction in basic mathematics and logic doesn't (necessarily) transfer to success in, say, law.

Mitch