

# China National College Entrance Examination brings New Changes to High Schools

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**Abstract:** China National College Entrance Examination(NCEE) reform originates from the thirst for innovative talents in China's economic development. In the past, the NCEE only focused on the level of students' admission to the school without paying attention to students' personal preferences, which led to many people not interested in their major and caused a waste of human resources. The new NCEE gives students an early start in thinking about their college majors and future careers. The new NCEE directly bring about a series of new changes in high schools.

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## 1 Introduction

China's latest NCEE reform, based on trials in Shanghai and Zhejiang, was launched in 2017 in Beijing, Tianjin, Shandong and Hainan, and the four provinces and cities completed the first new NCEE by 2020. Let's comb through the changes in this new round of NCEE and the changes brought to the school.

## 2 The origin of China's new National College Entrance Examination

### 2.1 The old way of college enrollment leads to exam-oriented education

In the past, Chinese college students were divided

into liberal arts students and science students. The liberal arts students were tested on history, geography, politics; science students were tested on mathematics, physics and chemistry, as well as Chinese and foreign languages.

Universities are divided into first class universities, second class universities, third class universities and vocational colleges according to their previous ranking and popularity. Admission scores vary widely from school to school and generally consider the liberal arts, science and university level, do not consider the major. Many high schools in order to let their graduates be able to enter in a better college, instruct students to full fill the application and should obey to allocate.

As a result, many students enter a certain major with knowing nothing about it and many students do not like their major at all. In addition, it is very difficult in Chinese universities to change majors, thus resulting in a considerable proportion of students looking for jobs unrelated to their major after graduation, and a large waste of human resources and educational resources.

### 2.2 The National Innovation and Development Strategy calls for National College Entrance Examination Reform

China is now a country with international influence. But if China wants to become a more powerful country, to realize the Chinese dream, it needs to turn a big country in human resources into a powerful country in human resources. Encourage more people to be more proactive and creative, and to enhance China's overall capacity for innovation. However, the former way of college enrollment has cultivated a large number of college students who do not love

their major, wasted the educational resources of colleges and universities, and also destroyed the creativity of quite a lot of college students. So, for the development of the country, the way of college enrollment in China must be reformed.

### **3 Major changes in China's new National College Entrance Examination**

#### **3.1 Changes on Application for College Entrance and student's File Delivery**

Change the former way of applying for admission by different levels of higher education into "college and major", and abolishing university classification. Highlight subject status of different majors according to the needs of professional development to determine the requirements of students to choose subjects, and announced in advance. In this way, students must consider their own professional development direction in advance, choose their favorite major, determine their choice of subjects, in order to give play to the initiative and creativity of students.

#### **3.2 Changes in college admission standards**

To change the situation of a test for life. The unified college entrance examination and academic level examination results are adopted to refer to the students' comprehensive quality evaluation records. At the same time, the English test can provide two opportunities to take the highest score into the college admission results. The changes are as follows:

Still retain the unified college entrance examination of Chinese, mathematics and foreign languages. Chinese, mathematics and foreign language are worth 150 points each. The full mark for the subject chosen is 100. It can be seen that the state still attaches great importance to Chinese, mathematics and foreign languages.

The national curriculum will be tested for academic achievement. Academic achievement test scores can be used as high school graduation results. Students can choose three of the six subjects of physics, chemistry, biology, politics, history and geography according to their career development direction and subject specialty. Different provinces and cities have their own methods to transfer the grades of the "six choose three" academic level examination results.

Refer to students' comprehensive quality evaluation record. Comprehensive quality evaluation

includes ideological and moral character, academic performance, physical and mental health, interests and specialties, social practice and other contents. It is a comprehensive evaluation of students' overall development, practical ability and innovation potential. Students can choose to record their outstanding achievements and important experiences in the three years of high school. In this way, colleges and universities can refer to the students' test scores when they recruit students, at the same time, they can also see the students' high school style and specialty, which is of reference value to the selection of talents.

#### **3.3 Changes in higher vocational college enrollment**

Higher vocational colleges can directly accept students according to their academic performance test, comprehensive quality evaluation record, and students' career preference test, etc. At present, higher vocational colleges receive more attention from the state and have played a certain role in diversion of students.

### **4 New Changes to High Schools**

#### **4.1 Highlight the importance of Chinese, mathematics and foreign languages**

At present, the importance of Chinese, mathematics and foreign languages has been highlighted, and various measures have been taken to improve the academic performance of these three subjects. For example, increase the Chinese reading guidance, expand the amount of English reading, increase the English listening training. Mathematics poses a new challenge to teachers, because there is no distinction between arts and science, how to fully improve each student's mathematical potential is a challenge to mathematics teachers.

#### **4.2 Help students plan their careers ahead of time**

Because of the implementation of major selection examination, students must consider their future career development direction, so career education has been paid more attention than ever before. Through a variety of activities, such as career interviews, entry of professionals (seniors) into the school, career experience, career summer camp, etc., the school enables students to understand the requirements of the society on the quality of talents, helps students find out the industries they are interested in, and

guides students to decide their future majors based on their own strengths and hobbies, so as to prepare for the examination.

### **4.3 Lead high school learning with career planning**

Once students have a career ideal, they can plan their high school study and life. For example, they can participate in associations related to their career ideal, choose elective courses related to their career ideal, carry out research study related to their career ideal, select examination subjects and strive to build their advantageous subjects to improve their leadership, etc.

### **4.4 Pay more attention to the discipline value and core accomplishment cultivation**

Previously, subject teachers paid more attention to students' scores, now, subject teachers begin to focus on what kind of subject value their subject has, the relationship between this subject and the university major, what are the related occupations with this subject, how can students learn this subject well, and so on. Teachers also consciously introduce the value of the subject and the frontier of its development to students in their classroom teaching, hoping that more students will be interested in the subject they teach.

### **4.5 Examination selection and class departure cause changes in high school teaching and management**

Because of the different subjects that student choose, the school generally carries on the walking class to have the class in the senior two. As a result of their own choice, students are more interested in the subjects they are learning and their initiative in classroom learning is improved. Teachers prepare lessons, work harder in class, and get better results.

Students have changed the status quo of a classroom with a same group of classmates in three years of high school. After the reform, students can come into contact with more new classmates. But it also brings new phenomena and problems in school management. At present, most schools still retain the class system, retain the head teacher, who is responsible for the management of the class students.

However, after the course selection, a relatively fixed teaching class has been formed, and the management of the teaching class is generally in the charge of the teacher. So how to divide their responsibilities, there is still a lack of mature experience.

### **4.6 To promote the all-round development of students through comprehensive quality evaluation**

Comprehensive quality evaluation is an important measure in the new college entrance examination. It is used to record the important events and outstanding achievements of students in ideology and morality, academic performance, physical and mental health, interests and specialties, social practice and other aspects. It is a way to provide colleges and universities with a comprehensive understanding of students. This makes college enrollment should not only refer to students' college entrance examination results, but also refer to students' performance at ordinary times and students' personality specialties.

However, the promotion of comprehensive quality evaluation has been less than ideal, which hinders the thought of protectionism mainly in schools and does not want students to be affected by comprehensive quality evaluation. This idea of protectionism has led to the unreality of comprehensive quality evaluation and the phenomenon of sameness. Fortunately, more and more schools have been able to view the comprehensive quality evaluation correctly, allowing students to record their high school life independently and truly.

In a word, China's new college entrance examination reform is still under way, and the corresponding reform of schools is also under exploration. I believe that our original intention of reform will be gradually realized in our efforts.

## **References**

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