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Middle School in Middle Age

The purpose of this experiment was to determine how much basic Middle School knowledge adults retain and use, through the administration of an online Middle School curriculum test. Twenty-five adult participants were recruited to take the 36 question test, covering basic concepts in math, science, English language arts, and history/geography. My main hypothesis was that adults would not score better than 50% overall. Further hypotheses were made regarding passing rates based on age, gender, education level, profession and whether there was a Middle-schooler in the home. The data collected did not support the main hypothesis, with an overall 71% correct average across all test-takers. Adults did better on the math and science portion of the test, and significantly worse in history/geography across almost all sub-groups studied. As hypothesized, there was no difference between genders. Regarding age, the hypothesis that the older a participant was the less well they would do was correct for math/science. However, it was incorrect with regards to the humanities- the older group did significantly better on the humanities portion of the test. Education level attained gave an advantage, with higher levels of education correlating with better test performance. Profession seemed to provide an advantage in mathematics/science, with adults who characterized themselves as having a career in the Humanities performing no better in the Humanities than other adults. Surprisingly, having a middle schooler in the home was a disadvantage both overall and with regard to the Humanities, but did offer a small advantage in Math and Science.