

Failure is Not an Option

p. 14

❶ Chinese students must take the gaokao exam

- a to gain admission to virtually any Chinese college or university.
- b to graduate from any Chinese secondary school.
- c to obtain a government or civil-service post.
- d unless their parents can pay cash for their college education.

❷ Students who fail the gaokao must

- a pay an exorbitant fine.
- b wait three months to take the exam again.
- c wait one year to take the exam again.
- d repeat the final year of high school.

❸ According to the article, a criticism of the gaokao is that _____ students are at a disadvantage in taking it.

- a wealthy
- b urban
- c rural
- d foreign

❹ Which statement best describes the status of higher education in China today?

- a A struggling economy has forced many colleges and universities to close.
- b The country has only a handful of colleges, so competition for spots is fierce.
- c Interest in attending college is waning.
- d China has more colleges and universities than ever before.

❺ Which statement is true, according to the article?

- a China is the only nation in Asia with any form of standardized testing.
- b China's standardized tests have been praised for emphasizing independent thinking rather than memorization.
- c China, South Korea, and Japan all have high-stakes standardized tests.
- d Standardized tests in France and Britain carry more weight than standardized tests in China.

IN-DEPTH QUESTIONS

- ❶ What does it mean that education is “highly prized” in China? Is that a good thing?
- ❷ Why do Chinese students feel pressure to perform well on the gaokao? Where does that pressure come from?
- ❸ What do colleges in China consider in the admissions process? What do you think U.S. colleges consider?