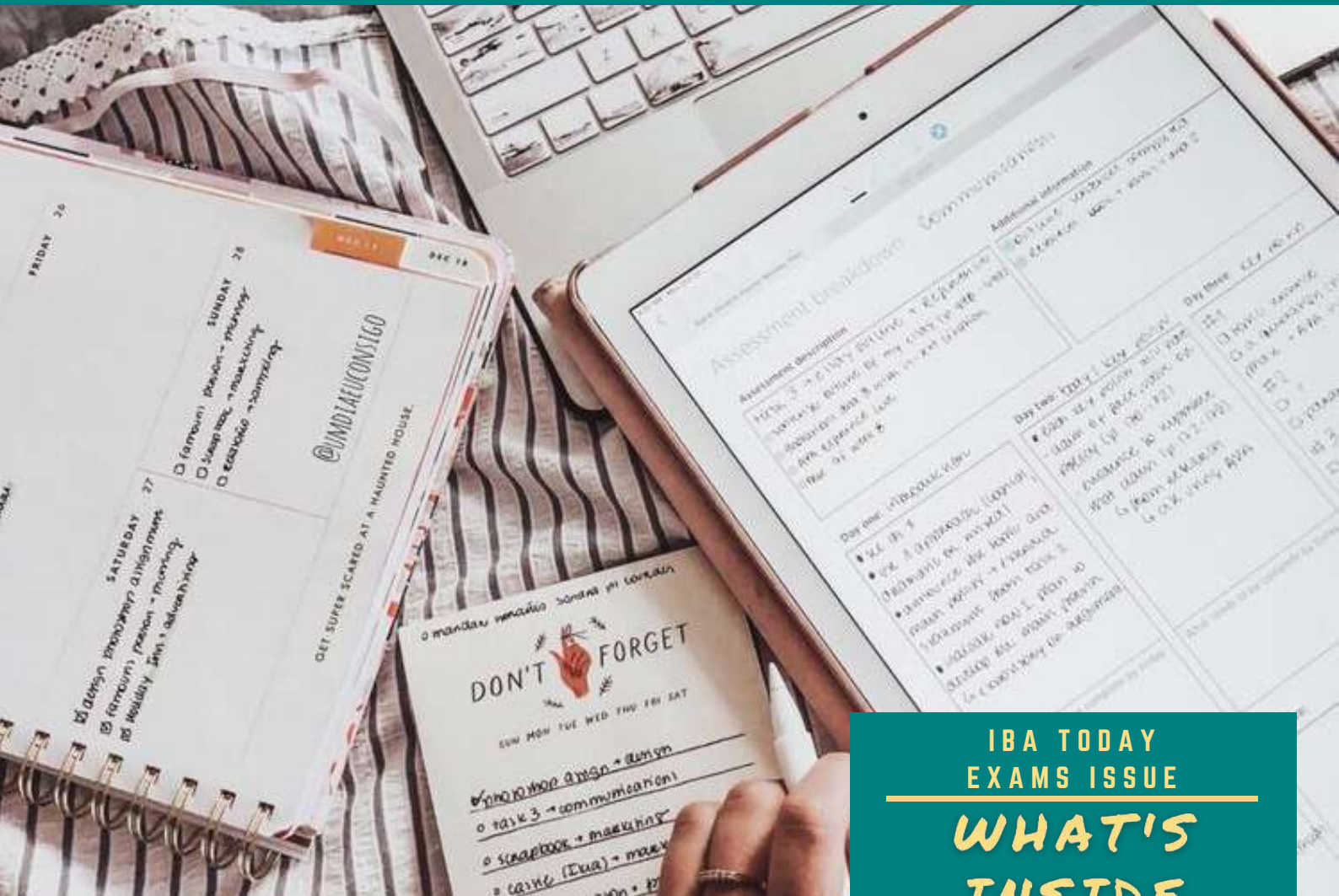


IBA
TODAY

IBA TODAY

ISSUE 4 DECEMBER 2020



IT'S THAT TIME OF THE YEAR

No matter what part of the world you're studying in, the dreadful experience that is exam season always brings out some stories to tell. Occasionally positive but mostly horrific, these experiences are an integral part of a student life- offering entertainment from an otherwise monotonous journey.

Join us in this issue as we discuss some crazy escapades involving exams, as well as tips and tricks for those struggling to stay afloat. We hope reading these articles gives you some much needed stress relief as you take a break from studying

IBA TODAY
EXAMS ISSUE

WHAT'S INSIDE

THE FINAL EXAM DEBATE

WHAT NOT TO DO DURING EXAMS

EXAMS AND EVERYTHING WRONG
WITH THEM

THE UNFORTUNATE EVENTS
SURROUNDING MY PAK HISTORY EXAM

5 KINDS OF PEOPLE YOU'LL MEET
IN EXAM SEASON

THE PROBLEM WITH STANDARDIZED
TESTING

HOW TO GRAPPLE WITH THE
UPCOMING EXAM STRESS

MESSAGE FROM THE TEAM



MUHAMMAD AFFAN

Founder

“Exams” are the most stressful part of student life at IBA. But this time it's taken a new level of trauma, with students still guessing how they will be giving their exams online or physically. We are living in the 21st century but the way how we conduct assessments of our students has yet to be changed. And we are still forcing our students to follow a traditional path that our ancestors have been following. It's time we use this pandemic as a reason to alter our ways of assessment, the world is changing and moving towards a skill-based economy rather than a degree base so it's time we adapt with it.



SARAH SALMAN

Media Head

Exams are never easy for anyone but the unusual circumstances of this year have made this a nightmare bigger than that on Elm Street.

Nevertheless, the secret to acing any exam in your life is to have complete faith in your capabilities. Believe in yourself that you can do this. Never allow the word you 'cant' enter your mind space. You 'can' and you will. I have faith in all of us as we have survived this difficult year, we will get through these exams as well successfully.

In Sha Allah.

MESSAGE FROM THE TEAM



BISMAH AKHTAR

Senior Editor

Exams are a big part of IBA Culture, and in true IBA Fashion, the exams here are nothing like before. From dedicated writers sleeping through their exams, to others having 3 exams in a go. The possibilities are endless. And you'll have your fair share of stories to tell too, I'm sure. So sit back relax, and find some comfort in these uncomfortable times.



SARAH IMRAN

Senior Editor

No matter how good a student you are, exam day is always stressful. If you're like me, your study pattern is just cramming as much practice and information as possible a few days before the final- unhealthy, I know, but so far effective. Amid all this craziness, we hope our tips and experiences can offer you a bit of solace and entertainment as you navigate through the end of this long, hard semester.



NOOR FATIMA

Senior Editor

Exams are hard. We all have experienced the anxiety that they bring. What's worst is that people associate smartness with how high you score. I believe that exams are important but you cannot expect everyone to perform well based on one standardised test. As Dr Suess said, "Everybody is a genius. But if you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree, it will live its whole life believing that it is stupid."



ZUNAIRA KHAN

Junior Editor

As a sophomore, the transition between physical exams to a new chaotic system hasn't been easy. However, whatever the medium shall be, physical or online, the uncertainty never fails to haunt us in terms of how the finals are going to roll out. In these times of uncertainty and anxiousness, I hope you find comfort in the stories shared in this newsletter.

5 KINDS OF PEOPLE YOU'LL MEET IN EXAM SEASON; I'M THE 6TH!

You know exam season is approaching and you're already dreading it. It doesn't always have something to do with the exam themselves. Rather sometimes it's about the energies that you'll get surrounded with. Especially if you're a hostelite; get ready to deal with such people all day every day! Here are a few typical kinds of people you meet – or try not to meet – during the exam season.



AFIFA KHALID
Senior Writer

The Worriers – The Mess!

These people have spent the entire semester making you feel bad about being relaxed. They see you, and they go on about the workload. They are super worried about how they will survive the courses. And we all can agree, their worry is a bit contagious. You're avoiding contact with them at all costs. Because you know you'll have to answer the 10 questions they've kept ready.



The Ones Acing Exam Season

These are the people who were attentive all semester long. They attended classes, participated, and finished assignments. A schedule was made for exams and they're following it. You can find them in the library or maybe with a small study group at the corridors. They ace the exam season and the results as well, leaving you wondering how they're so organized!

The Sneaky Toppers

No matter how much you grill them, they will not let you know how much they've studied. For all you know, they never even began and are really going to fail the course. But you know they're not being honest the moment you hear them ask for an 'extra sheet' while your answer sheet hasn't even gotten half way! These are the people you will definitely see in the Dean's List!

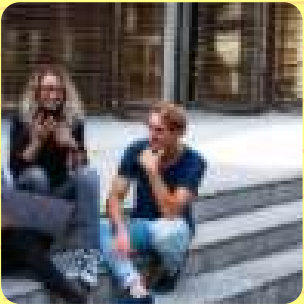


The Chancers/Lucky Ones

The chancers remained casual the entire semester. They did complete the tasks but didn't worry too much. They kept telling you to relax and enjoy the time while it lasts. During the exam season, their instinct tells them to study specific coursework rather than all of it. They study "smartly" and avoid the hard work. And in the end, you think they must have been the sneaky ones. Well, they aren't; they just got lucky.



The Ones Who Don't Bother



These people have chilled the entire semester and they're chilling now. They know some basic stuff that's going to help them pass the exam. They partly rely on a seat next to a topper, but won't be too worried if they don't get it. The grades don't matter to them; they're fine with being average. They are here for a good time; and that's what they're getting. At times you envy them, but mostly you're glad you're more focused.

And Then There's Me...

Whether or not you believe it, if you blend all the 5 kinds above and then add some more, you'll have me. I attentively take classes all semester long, but I also delay the assignments till the last minute. Exams approach; I worry, but my calm demeanor makes people think I'm "chill". I am a mess during the exam season but I also relax. You won't see me studying, not until there are a few hours left before the exam starts. You'd think that would at least mean a healthy sleep cycle. Well I hate to disappoint you, but I barely get 2 or 3 hours of sleep before the exam.

So, What Am I Doing?

I forget I have an exam to prepare for. When I remember, I panic and to feel better, I catch up with all my old friends. Then, I dive into nostalgia. You can find me going through my ages old stuff in the drawers and reliving all the memories. Or you will see me downloading a childhood favourite game. In the previous exam season, this game was Snow Bros and Sky Roads! Then suddenly it's night time and I haven't started. I open a book, but I feel sleepy. So, I put on an alarm for (mostly) 4 am and decide to sleep. I lie down, start using my phone and the next minute it's 2 am. I force myself to sleep, miss the first alarm, wake up around 5. Just a few hours left before the exam. From this point onwards, I hurriedly go through my entire notes. I focus on some of these more because of instinctive feelings. I panic in front of my friends saying I'm not prepared. They think I'm lying when I'm not. I pray and leave the rest to Allah. And I get lucky; always.



Sarah Imran
Editor

THE FINAL EXAMS DEBATE

The past several months have been a rollercoaster of unpredictable events and a mountain of anxiety. It seems as if our world has changed completely in just a short amount of time – with little hope to get back to the way it all was. Amid all the stress and fear, however, there is still one more decision yet to be made – one that will affect not just our GPAs, but possibly our health too. That single question looms over every student like a ticking time bomb: what about our final exams?

1) On-Campus Exams

PROS:

In this scenario, everyone would get equal opportunity to score well this semester. It would also give a semblance of normalcy and require students to study whatever they've learned in order to pass. Students would have a chance to be rewarded for their hard work, and get a chance to increase their GPA.

CONS:

The cold weather coupled with staggering infection rates across the city means this arrangement could be a recipe for disaster. Even with social distancing and face masks, the risk of spreading the virus is tremendous. And not to mention the students already infected – how can they be fairly accommodated? On-campus exams may be the most straightforward solution, but the possible disastrous effects cannot be ignored.

2) Online Exams

PROS:

The risk of students contracting Covid-19 is completely eliminated. Online exams would force every person to stay home for at least a few weeks, and could even contribute to lowering the nationwide infection rate. Travel cost and expenses associated with preparing the campus for exams would also no longer apply. Like physical exams, online exams would give every student a chance to increase their GPA.

CONS:

The biggest drawback of online exams is bad internet connectivity. Every student's worst nightmare is facing load shedding in the middle of an online quiz or important presentation. Even if one does eventually figure out a way to reconnect, the panic and anxiety surrounding the whole situation results in a very bad performance. Students are left begging their teachers to reconsider or scale up their grade to account for a situation that honestly wasn't their fault. Online exams are also very difficult to monitor, with most students treating it as more of an open book exam with a time limit.



3) No Final Exams



PROS:

No exams mean no studying, resulting in a much more relaxed student body. Students already going through a lot at home will have one less thing to worry about this semester. The IBA Admin won't need to prepare anything for on-campus exams either, which means less effort required on all sides. Hard-earned GPAs will remain intact as well. With no reason to come to campus, staff and students will be safe from exposure to the virus.

CONS:

Although no exams may give students short term happiness, this can be very damaging in the long run. The fact is, students no longer have a reason to study. They may end the semester with passing grades, but no knowledge of what they've studied. What will happen when they go out in the real world with these hazy concepts? Will their degree hold any value if they don't remember what they've studied? Even the students who have in fact worked hard will have nothing to show for it, with their GPA remaining the same as before.

No Right Answer

Before I began writing this article, I asked IBA students around me what option they preferred to get a general idea of the logic behind each possibility. The replies I received were so varied that I can't help but think that in the end, there is no right answer to what can be done. The fact is, this pandemic has affected every person differently. What is easy for one student is a difficult compromise for another. I can only hope that IBA is able to make a decision which caters to as many students as possible, as we all seek to understand this new way of life.



THE UNFORTUNATE EVENTS SURROUNDING MY PAKISTAN HISTORY EXAM

Exams are perhaps the most stressful time of the semester. Every assignment you copied, every quiz you did over on WhatsApp, every 10-minute-class-for-attendance you took, it all depends on your final! Unfortunately, this is a lesson I learned the hard way.

How the Story Goes

For those of us who're active in student societies, the fall semester represents what is perhaps our toughest challenge. The entire 4 months, we're preparing for those January 'mega events' we're so (in)famous for. Any who, I started the day before my exam in a good mood. Finally, it seemed, we were going to pull off the biggest concert of the year! As soon as I had my morning coffee, however, WhatsApp notifications started going off crazy. Oh, no! I had to reach campus ASAP because a certain 'Someone' insisted they needed my help.



Upon entering, I realized I have a Pakistan History exam tomorrow! No worries, we'll get home in time to study, right? After all, I have 19 hours left.

Upon meeting my friend, I asked about the emergency. We went to the NBP building to discuss some 'corporate work.' What ensued was a discussion on everything but that. When this conversation started, I had 17 hours left. However, by the time this certain 'Someone' was done with her painfully long rant (most of which I agreed with) about life, exams, GPA, and other stuff we can't talk about (otherwise IBA Today will get sued), I was down to 15 hours. The thought started creeping into my head - maybe, I had overplayed my hand.

Afterwards, I was all-set to leave! Turns out, life isn't quite that easy. Now, you know what they say about KU canteens, they're awfully enticing. Going from canteen-to-canteen, we finally decided on Sufi! It's time to finally try their 'daal-chaawal.' After all, my ancestors who struggled for independence (something I should've been studying more of) would want me to try something 'traditional' right? It was so delicious, we decided on another! It went on, for 2 more hours, until the tally was less than 12 hours. I gotta get home!

Making Time For Final

Putting everything aside, I was hard at work for my exam. About 200 pages to read in one night. Doable, for a Social Sciences student. I delved into our inception, then the great deception that was Zia. Finally, I was done memorizing everything! The only thing I forgot about, however, was sleep. I was once again going to pull off an all-nighter! Such has been the norm ever since the first semester. No worries... right?

You can imagine my surprise when I woke up at 11:45, 15 minutes removed from the end. Yes, I had slept through my paper. Fortunately, I woke up in my bed. Unfortunately, I received an F, which stays on my transcript to date. It was - literally - the most expensive sleep of my life.

I'm sure you're all wondering about the main antagonist of this story. Well, look no further; it is the very lovely editor of this article, Bismah Akhtar! Had she not called me to campus, I would've been A-okay!

Moral of the story, kids? DO NOT MISS YOUR EXAMS!



Habib Mustafa
Junior Writer

WHAT NOT TO DO DURING EXAM SEASON

We have all seen the memes that circulate the internet during exam season and despite the obvious humor, some are very scary reminders of situations that we are all too familiar with.

Just in Time

Parma Abbas

Senior Writer

I could have had the misfortune of experiencing this in my first semester at IBA had it not been for my roommate. After relentlessly working all night long to meet deadlines and study for finals, I passed out three hours before my final. The only smart thing I did that day was put 50 alarms. It was these alarms which finally acted as my savior but not by waking me up, instead they woke up my roommate. When she saw me sleeping, she turned off my alarms and turned to go back to bed when she spotted my timetable and just as she had suspected, I had a final in 20 minutes. She woke me up and I frantically raced the clock and somehow managed to get there just as the papers were being distributed.

Don'ts

The purpose of this story was to outline what not to do during exam season. Here is a list I made which will tell you other things that you should not do.

The most important, obviously, is not to avoid sleeping. If there is something you have not learned all semester then chances are that you can possibly learn it in the last 3-4 hours. Instead spend that time sleeping so that you can remember what you already know.

Secondly, as hard as this may sound, do not try to cover the entire semester in a single night. You will neither remember nor understand and that combination can be deadly.

Thirdly, do not waste your time trying to make elaborate notes which will be futile and will not help you understand or grasp anything. As a perfectionist, I know how hard this can be but remember that you are trying to win the game, not just a single step.

Lastly, and this is important too: do not try to study for hours on end with no break and when you take a break do not let that stretch on for hours either. Practice moderation and try to follow schedule. This will help raise productivity and motivate you to work faster.

With the exam season coming up, it is important to prioritize physical and mental well-being and remember to help those around us and ask for help if we need it. It is also important to work smart and not just hard. Here is wishing that everyone enjoys a GPA hike this semester and a wonderful winter break. Goodluck!



When you have to study
for the test but then you
remember sleep enhances
learning ability!



dos and don'ts?

do's and don'ts?

do's and don'ts?

EXAMS AND EVERYTHING WRONG WITH THEM



Safa Akhtar
Junior Writer

Our education system is extremely messed up with the way memory tests are given so much importance over the practical application of everything we are being taught. What really are exams, and why are we even giving these tests, to begin with? Where did they even come from? Who decided that this was a great way to check someone's intelligence or capability? Exams do not test anything but someone's capability to memorize stuff. They are not an accurate representation of a person's intelligence.

I mean, a simple bad day could result in an awful paper; I remember in my first semester, I screwed up one course simply because of a bad day, my grade dived from an A- to a C+. This didn't mean I was not a good student who didn't know anything about this course. It simply meant I had a bad enough day that I failed my final.

A Great Way To Assess

"Exams and tests are a great way to assess what the students have learned with regards to particular subjects. Exams will show what part of the lesson each student seems to have taken the most interest in and has remembered," said one particular website that does not understand that there are people who do not do well on exams because of many reasons, one of the many being test anxiety. You know what kind of exams one should take? The ones that figure out someone's personality or something that would determine how well one would do in a particular field. We learn pretty much everything till high school from the surface level, never deep enough to become invested or interested in it.

In The End...

Exams conducted the way they are in our education is not necessary. We shouldn't be rote learning mathematical formulas as if when we pursue that field, we have to absolutely remember what the Pythagoras Theorem is (I know this formula, and I have never applied it, ever). Students shouldn't be suffering from depression or anxiety during "exam season," this shouldn't be something scary or something that keeps us all night. There are different ways to conduct exams that are helpful to students. For example, take-home exams for theory-based courses where students need to research and study on their own, or problem-solving exams for practical courses like Accounting and Statistics. Students should know the why and the how of the course and there's that.

What Exams Really Are...

An exam where only the "naturally" talented kids perform well isn't a show of other kids being dumb; it can also mean that the teacher cannot teach. Why does the blame rest on the students? I understand that exams are a necessary evil, but they are simply evil. In Pakistan's case or even IBA, exams are a way to measure a child's worth. This does not even make sense. A student who is interested in Literature flunks Mathematics. For example, he is a bad student if he fails a subject he does not even like. One more reason why assessments are not that great is that teachers believe any medium can take any exam. I have given Statistics tests on the LMS portal, where we had to write formulas and work by using words, something we have never been taught to do. I mean, come on.

HOW TO GRAPPLE WITH THE UPCOMING EXAM STRESS

Ah, December. It's the perfect month; chilly evenings, warm sunshine, cosy comforters, final exams, debilitating stress — oh. It creeps up to everyone — whether they're worried about underperforming, 'CGPA ka girna', or an F on their transcript — and that's no surprise. I recall 3 Idiots, the classic Amir Khan drama that brilliantly exposes the harsh truths about brown households and their knee-buckling pressure on children to excel academically.



Maleeha Hadi

Senior Writer

"Ye college hai, pressure cooker nahi!" he asserted.

Over time though, I have learned how to handle the migraine-inducing stress that comes with exam season better. Fair warning: The tips and tricks I mention below don't come with a forever-functional guarantee. Everyone experiences stress differently because of varying workloads, family issues, and personal afflictions. However, they'll help you fight that pesky flunk-fear a little better!

Make Yourself A Drink

Exam stress creates two kinds of people: Those who binge-eat their anxiety away, or those who, like me, worry so much that they stop eating altogether. That's why it's best to find the middle ground. Make yourself a steaming cup of frothy coffee, or brew yourself some green tea, or just cook up some karak chai to keep your spirits up. But remember to stay away from calorie-dense drinks! Even though they're delicious, they will make you feel heavy and fatigued, until you wouldn't be able to keep your eyes open (Sorry DD!).



Call a Friend

Let's be real: Nothing is more effective in stopping a panic attack than knowing someone else is almost about to have it too. So, whine, complain, despair. Not only is it immensely cathartic to air your frustrations about the paper, but it also takes away that feeling of impending doom when your friend asserts that 'abhi aadha syllabus baaki hai' (half the syllabus is still left). If you're afraid they might be leaps ahead of you in preparation: don't be. Even if they were, they wouldn't tell you (at least a good friend won't).



Revise Ahead of Time

Sounds like something your mom might say, and well, moms are right, aren't they? Practising a question or two, reading a chapter, or even flipping through over the notes you made over the weekend goes a long way in curbing last-minute test stress. But the simple, hard truth is that for most university students today, revision is nothing short of a joke. The added pressures of online learning in COVID times, combined with the burdens of projects, assignments, and part-time jobs chuck the notion of revising down the window. So, for now, just buckle up, and keep at it.

You have done it before, and you can do it again.

THE PROBLEM WITH STANDARDIZED TESTING



Tehreem-Un-Nisa
Junior Writer

You have probably attempted the SAT. Or, at the very least, heard of it. SAT Reasoning 1 is one of the most popular global standardized testing methods used by universities across the world to either admit or deny candidates. In other words, if you do not meet a certain English and Maths threshold, you are simply unqualified. A multitude of problematic policies of standardized testing has limited the learning process for students for decades. Following are 5 glaring issues with educational systems that follow this method:

1. Undermined and Unrecognized Intellectual Ability

Many aspiring students are denied admission into a decent university due to low scores in subjects they do not intend to pursue. In other words, students with high intellectual ability in subjects like Music and Literature are limited in their pursuit of higher education. This is due to the drastic impact of standardized testing on admission processes.

2. Restricted and an Unhealthy Curriculum

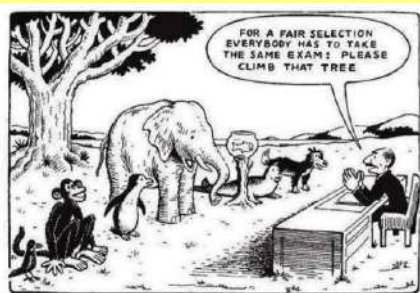
Standardized tests are central to calculating average national ability in math and English language. Because of this, schools focus on a limited curriculum. More weightage is given to subjects like Science, Math and English grammar. Hence, students opt for such subjects which will, undoubtedly, help them in their future tests. Above all, subject such as Music and Political Sciences are only academically approached in higher studies. Regardless, they are highly undermined due to the pattern of approval of certain subjects. This problem is also thanks to standardized testing as it turns the focus of curriculum towards subjects under its banner.

In Conclusion

In short, the educational system has come to rely on a flawed testing method that entertains a limited group of students. It denies a great many deserving students their right to a high-quality education. The main problem with standardized testing is that it has become too deep-rooted to be solved.

3. Teaching the Test

In order to meet test score goals of their schools, teachers have moulded teaching methods to suit test requirements. It must be noted that, in some cases, they can lose their job if target scores are not met. Moreover, teachers have always been creative in class and seen experimenting with new teaching techniques. Alas, owing to the dominance of standardized testing, they have stopped introducing new learning methods. Because of the short time for exam prep, teachers cannot risk poor scores by wasting time on futile attempts at encouraging creativity.



PORTFOLIO

WHY CHOOSE US?



Time Management

We tend to meet all the deadlines in order to deliver timely projects.



Attention to Detail

We have the ability to allocate our resources to achieve thoroughness and accuracy while accomplishing goals.



Great Support

We provide all sorts of support to our clients in an exceptionally fast manner.

OUR SERVICES



Website and Web App Development

From Design to development and maintenance, our experts will handle it all to give you turn-key websites and web apps using best-in-class technology.



UI/UX Design

We provide exceptional UI/UX designs that are not only user-centered but content-centered also and meet our client's vision and goals.



SEO Editing

We make web pages to appear much higher up in search engine results by using correct tags and keywords with suitable keyword density which in turn lead to increased traffic and conversions.



Video Animation

We have experience in creating 2D video animations, logo animations, animated gifs etc.



WordPress Development

Our team of experts provide you best services in WordPress installation and configuration, theme development and customization, migration and maintenance and plugin development.



Social Media Marketing and Advertisements

We make you to connect with your audience to build your brand by publishing great content, engaging your followers and running advertisements.



Content Writing

We provide best services in website, technical, script, email, social media, article and all other types of writing.



Android App Development

We develop Android apps by comprehensive approach taking on account all the factors: business requirements, design, user experience and app functionality etc.



Blogging

Our team will help in conceptualizing, writing, editing and promoting your blog posts.



Graphic Designing

We provide our creative skills using Photoshop and many other tools to serve your design inspirations.



Python & AI

We help you make data driven decisions by data preparation and, data visualization and building state of art algorithms in predictive analytics, computer vision, natural language processing and sentiment analysis.



GET A CHANCE TO FREELANCE!

Our freelancing platform called (Today) allows us to connect verified students and graduates to verified international clients and help them generate an extra source of income. We ensure our clients are provided with exceptional quality work.

Each member has experience of minimum 1 year and maximum 15 years in their particular field.

For more information:
www.iba-today.com
info@iba-today.com