

## Re: Is this math test too easy?

**Source:** <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.math/2004-12/0773.html>

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Acid Pooh writes:

- > *There is a point -- if nobody were taught basic algebra in middle-high*
- > *school, colleges would be burdened with teaching their engineering and*
- > *physics students the material.*

But students who didn't need the material would not be wasting time studying it. Which is more efficient?

- > *Presumably, students should have the*
- > *opportunity to choose what they want to study after high school,*
- > *instead of being forced into a track system in middle school.*

They should have that opportunity at any time.

- > *Imagine*
- > *what would happen if one of these high-school physics track students*
- > *decided to study english instead. They would be six years behind*
- > *their peers since they only learned what was essential for continuing*
- > *a physics education.*

They can always catch up. And if they decided to stay in physics, they'd be finished a lot faster than students who had to cover a lot of useless, irrelevant material as part of their physics education.

- > *Says one who undoubtedly has \*not\* taken a proof based course.*

I don't depend on courses for proofs.

- > *Obviously, if you think that mathematics can be learned by rote,*
- > *you've never taken a proof based course.*

That's not what I think. I simply think that mathematics is largely unnecessary to most people in most circumstances. Teaching higher mathematics is mostly a waste of time.

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Transpose hotmail and mxsmanic in my e-mail address to reach me directly.