# AN INVESTIGATION OF THE VALIDITY OF THE GRADUATE RECORD EXAMINATION AND CERTAIN PERSONALITY OR INTEREST TESTS IN PREDICTINE ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE IN THE MANASEVIENAI CURRICULUM OF THE UNITED STATES NAVAL POSTGRADUATE SCHOOL 

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Submitted in fulfillment of the requirements of the course

INDIVIDUAL RESEARCH

MN 400

United States Naval Postgraduate School Monterey, California

1964

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#### Abstract

Certain aptitude and personality tests were given to the 1964 Management Curriculum military officer students of the U. S. Naval Postgraduate School and the scores were correlated with the academic grades received during the first three terms. The results obtained confirm that the Graduate Record Examination is an excellent predictor of academic performance and indicate that neither the Structured Objective Rorschach Test or Allport-Vernon-Lindzey Srudy of Values are useful predictors of academic performance in the Management Curticulum. It is recommended that the Graduate Record Examination be administered to candidates for the Management Curriculum and that Selection Boards be advised of the results to assist in student selection for future classes.


Chapter Title Page
I. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM ..... I
The Problem ..... 1
Definition of Key Terms ..... 1
Aptitude Tests ..... 1
Personality Tests ..... 1
Quality Point Rating (QPR) ..... 1
Master's Level Academic Performance ..... 2
Graduate Record Examination (GRE) ..... 2
Structured Objective Rorschach Text (SORT) ..... 2
"Study of Values" ..... 2
Local Questionnaire ..... 2
Correlation Coefficient ..... 2

- Reliability Coefficient ..... 3
Confidence Level ..... 3
Assumptions ..... 4
Limitations ..... 4
Research Significance ..... 4
II. DESCRIPTION OF INSTRUMENTS ..... 3
Graduate Record Examination-GRE (Aptitude) ..... 5
Structured-Objective Rozschach Test - SORN ..... E
Rorschach Variable Scores ..... z
Study of Values ..... 8
Local Questionnaire ..... 9
III. METHODS, TECHNIQUES, AND PROCEDURES ..... 10
General ..... 10
Correlation Analysis ..... 11
Confidence Limits ..... 12
Regression Analysis ..... 12
IV. RESULTS OF THE STUDY ..... 14
General ..... 14
Test and Questionnaire Results ..... 14
Graduate Record Examination (GRE) ..... 14
Structured Objective Rorschach Test (SORT) ..... 15
Allport-Vernon-Lindzey Study of Values (AVL) ..... 18
Local Questionnaire ..... 20
Correlation Analysis ..... 21
Confidence Limits ..... 22
Regression Analysis ..... 22
Comparison With Prior Years ..... 23
V. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS ..... 29)
Conclusions ..... 23
Recommendations ..... 29
BIBLIOGRAPHY ..... 30
APPENDICES ..... 32


## List of Tables

Table Page
I Management Curriculum Studenis' Ranks, Designators and Military Components ..... 10
II Mean Scores on Graduate Record Examination ..... 15
III Distribution of Scores on 24 SORT Personality Traits ..... 16
IV Mean Scores on 15 SORT Scoring Variables ..... 18
V Distribution of Naval Officer Response to AVL Study of Values Interest Areas ..... 19
VI Comparative Mean Scores on AVL Study of Values ..... 19
VII Coefficients of Linear Correlation Between 24 Test Scores and Third Term QPRs ..... 21
VII Confidence Limits GRE/QPR Correlation Coefficients ..... 22
IX Results of Using a Cut-off Score of 500 on the $G R E(A)$ ..... 24
$X \quad$ Summary of Means and Standard Deviations of AllVariables Included in the Study27
XI Intercorrelation Coefficients for All Variables Included in the Study ..... 28

## List of Illustrations

Figure Page
25
1 Line of Regression Based on 1962 Class
2 Line of Regression Based on 1963 Class ..... 25
3 Line of Regression Based on 1964 Class ..... 26
4 Comparison of Lines of Regression 1962, 1963, and 1964Classes26


## CHAPTER I

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

During the preceding three years, studies have been conducted dealing with coefficients of correlation derived by comparing certain aptitude test scores with academic performance of the students in the Management Curriculum at the U. S. Naval Postgraduate School, Montereyy California. This paper may be considered as the fourth in the series of these correlation studies.

## I. THE PROBLEM

This research study was undertaken to assess the characteristics of the 1964 Management Curriculum class by means of certain aptitude and personality tests and to determine if these tests offer a means of improving the selection of candidates for the Management Curriculum.

## II. DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

Aptitude Tests are tests which are designed to predict ability to learn in a specific area.

Personality Tests are tests which attempt to assess an individual's basic interests or personality characteristics.

Quality Point Rating (QPR) refers to a student's weighted grade score computed from standards established by the Naval Postgraduate School Staff as follows:

| Performance | Grade | Quality Point |
| :--- | :---: | ---: |
| Excellent | A | 3.0 |
| Good | B | 2.0 |
| Fair | C | 1.0 |


| Barely Passing | D | 0.0 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Failure | $X$ | -1.0 |

Multiplying the term hour value of a course by the quality point number received provides the total quality points for that course. Adding the quality points for all courses and dividing by the total number of credit hours results in a figure defined as the quality point rating. For example, if a student received four hours of $A$ and four houts of $B$, his quality point rating would be $2.50(4 \times 3+4 \times 2) \div 8$ hours. Master's Level Academic Performance. To be eligible for a degree of Master of Science in Management, a student must attain a minimum average QPR of 2.00 in postgraduate level courses. Graduate Record Examination (GRE) is a nationally accepted paper and pencil aptitude test designed to predict academic potential at the graduate level.

Structured Objective Rorschach Test (SORT) is a forced response paper and pencil projective ink blot personality test which is designed to appraise vocationally significant temperament traits.

AVL - Study of Values is a paper and pencil personality test which is designed to measure the relative prominence of six basic interests. Local Questionnaire is a questionnaire which was formulated by the authors of this paper for the purpose of ascertaining the general interest of Management students in the curriculum both before and after commencing the course.

Correlation Coefficient is a measure of the degree of relationship between two or more variables, or, in other words, the degree to which variables or measures vary together. Mathematically, the value may

range from a perfect positive correlation ( +1.0 ) through no relationship ( 0.0 ) to a perfect negative correlation ( -1.0 ). When cortelating variables, the coefficients indicate roughly the following strengths of relationships between the variables:

Less than . 20 ........Slight, almost negligible relationship . $20-.40$........ Low correlation, definite but slight relationship $.40-.70$.........Moderate correlation, substantial relationship . 70 - . 90 .........High correlation, marked relationship $.90-1.00$.......Very high correlation, very dependeable relationship Those who employ tests in guidance and selection consider that a correlation coefficient should be at least. 45 for material usefulness and that best results are obtained when the coefficient is above $.60^{1}$. Reliability Coefficient is a measure of the repeatability of the cest results. It is obtained by correlating the test with irself to determine the degree of similarity of results if the test is retaken in the same or alternate form or by splitting the test into halves. A reliability coefficient of at least . 80 is desirable for a test to be considered reliable ${ }^{2}$.

Confidence Level as used in this paper is 95 percent and is the probability that the true correlation coefficient for the entire population lies witho in a given range.
${ }^{1}$ J. P. Guilford, Fundamental Statistics in Psychology and Education (first edition New York and London: McGraw-Hill Book Company, Inc., 1942), p. 219)
${ }^{2}$ Ibid.


The acceptance of standard statistical methods of computing correlation coefficients, confidence limits and lines of regression is assumed. IV. LIMITATIONS

This study is limited to the analysis of course grades through the first three terms of the four term 1963-1964 Management Curriculum because of time limitations. Historically the grades during the third and fourth terms have been higher than those of the first and second terms and this trend is in evidence at the end of the third term. Therefore, it is expected that the final QPR's will be somewhat higher than those reported in this paper.

The practice of alphabetical grade assignment provides a comparative ly coarse indication of student performance. For instance, there is far less difference between $A-$ and $B+$ levels of performance than between At and $B$ - levels of performance, yet the grade assignment would be $A$ and $B$ in both instances. This results in some distortion in the QPRs generated.

## V. RESEARCH SIGNIFICANCE

This study differs from the three which were done previously in that it attempts to determine if the exist any significant correlations between academic performance and interests or personality characteristics of Management Curriculum students.

## CHAPTER II

DESCRIPTION OF INSTRUMENTS

## I. GRADUATE RECORD EXAMINATION-GRE (APTITUDE)

This test is prepared by the Educational Testing Service of Princeton, New Jersey, and is widely used throughout the United States to detexmine student aptitude for postgraduate study. It yields two scores: verbal ability and quantitative ability. Included in the test are verbal reason. ing questions, reading comprehension questions, and various kinds of mathe. matical problems involving arithmetic reasoning, algebra, and the interpretation of graphs, diagrams, and descriptive data.

The table of norms for the GRE (Aptitude) indicates that for 3,035 college seniors the Verbal Ability Test produced a mean score of 492 with a standard deviation of 98. The Quantitative Ability Test had a mean score of 480 and a standard deviation of 94. Established reliabilities for the test are as follows:*

## Test

Verbal

Quantitative

Reliability Coefficient .90 .84
*Score Interpretation Handbook
The GRE is a secure test which is lent to using agencies to be administered under controlled conditions. The GRE (Aptitude) requires a total working time of $2-1 / 2$ hours. All Management Curriculum students completed the aptitude section of the GRE the week prior to the beginning of the School year.

## II. STRUCTURED-OBJECTIVE RORSCHACH TEST-SORT

This is a personality test prepared by the Califormia Test Bureau of Los Angeles, California. The SORT is similar to the traditional unstructure ed Rorschach projective ink blot test in that: (1) the ten original stimulus blots are used; and (2) the same scoring system of area, determinants, and content is employed. However it differs from the traditional Rorschach in that: (1) it is not intended for clinical use but rather as an instrument for assessing temperament tendencies or personality traits; (2) the stimulus responses are provided to the examinee, making the element of suggestion of response an integral part of the test; (3) the total number of responses is fixed, permitting stencil scoring of the answer sheets; and (4) no inquiry of examinee responses is conducted, obviating the need for a trained psychologist.

The scores are obtained from items grouped together in triads to which the examinee responds by choosing the one item of the triad which he perceives to be representative of the ink blot or some part of the blot. The scores obtained from the SORT are grouped according to standard Rorschach scoring techniques. The test produces 15 basic scores which are grouped into four classes as follows:

RORSCHACH VARIABLE SCORES

## Responses to Blot Area

(1) whole blot (W)
(2) major blot details (D)
(3) minor blot details (Dd)
(4) white space (S)

## Determinant Factors

(5) responses closely resembling the form of the stimulus (F)
(6) responses poorly resembling the form of the stimulus ( $\bar{F}^{-}$)
(7) responses involving human movement or posture-tension (M)
(8) responses involving animal movement or posture-tension (FM)
(9) responses involving color and closely resembling the form of the stimulus (FC)
(10) responses involving color and poorly resembling the form of the stimulus (CF)
(11) responses involving textural density of gray or shading (Fch)

## Content Factors

(12) responses involving whole animals or parts of animals (A)
(13) responses involving total human figure or parts of humans (H)

## Statistically Derived Scores

(14) modal responses (P)
(15) rare responses (0)

From these 15 scores, an assessment of 24 different personality traits is derived. A description of the personality traits, which the test pur* ports to measure, was taken from the test manual ${ }^{3}$ and is included as Appendix $C$.

The population on which the SORT norms are based numbers 8,061 adults. Two test-retest studies of the reliability of the 15 variable scores are reported in the test manual. The subjects for these studies were 79 college students and 94 industrial supervisors; the time between administrations
${ }^{3}$ Joics B. Stone, S-O Rorschach Test Manual (preliminary edition; Los Angeles: California Test Bureau, 1958, pp. 15-16.)
was one week. The resulting reliability coefficients were as follows:

| Subjects | Median$\frac{\text { Reliability }}{\text { Colficient Range }}$ <br> $\frac{\text { for } 15 \text { Scores }}{}$ |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| College Students $(N=79)$ | .62 to .90 | .75 |
| Industrial Supervisors $(N=94) .61$ to .84 | .76 |  |

The test manual reports three concurrent validiay studies of the SORT involving more than 4,000 individuals. The 15 scores were variously found to yield meaningful correlations with industrial employee ratings and with grade point averages of college freshmen. In one study invoiving 70 subjects, the supervisory ratings and SORT scores were found to be within nine points of agreement on a 100 point scale, 71 percent of the time.

The SORT takes approximately 30 minutes to administer. It was given to All Management Curriculum students during a regularly scheduled class period during the third term.
III. AVL-STUDY OF VALUES

This is a personality or interest test distributed by the Houghlin Mifflin Company of Boston, Massachusetts. It is designed to measure the relative prominence of six basic interests or motives in personality: theoretical, economic, aesthetic, social, political, and religious. The classification is based directly upon Edward Spanger ${ }^{0}$ s Types of Mer ${ }^{4}$. A more complete description of those attributes which the test purports to measure is included in Appendix D.

The test consists of a number of questions based on a variety of familiar situations to which alternative answers are provided. The examinee

4E. Spanger, Types of Men, translated by Paul J. W. Pigors in Lebensformen (New York: Stechert-Hafuer, Inc., date unknown).
records his preferences numerically and the results are added to deter= mine his relative interest in the six values.

One split-half reliability test of sample size 100 and two test-retest reliability tests of sample sizes 34 and 53 are reported in the test manual with the following results: ${ }^{5}$

## Test

## Reliability Coefficient Mean Range for Six Values

| Split-Halves $(N=100)$ | .84 to .95 | .90 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Test-Retest (1 Mo. interval, $N=34)$ | .77 to .91 | .89 |
| Test-Retest (2 Mo. interval, $N=53)$ | .84 to .93 | .88 |

The test is essentially self-administering and requires about 20 minutes to complete. Of the five Management Curriculum sections, three completed the test during regularly scheduled class periods and the other two sections completed it outside of class.
IV. LOCAL QUESTIONNAIRE

This is an eight question multiple choice questionnaire which was designed by the authors of this paper. A copy of the questions along with a bar graph of the results is included in Appendix E. An attempt was made to structure the questionnaire so that the answers progressed from the highet to the lower motivational level; i.e., the first answer is intended to indicate the highest student motivation and the last answer the lowest student motivation for the Management Curriculum.
${ }^{5}$ Gordon W. Allport, Phillip E. Vernon, and Gardner Lindzey, Study of Values-Manual, Boston: Houghlin Mifflin Company,(1960), pp. 4-5.

CHAPTER III
METHODS, TECHNIQUES, AND PROCEDURES
I. GENERAL

All 99 officer students of the 1964 Management Curriculum constituted the respondents for this study. The pertinent characteristics of the members of the class are listed in Table I. There were no significant differences between the constitution of the 1962, 1963, and 1964 Management classes.

TABLE I
MANAGEMENT CURRICULUM STUDENT RANKS, DESIGNATORS, AND MILITARY COMPONENTS

| Rank/Designator | CDR/LCOL | LCDR | LT | TONAL |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Line (1100) | 13 | 12 | 10 | 35 |
| Line (1310-1350) | 11 | 11 | 3 | 25 |
| Aviation |  |  |  |  |
| Line (1510-1515) <br> (WEDO) |  | 2 | 2 |  |

Line (1610) 1

Communications
Supply (3100) 5
$\begin{array}{llllll}\text { CEC } & \text { 5100) } & 1 & 1 & 3 & 5\end{array}$
MSC (2300) 4
USMC
1 1
USCG
$\overline{32}$
$\frac{3}{43} \quad \frac{1}{24}$
$\frac{4}{99}$

The basic data used in the study includes the scores obtained from academic grades and the aptitude and personality tests previously described.

The academic grades, QPRs, and GRE and personality test scores are
listed in Appendixes $A$ and $B$ opposite student identification numbers which were assigned to preserve anonymity. The data listed in Appendixes $A$ and $B$ was punched onto IBM cards for each student, and by means of a computer program this data was used to generate correlation coefficients. Prediction data was calculated by means of regression analysis and plotting of scatter diagrams.

## II. CORRELATION ANALYSIS

The data listed in Appendixes $A$ and $B$ was punched onto IBM cards, one for each student, as follows:

QPR Total Score

GRE Average Score
GRE Verbal Score

GRE Quantitative Score
15 Rorschach Variable Scores as listed in Chapter II.*

6 Study of Values Scores as listed in Appendix D.

* All Rorschach scores used were raw data scores.

Statistical comparison of this data was achieved through the ProductMoment Method of linear correlation ${ }^{6}$ as follows:

$$
r=\frac{P}{T} \quad \text { Correlation between } X \text { and } Y
$$

Where:

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \mathrm{p}=\frac{\sum(X Y)}{N} \quad \frac{\sum(x) \sum(Y)}{N^{2}}=\text { Product Moment } \\
& \sigma=\text { Standard Deviation } \\
& X=\text { Test Score }
\end{aligned}
$$

6
Frederick Cecil Mills, Statistical Methods Applied to Economics and Business (New York: H. Holt and Company, 1938), P. 368.

$$
\begin{aligned}
& Y=\text { QPR Score } \\
& N=99 \text { (Sample Size) }
\end{aligned}
$$

Arithmetic relationships were programmed for the 1604 Control Data Corporation computer and the desired correlation coefficients, means, variances, and standard deviations thus obtained.
III. CONFIDENCE LIMITS

Confidence limits for the coefficient of correlation of the GRE (A) to QPR were computed from the formula:

$$
\sigma_{r}=\frac{1-r^{2}}{\sqrt{N-1}}
$$

$$
W=\text { Correlation coefficient }
$$

$$
N=\text { Sample size (99) }
$$

$$
\sigma_{W}=\text { standard error of } W
$$

IV. REGRESSION ANALYSIS

Lines of regression and associated standard errors were computed for the purpose of prediction of academic performance based on GRE scores. The lines of regression and associated standard errors were computed from the following formulas:

Standard Error
about Line - $S_{Y}=\sigma_{Y} \sqrt{1-v^{2}}$
of Regression

Where:

$$
\begin{align*}
& Y^{\prime}=\text { Predicted QPR based on test score } X \\
& \gamma=\text { Correlation coefficient GRE (A) to QPR (.6253) } \\
& \sigma_{X}=\text { Standard deviation of QPRs } \tag{.5464}
\end{align*}
$$

```
\(\sigma_{x}=\) standard deviation of GRE (A)s
\(\bar{X}=\) Mean GRE (A)
\(\bar{Y}=\) Mean QPR (third term)
(568.990)
(1.950)
```


## CHAPTER IV

## RESULTS OF THE STUDY

I. GENERAL

As stated initially, this study had two primary purposes. The first was simply to assess the nature of the student population in the Management Curriculum by administering the various personality and aptitude tests described previously. The second (and more practical) objective was to determine whether or not any of the test results could serve as useful predictors of academic success in the Management Curriculum. The results presented in this chapter are organized along the lines of these objectives. First, test results for each test are discussed independently from results on other tests. In the second portion of the chapter, correlations between test results and student performance is discussed. A summary of means and standard deviations for all variables considered is provided at the end of the chapter in Table $X$.
II. TEST AND QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS

GRADUATE RECORD EXAMINATION - (GRE)

Table II provides a comparison of mean scores achieved on the two sections of the GRE (verbal section and quantitative section) by Manage. ment students from 1962 through 1964. Information regarding national norms is also included for purposes of comparison.

The data in Table II indicates that the mean GRE scores of the last three Management classes have been approximately equal. In addition, it indicates that Management students score significantly above national norms for college seniors on both the verbal and quantitative portions of the GRE.
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Mean Scores on GRE

Sample
National Norm** 1962

| Sample Size | Large | 94 | 94 | 99 |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Test |  |  |  |  |
| GRE (Average)* | 49.4 | 56.2 | 55.6 | 56.9 |
| GRE (Verbal) | 48.7 | 52.6 | 51.7 | 54.5 |
| GRE (Quantitative) | 50.0 | 59.7 | 59.5 | 59.3 |

* $1 / 2$ (GRE (V) \& GRE (Q))
**Score Interpretation Leaflet for Students, Eduearional Testing Service, Princeton, New Jersey.

STRUCTURED OBJECTIVE RORSCHACH TEST - (SORT)
Results of the SORT are given in Tables III and IV.
Table III is a distribution of how the naval officers in the sample scored on each of the 24 personality traits measured by the SORT. This table permits comparison of the sample with the normative population of the SORT which consisted of over 8000 adults drawn from diverse occupations. 7

The classifications of High, Above Average, Average, etc., were defined such that the following percentages of the normative population fell into each group:

| High | $7 \%$ |
| :--- | ---: |
| Above Average | $23 \%$ |
| Average | $40 \%$ |
| Below Average | $23 \%$ |
| Low | $7 \%$ |

Since the naval officer sample size was 99 , the number of officers scoring in each category (High, Low, etc.) approximates the percentage

7 Joics B. Stone, op.cit., pp. 4-10.

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in that category. This percentage can then be compared with the normal population percentages listed above. For example, the trait entitled Theoretical shows that nine of the 99 officers scored high, 31 above average, etc.

## TABLE III

Distribution of Scores on 24 SORT Personality Traits

$$
n=99
$$

|  | High | Above Average | Average | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Below } \\ & \text { Aver age } \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | Low |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Normal Percent | 7\% | 23\% | 40\% | 23\% | 2\% |
| TRAITS* |  |  |  |  |  |
| Theoretical | 9 | 31 | 39 | 19 | 1 |
| Practical | 1 | 14 | 62 | 19 | 3 |
| Pedantic | 2 | 19 | 40 | 34 | 4 |
| Induction | 13 | 30 | 36 | 19 | 1 |
| Deduction | 3 | 20 | 61 | 12 | 3 |
| Rigidity | 3 | 43 | 42 | 10 | 1 |
| Structuring | 24 | 34 | 31 | 6 | 4 |
| Concentration | 11 | 30 | 52 | 6 | 0 |
| Range | 2 | 25 | 54 | 18 | 0 |
| Human Relationships | 4 | 28 | 38 | 27 | 2 |
| Popular | 4 | 18 | 49 | 22 | 6 |
| Original | 1 | 4 | 21 | 53 | 20 |
| Persistence | 3 | 43 | 42 | 10 | 1 |
| Aggressiveness | 16 | 40 | 34 | 8 | 1 |
| Social Responsibility | 3 | 23 | 59 | 12 | 2 |
| Cooperation | 1 | 10 | 61 | 26 | 1 |
| Tart | 0 | 11 | 67 | 21 | 0 |
| Confidence | 5 | 20 | 46 | 23 | 5 |
| Consistency-Behavior | 17 | 44 | 31 | 7 | 0 |
| Anxiety | 4 | 18 | 47 | 24 | 6 |
| Moodiness | 0 | 12 | 54 | 26 | 7 |
| Impulsiveness | 0 | 6 | 54 | 27 | 12 |
| Flexibility | 3 | 39 | 54 | 3 | 0 |
| Conformity | 13 | 40 | 34 | 10 | 2 |

*A more detailed description of each personality trait measured by the SORT is contained in Appendix $C$.

## 

nint

Analysis of the figures in Table III reveals that the naval officers in the sample scored high in Induction, Structuring, Concentration, Aggressiveness, Consistency of Behavior and Conformity. Low scores were in evidence for Impulsiveness, Moodiness and Original kesponse.

Table IV lists each scoring variable in the SORT and shows the mean score obtained by the naval officers in the sample, and mean scores of a large diverse group of adults, and of several selected occupational groups. The occupational groups selected are Industrial Supervisors, Industrial Workers, and Salesmen.

TABLE IV
Mean Scores on 15 SORT Scoring Variables


| Sample Size | $n=5024$ | $n=99$ | $n=539$ | $n=1412$ | $n=140$ |
| :---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| W | 31.85 | 36.62 | 36.00 | 30.41 | 32.55 |
| D | 53.66 | 54.53 | 54.14 | 52.73 | 54.20 |
| Dd | 12.80 | 11.68 | 9.64 | 13.62 | 12.35 |
| S | 12.41 | 13.32 | 12.41 | 12.17 | 11.00 |
| F | 27.26 | 29.42 | 30.32 | 27.38 | 26.00 |
| F- | 13.32 | 11.40 | 10.64 | 14.65 | 12.25 |
| M | 8.61 | 9.55 | 9.09 | 8.54 | 7.83 |
| FM | 10.54 | 11.17 | 11.26 | 10.59 | 9.88 |
| FC | 12.72 | 13.51 | 12.55 | 11.41 | 12.75 |
| CF | 7.95 | 68.69 | 7.14 | 8.49 | 8.75 |
| Fch | 16.54 | 17.81 | 15.00 | 16.41 | 18.68 |
| A | 33.15 | 32.81 | 31.25 | 34.76 | 27.98 |
| H | 21.92 | 21.14 | 24.60 | 21.92 | 19.98 |
| P | 57.15 | 57.15 | 57.91 | 57.84 | 44.55 |
| O | 5.03 | 5.92 | 4.37 | 5.12 | 4.43 |

*Data for all columns except naval officers obtained from SORT Test Manal.

A comparison of the scores in Table IV indicates that the average response of the 99 naval officers corresponds quite closely with the average response of industrial supervisors. For example, both naval officers and industrial supervisors are significantly above the composite average in
$-\quad-{ }^{-}$

4itiex
whole blot (W) responses, Form (F), and Form Movement (FM) responses. On the other hand, both groups are below average in categories for Small Detail (Dd), Poor Form (F-) and Poor Form-Color (CF). Similar comparisons with the other occupational groups show that naval officer responses differ markedly from those of industrial workers and salesmen.

The comparison of the naval officer sample with other occupational groups is not in itself particularly useful. This comparison does give considerable insight into the operation of the SORT, however, and provides a better basis for interpreting scores. Common sense would probably lead one to believe that in their jobs, naval officers are more akin to industrial supervisors than to either industrial workers or salesmen. Test results which coincide with this assessment indicate that the SORT is capable of separating people into groups with meaningful characteristics from a practical viewpoint. This comparison also points up the possibility of using the SORT as a vocational guidance and/or selection tool.

The comparison with the industrial supervisor group tends to temper the results of Table III regarding naval officers. When compared with supervisors, the high naval officer scores for Aggressiveness, Structured Thought, Conformity, etc., do not seem particularly extreme. Apparently there is some tendency for college graduates to exhibit these characteristics, and a strong tendency for people in supervisory positions to exhibit them.

## ALLPORT-VERNON-LINDZEY STUDY OF VALUES (AVL)

Results of the AVL - Study of Values are given in Tables $V$ and VI. Table $V$ is similar to Table III for the SORT wherein each interest area is listed and naval officer responses classified into categories of High, Low, etc. Normal population percentages which are listed are different

from those in Table III however.
TABLE V

```
Distribution of Naval Officer Response to AVL
    Study of Values Interest Areas
    n = 99
```

|  | High | Above <br> Average | Average | Below <br> Average | Low |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Normal Percentage | $9 \%$ | $16 \%$ | $50 \%$ | $16 \%$ | $9 \%$ |
| INTEREST AREAS |  |  |  |  |  |
| Theoretical | 2 | 11 | 60 | 20 | 6 |
| Economic | 14 | 25 | 46 | 10 | 4 |
| Aesthetic | 7 | 16 | 44 | 20 | 7 |
| Social | 5 | 5 | 45 | 24 | 20 |
| Political | 19 | 31 | 34 | 11 | 4 |
| Religious | 6 | 16 | 53 | 14 | 10 |

Comparative mean scores for the naval officer sample, college males
and a group of Air Force officers are listed in Table VI.
TABLE VI
Comparative Mean Scores on AVL Study of Values
Naval Officers
College Males* Air Force Officers*
Sample Size $\quad n=99 \quad n=5,894 \quad n=61$
INTEREST AREAS
$\begin{array}{lll}\text { Theoretical } & 42.19 & 43.09\end{array}$
Economic
Aesthetic
45.90

Social
Political
33.62

Religious $37.08 \quad 37.88 \quad 37.26$
*Data obtained from Allport-Vernon-Lindzey Study of Values Manual. Houghlin Mifflin Company, Boston.

The results in Tables V and VI do not reveal any marked differences between naval officers in the sample and the normative population. It should be noted that the AVL was standardized on a group of college students, however, so more homcgeneity might be anticipated than in the case of the SORT which was standardized on a more diverse population.


There does appear to be some tendency for naval officers to score high on the Political and Economic scales and low on the socitu scale. (A description of interest area titles is contained in Appendix D.) it is also interesting to note the close correspondence berween mean scores for naval officers and the sample of 61 Air Force officers.

## LOCAL QUESTIONNAIRE

At the end of the first and second terms of the Management course the student QPRs were somewhat lower than those of previous years. Ins seeking the reason for the lower performance the question of student motivetion arose. Consequently, the local questionnaire was promulgated during the third term to obtain a subjective indication of the interest of the Management students in the curriculum.

The results obtained from the local questionnaires of 98 students are depicted on bar graphs in Appendix E. The bar graphs illustrate the following:

Graph E-1 88 Students requested assignment to the Management Curriculum as first or lesser choice.

Graph E-2 54 Students found the course at least fairly close to what they expected.

Graph E-3 57 Students were highly elated to receive orders to the Management Curriculum and only one was disappointed.

Graph E-4 65 Students probably or definitely would have chosen to remain in the Management Curriculum if they had been given the option of reassignment at the end of the first term.

Graph E-5 At receipt of orders to the Management Curriculum 80 students considered that completion would enhance their promotion potential.

Graph E-6 At the time of completion of the local questionnaire only 51 students considered that assignment to the Management Curriculum had enhanced their promotion potential.

Graph E-7 At receipt of orders to the Management Curriculum 82 students considered that completion would greatly enhance their "on the job" performance in the furure.

Graph E-8 At completion of the local questionmaite only 65 students considered that assignment to the Management Curriculum would greatly benefit their "on the job" performance in the future.

From these results it appears that the motivation of the current students is generally good. From the shift it distributions between graphs E-5 and E-6 and between E-7 and E-8 it may be inferred that there wes a reduction in motivation between order receipt and local questionnare completion.
III. CORRELATION ANALYSTS

Table VIIlists correlation coefficients for all rest score variables against the third term QPR. (A complete intercorrelation table of all variables included in the study is included at the end of the chapter in Table XI.)

TABLE VII
Coefficients of Linear Correlation Between 24
Test Scores and Third Term QPRs

| Test Score | Coeff. of Correlation | Test | Score | Coeff. of Correlation |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| GRE (A) | . 625 | SORT | CF | . 060 |
| GRE (V) | . 453 | " | Fch | -. 095 |
| GRE (Q) | . 552 | " | A | -. 161 |
| SORT W | -. 215 | " | H | . 040 |
| 1 D | . 196 | " | P | -. 039 |
| " Dd | . 060 | 11 | 0 | . 056 |
| " S | . 104 | AVL | T | . 184 |
| " F | . 104 | ${ }^{1 /}$ | E | -. 140 |
| " F- | -. 097 | " | A | . 156 |
| 1 M | . 101 | " | S | . .061 |
| " FM | -. 074 | 1 | P | -. 214 |
| " FC | -. 052 | " | R | . 073 |

As mentioned previously, a correlation coefficient of approximately


Hitiv Hin

Hen $11 \times$<br>42"<br>-

$\pm$ Hine
.45 or higher is considered necessary if test scores are to be useful for predictive work. ${ }^{8}$ The Graduate Record Exams are the only test scores with correlation coefficients over . 45. It does not appear that scores on SORT or AVL factors are by themselves useful for predicting academic success in the Management Curriculum.

## CONFIDENCE LIMITS

The $95 \%$ confidence limits on correlation coefficients of the CRE scores against third term $Q P R^{\circ}$ s are as follows:

TABLE VIII
Confidence Limits GRE/QPR Correlation Coefficients

| Test | Correlation <br> Coefficient | $95 \%$ Confidence | Ramge of |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| GRE (Verbal) | .4529 | Limit | Limits |
| GRE (Quantitative) | .5524 | $\pm .1574$ | $.6103--. .3955$ |
| GRE (Average) | .6253 | $\pm .1376$ | $.6900 \cdots \cdots .4148$ |

In view of the confidence limits in Table VIII, there can be little doubt but that the GRE score is an excellent predictor of acedemic success in the Management Curriculum.

## REGRESSION ANALYSIS

Having established the GRE as a good predictor of academic success, a line of regression with associated standard error was computed in accordance with the procedure described in Chapter IIT. This resulled in the following line of regression and standard exror about the line:

$$
\begin{aligned}
& Y=0.00466 X-0.702 \\
& \text { and } S Y=0.4264
\end{aligned}
$$

Figure 3 page 26 depicts the line of regression of the GRE(A) against the QPR.
${ }^{8}$ J. P. Guilford, loc cit.

## COMPARISON WITH PRIOR YEARS

In their study of the 1963 Management class, Kauder and Ebert computed lines of regression for the 1962 and 1963 classes. 9 These lines are reproduced herein (with modification of scale) as Figures 1 and 2. (Page 25 ). Kauder and Ebert noted the very marked shift that took place in the line of regression between 1962 and 1963 . This shift has continued and become more pronounced in 1964. Figure 4 (Page 26) provides a comparison of these lines for the past three years.

Kauder and Ebert concluded that the $62 / 63$ shift occurred because the faculty had raised its grading standards in 1963. There can be little doubt but that their conclusion was correct. It is also apparent at this time that grading standards were again raised in 1964. As was pointed out earlier, the GRE scores of the last three classes have been approximately equal and yet the average third term QPR has declined steadily each year. Comparative mean third term QPRs are as follows:

| Year | Mean QPR |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1962 | - | 2.33 |
| 1963 | - | 2.17 |
| 1964 | - | 1.95 |

It appears that the predictive ability of the GRE is Improving as the grading standards become more stringent. This is illustrated by the fact that the correlation coefficient between the $Q P R$ and $C R E$ has increased in
${ }^{9}$ Robert Kauder and Scott W. Ebert, "An Investigation of the Validity of Certain Aptitude Tests in Predicting Academic Performance in the Navy Management Curriculum at the United States Naval Postgraduate School", (Unpublished Research paper, U. S. Naval Postgraduate Schoo1, Monterey, 1963) pp. 2628.
each of the last three years as indicated below:

| Year Correlation Coefficient |  |
| :--- | ---: |
| 1962 | .4839 |
| 1963 | .5826 |
| 1964 | .6250 |

The constantly shifting line of regression makes it difficult to establish a cut-off score on the GRE that could be utilized for selection of applicants for the Management Curriculum. With such a shifting line it is impossible to take a strict statistical approach and predict with confidence that if a cut-off of some certain score were established, a certain percentage of incoming students would attain a QPR of 2.00 or better. Despite this difficulty, the authors believe that a low cut-off on the GRE (probably around 500) could be used to advantage. For example, hå such a cut-off been used in 1963 and 1964, the following would have occurred:

TABLE IX

## Results of Using a Cut-off Score of 500 on the GRE (A)

|  | $\frac{1963}{}$ | 1964 |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Students eliminated by 500 cut-off on GRE (A) | 25 | $19 *$ |
| Number eliminated with QPR above 2.00 (3rd term) | 9 | 3 |
| Number eliminated with QPR below 2.00 (3rd term) | 16 | $16 \pi$ |
| \% of total class below 2.00 before cut | $32 \%$ | $52 \%$ |
| \% of total class below 2.00 after cut | $07 \%$ | $41 \%$ |

*Includes 2 students who dropped out of school prior to the 3 rd term.
As may be noted from Table IX, a cut-off of 500 on the GRE (A) would have resulted in dramatic improvement in 1963 academic achievement but also would have eliminated 9 students with QPRs over 2.00. In 1964 only 3 students over 2.00 would have been eliminated, but having $41 \%$ of the class still remaining below 2.00 is an unsatisfactory condition. Nevertheless,

LINE OF REGRESSION

$$
\text { BASED ON } 1962 \text { CLASS }(\mathrm{n}=92)
$$



LINE OF REGRESSION


BASED ON 1964 CLASS ( $n=99$ )


COMPARISON OF LINES OF REGRESSION

replacing 16 officers with QPRs below 2.00 by 16 other selectees with much higher probability of achieving a saxisfactory QPR would still seem to be a highly desirable outcome.

## TABLE X

```
Summary of Means and Standard Deviations
    of All Variables Included in the Study
    \(n=99\)
```

| QPR (3rd term) | 1.95 | 0.55 |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
| GRE (Average) | 56.90 | 7.33 |
| GRE (Verbal) | 54.53 | 8.75 |
| GRE (Quantitative) | 59.33 | 9.45 |
| SORT W | 33.53 | 5.51 |
| " | D | 54.53 |
| " | Dd | 11.68 |
| " | S | 13.32 |
| " | F | 29.42 |
| " | F- | 11.40 |
| " | M | 9.55 |
| " | FM | 11.19 |
| " | FC | 13.51 |
| " | CF | 5.87 |
| " | FCh | 17.81 |
| " | A | 32.81 |
| " | H | 21.14 |
| " | P | 57.15 |
| " | O | 5.92 |
| AVL | T | 42.19 |
| " | E | 45.90 |
| " | A | 34.52 |
| " | S | 33.66 |
| " | P | 46.52 |
| " | R | 37.08 |




## CHAPTER V

## CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

I. CONCLUSIONS
A. The Graduate Record Exam is an excellent predictor of academic performance in the Management Curriculum. This conclusion has held for three successive classes under various grading standards.
B. The higher the grading standards, the greater the predictive ability of the GRE.
C. Neither the SORT nor AVL Study of Values are by themselves use. ful predictors of academic success in the Management Curriculum. the possibility of combining scores on these tests in various combinations or with the GRE to obtain higher correlation than with the GRE alone was not investigated.

## II. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:
A. The GRE be administered to the candidates for the Management Curriculum.
B. Selection Boards be informed of candidatestscores on the GRE and be advised that applicants with an average GRE score of less than 500 have a low probability of successfully completing the curriculum.

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APPENDICES


ACADEMIC AND GRADUATE RECORD EXAMYNATION SCORES



ACADEMIC.AND GRADUATE RECORD EXAMINATION SCORES

ACADEMIC. AND GRADUATE RECORD EXAMINATION SCORES

ACADEMIC.AND GRADUATE RECORD EXAMINATION SCORES

ACADEMIC.AND GRADUATE RECORD EXAMINATION SCORES




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Rorschach and Study of Values Scores


Rorschach and Study of Values Scores



Rorschach and Study of Values Scores

Rorschach and Study of Values Scores


General: Scores in Mental Functioning and Temperament factors are expressions of the degree of the factor relative to scores generally distributed in the population. That is, high scores and those above average do not imply a degree that is "good," "bad," "healthy," or "advantageous." A high score simply indicates that the examinee has made more responses than the typical individual to a particular variable. The evaluative interpretation (high or low) depends upon the nature of the factor and its contribution to the individual's life.

MENTAL FUNCTIONING
Intellectual level does not necessarily reflect intellectual performance. It is desirable to know such features as the type of approach to intellectual situations used, adaptability to the reasoning processes, flexibility of ideas, and ability to organize (structure) mental processes.

Theoretical (W): Facility for thinking in broad, general, or abstract terms; facility for getting perspective, visualizing the overall picture, and seeing relationships between the parts.

Practical (D): Tendency for thirking or attacking problems on the basis of practical, concrete, or very definite details.

Pedantic (Dd): Preference for thinking and attacking problems from the standpoint of fine, minute details; tendency to be perfectionistic and to focus on precise, sometimes trivial details.

Induction (W:M): Facility for logical thinking based upon inferences from elements; utilization of their accumulative synthesis to lead to conclusions, principles, or generalizations; ability to organize details into a meaningful whole.

Deduction (D:M): Readiness to employ the logical approach in which established or speculative theories, principles, or generalizations are applied to data or details for the purpose of analyzing their relationships to one another (and to the principle probably involved). A balance between facilities for inductive and deductive thinking, especially when both are high, would point toward a mental adapriveness or "efficiency" wherein such intellectual potential as the individual has is the more ef fective because of versatility in logical processes.

Rigidity (S): Tendency toward the dogmatic or toward fixed ideas. Higher scores suggest an unwillingness to change a point of view in spire of evidence to the contrary; low scores suggest an uncritical acceptance of others' viewpoints.

Structuring (F): Facility for mental alertness and precision and exactitude in perception of reality. Occasionally this relates to a somewhat rigid and formalistic way of solving problems, but usually indicates an
awareness of and conformity to the environment and its demands.
Concentration ( $F-: F$ ): Capacity for attending to the task at frand or for avoiding distractions from one's environment or from one's own extraneous thoughts.

## REDUCTIVES

Factors that result in lowering intellectual performance below one's mental potential are called Reductives and are listed below.

Low Generalization (Low W): The Theoretical (W) factor rates so low that attention to principles, perspectives, or theoreicical implications is difficult.

Perfectionism (High Dd): The Pedantic (Dd) factor is so extremaly high that thought is lost in a welter of preoccuparion with minutiae.

Poor Control (High F-): The preponderance of "r-" in the Concentration factor is such that thought is not channeled readily into effective processes.

High Anxiety (High Fch): The Anxiety (Fch) factor is so high that acceptance of one's own conclusions is difficult; as a result, the ability to "think a thing through" is impaired. Excessive worry and feelings of insecurity or incapacity may be dominant.

Compulsivity (High $S, F$, and $D$ ): A combination of the structuring (F), Rigidity (S), and Pedantic (Dd) factors is of such magnitude that needless repetition, excessive exactness, and unreal conformity result in preventing the full mental processes from proceeding to a logical conclusion.

## INTERESTS

These facets of behavior refer to the range of reactions to perceptual experience. Sensitivity to a variety of kinds of percepts implies a broader range of interests than does a paucity of percept-types.

Range (H:P::A): Tendency of interest to be either expansive or to be narrow and confined.

Human Relationships (H): Disposition toward the perception of and attention to elements having human connotations.

## RESPONSIVENESS

Two frames of reference are involved here. The first dewives from the modality of responses, the second from the frequency of responses. It is assumed that responses to items most frequently seen by the majorley of the normative group are indicative of conformity. Conversely, consistent selection of rarely observed items implies a disposition toward uniqueness.

Popular (P): Tendency to perceive the same features in the same way as others; to see things as other persons do; empathic tendencies.

Original ( 0 ): Disposition to perceive the unique, the different, and the non-conforming, perhaps even the eccentric; emphasis on individualism of actions.

## TEMPERAMENT

The attributes listed under this heading relate largely to deep inner feeling, for which there often are compensations in outwardly observed behavior. Many of the compensations can become occupational advantages.

Persistence (S): The determination not to deviate from a set course. It may appear as doggedness or stick-to-itiveness. It can range from inability to stick to or complete a task along to the further extreme of stubborness, defiance, or contentiousness.

Aggressiveness ( $F: M$ ): The aspiration toward goals by means of wellaccepted and morally developed procedures; willingness and desire to work: sense of a mature self-control with social conformity.

Social Responsibility (FC:M): Willingness to subserve oneself, even though no personal gains are evident; energetic acceptance of one ${ }^{0}$ s obligations to himself, to his family, and to society.

Cooperation (CF:FC): Willingness to use a teamwork approach; sensitivity toward others in combination with appreciation and responsiveness in human relationships. Willingness to submerge one's immediate needs to the long-range interests of other persons is implied.

Tact (FM:FC:M): Control of impulses and biases; maturity expressed in the ability to maintain a stable relationship with superiors, peers, and inferiors. There is balance between inner impulses, conscious self-control. and demands of the social environment.

Confidence (FM:M): Ego-strength, self-confidence, morale; inner feelings of inferiority to strong feelings of self-assurance. It implies ability to withstand stresses and strains and to maintain feelings of selfworth (prestige) in the face of adversity.

Consistency of Behavior (F::S:Fch): Predictability of actions; tendency for characteristic behavior patterns to be stable and well established.

Anxiety (Fch): Generalized apprehensiveness, uneasiness, or intexnal disquietude; self-concern and preoccupation with personal well-being, feelings, emotions, and sensations, resulting from a feeling of insecurity. A low anxiety score indicates composure; however, excessive composure, of almost complete absence of anxiety, may indicate a tendency to smother feelings to the point of seeming cold and insensitive. Anxiety may reo flect itself in feelings of insecurity, expressions of inadequacy, of constriction of behavior; it may also reflect itself in erratic behavior.

Moodiness (F-:FM: :F:M): Sharp fluctuations in mood, ranging from elation to depression. The intensity and duration of either phase may vary greatly.

Activity Potential (M): Control of emotional energy; energy endowment; capacity to follow through on a planned course of action; concentration of energies in a given direction, as opposed to dissipation of strength in non-productive channels.

Impulsiveness ( $F-: F$ ): Tendency to act upon impulse rather than on the basis of a considered plan; reflected in spur-of-the-moment decisions.

Flexibility (M::FC:CF): Adaptability; faculty for accepting and handling most life situations in a mature manner; capacity to adjust readily from one type of situation to another.

Conformity ( $0: P$ ): Tendency to accept and be directed by the socially accepted codes, customs, and mores.

SIX BASIC INTERESTS OR MOTIVES IN PERSONAIITY WHICH THE "STUDY OF VALUES" SEEKS TO MEASURE

1. The Theoretical. The dominant interest of the theoretical man is the discovery of truth. In the pursuit of this goal he characteristically takes a "cognitive" attitude, one that looks for identities and differences, one that divests itself of judgments regarding the beavey or utility of objects, and ceeks only to observe and to reason. Since the interests of the theoretical man are empirical, critical, and rational, he is necessarily an intellectualist, frequently a scientist or philosopher. His chief aim in life is to order and systematize his knowledge.
2. The Economic. The economic man is characteristically interested in what is useful. Based originally upon the satisfaction of bodily needs (self-preservation), the interest in utilities develops to embrace the practical affairs of the business world -- the production, marketing, and consumption of goods, the elaboration of credit, and the accumulation of tangible wentth. This type is thoroughly "practical" and conforms well to the prevailing stereotype of the average American businessman.

The economic attitude frequently comes into conflict with other values. The economic man wants education to be practical, and regards unapplied knowledge as waste. Great feats of engineering and application result from the demands economic men make upon science. The value of utility likewise conflicts with the aesthetic value, except when art serves commercial ends. In his personal life the economic man is likely to confuse luxury with beauty. In his relations with people he is more likely to be interested in surpassing them in wealth than in dominating them (political attitude) or in serving them (social attitude). In some cases the economic man may be said to make his religion the worshin of Mammon. In uther instances, however, he may have regard for the traditional God, but inclines to consider Him as the giver of good gifts, of wealth, prosperity, and othex tangible blessings.
3. The Aesthetic. The aesthetic man sees his highest value in form and harmony. Each single experience is judged from the standpoint of grace, symmetry, or fitness. He regards life as a procession of events; each single impression is enjoyed for its own sake. He need not be a creative artist, nor need he be effete; he is aesthetic if he but finds his chief interest in the artistic episodes of life.

The aesthetic attitude is, in a sense, diametrically opposed to the theoretical; the former is concerned with the diversity, and the latter with the identities of experience. The aesthetic man either chooses, with Keats, to consider truth as equivalent to beauty, or agrees with Mencker, that "to make a thing charming is a million times more important than to make it true." In the economic sphere the aesthete sees the process of manufacturing, advertising, and trade as a wholesale destruction of the values most important to him. In social affairs he may be said to be interested in persons but not in the welfare of persons; he tends toward individualism and self-sufficiency. Aesthetic people often like the
beautiful insignia of pomp and power, but oppose political actiwity when it makes for the repression of individuality. In the field of religion they are likely to confuse beauty with purer religious experience.
4. The Social. The highest value for this type is lave of people. In the "Study of Values" it is the altruistic or philanthropic aspect of love that is measured. The social man prizes other persons as ends, and is therefore himself kind, sympathetic, and unselfish. He is likely to find the theoretical, economic, and aesthetic attitudes cold and inhuman. In contrast to the political type, the social man regards love as itself the only suitable form of human relationship. Spranger adds that in its purest form the social interest is selfless and tends to approach very closely to the religious attitude.
5. The Political. The political man is interested primarily in power. His activities are not necessarily within the narrow field of politics; but whatever his vocation, he betrays himself as a Machtmensch. Leaders in any field generally have high power value. Since competition and struggle play a large part in all life, many philosophers have sean power as the most universal and most fundamental of motives. There are, however, certain personalities in whom the desire for a direct expression of this motive is uppermost, who wish above all else for personal power, influence, and renown.
6. The Religious. The highest value of the religious man may be called unity. He is mystical, and seeks to comprehend the cosmos as a wholes to relate himself to its embracing totality. Spranger defines the riligious man as on "whose mental structure is permanently directed to the creation of the highest and absolutely satisfying value experience." Some men of this type are "immanent mystics," that is, they find their religious experi~ ence in the affirmation of life and in active participation therein. A Faust with his zest and enthusiasm sees something divine in every event. The "transcendental mystic," on the other hand, seeks to unite himself with a higher reality by withdrawing from life; he is the aescetic, and, like the holy men of India, finds the experience of unity through self-denial and meditation. In many individuals the negation and affirmation of life alternate to yield the greatest satisfaction.

Q. 1. Did you request assignment to Mgmt Postgraduate Schools
(1) Yes, as first choice on data card and in addition I contacted ny detailer to urge assignment to the School.
(2) Yes, as first choice on data card.
(3) Yes, as second or lower choice on data card.
(4) No
(5) No, and I made a specific attempt not to be assigned.

Q. 2. Does the course content of the Mgmt curriculum correspond to what you expected at the time you requested assignment?
(1) Course content is very close to what I expected.
(2) Course content is fairly close to what I expected.
(3) Content is considerably different from what I expected.
(4) Course content is not at all what I expected.
(5) I didn't know anything about the course when I requested assignment.

LOCAL QUESTIONAIRE BAR GRAPHS

Q. 4. If you were given the option at the end of the first term of continuing in the ligmt curriculum or of being reassigned:
(1) I would definitely choose to remain in school.
(2) I would probably choose to remain in Mgmt School.
(3) I would have been indiferent as to the choice.
(4) I would probably choose to be reassigned.
(5) I would definitely choose to be reassigned.

LOCAL QUESTIONAIRE BAR GRAPHS

Q. 5. At the time you received orders to Management Schooi, did you feel that completion of the school would enhance your promos tion potential or be a detriment?

Greatly Enhance $\frac{11 / 1 / 1}{12345}$ Be Detrimental

Q. 6. At this time do you feel that assignment to the Mgmt School has enhanced your promotion potential or has been detrimental?

$$
\begin{gathered}
\text { Greatly Enhanced } \frac{11 L L L}{12345} \text { Been Detrimental } \\
\text { APPENDIX E }
\end{gathered}
$$

LOCAL QUESTIONAIRE BAR GRAPHS

Q. 7. At the time you received crders to ligmt School did you feel that completion would benefit your "on the job" performance in future duty assignments?

$$
\text { Be of Great Eenefit } \frac{L 1 L L L}{12345} \text { Be of Very }
$$



Questions
Q. 8. At this time do you feel that attendence at Management School will benefit your "on the job" performance in future duty assigments?

$$
\begin{gathered}
\text { Be of Great Benefit } \frac{L 1}{123} 1 \frac{1}{1} 1 / \begin{array}{l}
\text { Be of Very } \\
\text { Little Value }
\end{array} \\
\text { APPENDIX E } \\
62
\end{gathered}
$$

