# Scholastic Records and Personality and Character Traits of the Public-school Trained and the Parochial-trained Students of the Graduating Class of 1952, Central High School, Aberdeen, South Dakota 

John J. Woodruff

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by<br>John J. Woodruff

A Problem submitted to the Faculty of the South Dakota State College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts
in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree of Master of Science

July, 1953

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## SECTICAT I

## INTRODUCTION

## Justification of the Stury

For many years at Aberdeen, South Dakota, a difference of opinion has existed regarcing the relative academic achlevenert, rank in class, and socied edjuctrients of the students in the pulalic-cchool system shd the perochiel-schosl system.

The adivecates of the two school systers have based their opinions on cbservations crly and without the benefit of statistical evidence. To present imartial evidence upon which the proparents hay form a more logical corclvaion wes the purpose of the investienator.

## Statement of the Problen

The purpose of this study was to compare the students who had received the first nine jears of their training in a parochiel school with those who hed received their training in a public school to see if there were any statistical differences in their performance during the last three jears of their high-school training in the public school. They were comperad in mental ability, acaderic achievement, rark in class, and social ability development by the investigation of the highschool records of the graduating class of 1952. The school performances made by these students grouped into their respective origins were the records used in making the comparisons.

Since the two schools operate similarly through the first rive grades, the investigator felt that the situation was ideal for a compurison. The parochial-school system offers six years of elemertery
school and three jears of junior high school. The parochial students then complete their education in the three jear public-high school. The public schools of Aberdeen are arranged in accordance with the 6-3-3 plan; consequently, the students from both school systems begin their high schoal at the tenth grade in the public school.

## Objectives of the Study

The general objectives of this study were to note if there were any significant differences of performances in the two groupe. The specific objectives are stated belows
(1) To make a comparison of the means of the mental ability of the groups studied.
(2) To make comparisons of the means of achievement as measured by marks in Fraglish, science, history, and mathematics.
(3) To make a comparison of the means of the rank in class of the groups investigated.
(4) To make a comparison of the means of the astre-class activity participation.
(5) To make comparisons of the means of the personality and character rating given to the students by the teachers in high school, in-so-far as the school rating system eristed.

## Delimitation of the Problem

The foregoing objectives served as a besis for the delimitation of the problem. These objectives were lymited to two areass the academic
area and the social area of each student. The investigator indited the data to the available records of the graduating class of 1952. At no time were tests or measurements of any hind employed in this study except those recorded in the records.

## SECTION II

## PROCEDORT

## Groups Used

The two groups used in this study mas be referred to as publicachool trained and parochial-school trained.

The public-school group of ninety-four students attended the Aberdeen city schoals during the six years of elementary training and during the three years of junior high schoal. The students in this group hed their entire training in the public schools of Aberdeen. Those transferfing in to the system from rural schools, other localities, and parochial schoals were discarded.

The parochial-school group of forty-nine students attended the Aberdeen Catholic schools during the six years of elementary training and during the three jears of junior high school. The otudents in this group had their entire training in the Aberdeen parochial schoals; and those that had transferred in to the schools from rural schools, parochial schools of other localities, or fram the public schools were discanded.

## Sources of Information

The evidence for these two groups was obtained from the recoris of the graduating class of 1952, at Aberdeen, South Dakota, (Soe appendix 1 and B). The data obtained from the Permanent Record and the Personality and Character Rating card were used directly in this study.

## The Mothods of Tabulation

In the scholastic achievement area the data for each student were recorded first in columar form with the number of $A, B, C, D$, and $F$ marks
a student received in each of the basic subjects over the three year period in high school. Then the mean of the mental ability tests: namely, Otis and the California Mental Ability, was computed and entered in the student's colum. The student's rank in class, which had already been computed and recarded in the Permenent Recard card, was also entered on this columar form.

In an attempt to have some kind of measurement of the social adjustment, the number of activities in which a student participated was entered into flive separate colums: student government, music, speech, athletics, and teacher halp. Instead of treating each activity separately, the investigator totalled the number of activities in which the student had participated during the three years of high school. The ratings on the Personality and Character Rating card, in-so-far as the school rating system existed, were recorded in colnmar form. The number of teachers awarding a certain degree of achievement in each personality and character trait was also recarded.

In the scholastic attainment and the social adjustment areas a second tabulation (see $\Delta$ ppendix F) of each student was then initiated using percentages for the ranking of each student in the basic subjects and in the parsonality and character ratings. Each subject mark was assigned a numerical value, four for an $A$, three for a $B$, two for a $C$, one for a $D$, and zaro for a F. This total of numerical values, then, represented the mark achievement in this subject. The total number of semesters completed in a subject by the student was then multiplied by four to make up a total possible numerical achievement. This ratio
between the numerical value of marks actually attained over the total possible numerical achievement was then maltiplied by one-mandred to obtain the percentage. This procedure was also followed in the personality and character ratings given to the students. Four for excellent, three for above average, two for average, one for below average, and zero for poor. The same arithmetical process as used in computing the percen pages of the marks was then empioyed. This tabulation was necessary because of the fact that the number of semesters required to complete a major or a minor in the student's field varied. The number of teachers rating students in personality and character traits also varied.

These data were treated statistically by the use of the "t" test of significance. In general, this "t" test of significance indicates whether or not a difference of means is statistically significant.

## The "t Test of significance

Fl sher's "t" test was used in this investigation as it vas recomended for "... the comparison of the performence of different groups undar similar situations". I This "t" value technique was found to be acceptable in educational research in comparable studies. The 5\% level of significance was arbitrarily chosen. It was believed that for purposes of this study the test at the $5 \%$ level was rigorous enough to impose upon the data.

If the investigator had found a value of "t" indicating that there was a difference in means at the $5 \%$ level of significance, then he had

[^0]a $95 \%$ chance of being correct in the assumption that a statistically significant difference of means existed. In other words, when a difference of means is significant at the $5 \%$ level, there is only one chance in twenty that differences between means of this magnitude could have been caused by the operation of sampling error alone. If there was indicated any computed "t" score value of less than the tabular "t" value at the 5\% level, the difference was not considered significant. When the calculated "t" score value equaled or exceeded the tabular value of "t" at the $5 \%$ level, the difference between means was considered significant.

The following formula was used in the computation of the "t" score value form in this study ${ }^{2}$ (see Appendix D).

$$
t=\frac{\bar{x}_{1}-\bar{x}_{2}}{\bar{\sigma}_{1}-\bar{x}_{2}}
$$

When

$$
\tilde{\sigma}_{\bar{x}_{1}-\bar{x}_{2}}^{\sim}=\sqrt{\frac{s_{1}^{2}}{N-1}+\frac{s_{2}^{2}}{N-1}}
$$

When

$$
S^{2}=\frac{\sum x^{2}}{N}-(\bar{x})^{2}
$$

When

$$
\bar{X}=\frac{\Sigma x}{N}
$$

## SECTION III

## TREATMENT OF DATA

In the following five tables of statistical computations the investigator has followed the same plan far each one. The tables show the means and difference of means; and with the exception of rank in class, the computed "t" score and the nt" value at the $5 \%$ level of signiflcance. The brief discussion shows the difference of the means found and summarizes the results.

Montal fbility as the Basis Dpon Which the Groups Are Compared
The mean of the two mental ability tests; the Otis and the Califarnia Mental Ability, was used to compare the public-school trained and the parochial-school trained students in respect to I. Q. scares. The "t" test of the difference of means at the $5 \%$ level of signiflcance proved to be insignificant.

Table I. I. Q. as the Measure of Mental Ability

| Area | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Parochial- } \\ & \text { Tralned } \\ & \text { Mean } \end{aligned}$ | PublicTrained Meen | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Difference } \\ & \text { of } \\ & \text { Means } \end{aligned}$ | Computed ( $\mathrm{n}_{\mathrm{t}}$ | Value of ${ }^{\text {tix }}$ 5\% level of Significance |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| I. Q* | 104.34 | 107.67 | 3.35 | 1.871 | 1.976 |

The "t" score computed from the mans and variance of the groups compared was 1.87. Fisher's table (see Appendix D) at the $5 \%$ value at 140 degrees of freedon ${ }^{3}$ produces the value of 1.976 . The compated nt" score was less than the value at the $5 \%$ level of significance; therefore,

3 R. L. C. Butsch, How to Resd Statigtics, Bruce Publiohing Company, Milwankee, 1946, p. 159.
there was no gignificant difference in the mental abilities of the two groups.

The difference of means of 3.35 was based on the normal Intelligence Quotient (I. Q.) scale. When the difference of means was tested for signiflcant difference by the use of the "t" test at the 58 level of significance, no difference was indicated.

## Marks Rocoived in High School in the Basic Subjecta Compared

Because of the fact that there was no significant difference of the means in the I. Q. of the groups campared, the "t" test technique was also utilized in the comparison of means in the besic subjects.

Table II. Comparison of Marks Received by the Public-School and Parochial-School Students

| Subject | Parochial- <br> Trained <br> Mean | Public- <br> Trained <br> Mean | Difference <br> of <br> Means | Computed <br> nt" | Value of at" <br> 5\% level of <br> Significance |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Mnglish | 64.51 | 63.21 | $* 1.30$ | .341 | 1.976 |
| Science | 55.91 | 59.55 | $*-3.64$ | .928 | 1.976 |
| Historg | 61.40 | 59.32 | 72.08 | .569 | 1.976 |
| Mathematics | 56.87 | 57.52 | -.65 | .157 | 1.976 |

*-Difference of means favors the parochial-trained students

* Alifference of means favors the public-trained students

The difference in means favored the parochial students in English and history, whereas a difference of means favored the public schoal students in science and mathematics. In no case, howevar, in any of the subjects considered was a significant difference apparent as evidenced by the comparison of the " $t$ " scares with the $5 \%$ level of significance in Table II.

All comparisons were tested at the $5 \%$ level of sigalficance. No
signiflcant differences in achievement in respect to the marks attained in Faglish, science, history, and mathematics in high schoal were indicated by the test.

## Rank in Class as a Basis Opon Which the Groups Are Compared

Because of the fact that the marks attained in the basic subjects did not make up the total composite attainment in that many other subjects were taken by the students, the investigator employed the rank of students in class to describe total composite mark attaiment of the groups.

Table III. Comparison of Rank in Class of the Public-Trained and Parochial-Trained Students

Area | Parochial- |
| :---: |
| Trained |

| Pubic- | Difference |
| :---: | :---: |
| Trained | of |
| Mean | Means |

Rank of
Studert
116.63
110.21
6.42
in Class

The student's rank in class was taken from the permsment record of the student. This rank had previously been computed by the school authorities. The student with the rank of one had received the best composite mark achievement in the entire class; the student with the rank of 226 had received the poorest composite mark achievement in this graduating class. The mean of the public-school group was 110.21 , whereas the mean of the parochial-school group was 216.63. The difference in means was 6.42, favoring the public-school group, because the lower mean mare nearly approached the best rank of one.

Because the data here did not conform to a normal frequency curve
as the others did, the "t" test and the standard deviation measure appear not to be applicable in this situation. For this reason only the mean of each group and the difference of means are shown in Table III.

## Extra-Clags Activity Participation in Eigh Schoal Compared

The " $t$ " tests and the comparison of rank in class of the two efroups concluded the research in the achievement area. Next to be considered was the comparisons in the social area, which included extramelass activity participation and personality and character ratings.

Table IV. Comparison of the Extra-Class Participation of the Public-Trained and Parochial-Trained Students

| Area | Parochial- <br> Trained <br> Mean | Public- <br> Trained <br> Mean | Difference <br> of <br> Means | Compated <br> nt" | Value of ntit <br> 5\% level of <br> Slandficance |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Extra-Class <br> Participation | 6.02 | 7.58 | 1.56 | 2.108 | 1.976 |

The difference of means was 1.56. This difference was comparatively great as the unit 1.0 is indicative of one complete activity in which the student was engaged. The mean of the publicmschool group was 7.58 and the mean of the parochial-school group was 6.02. This difference of means may then be interpreted to indicate that the average public-school student engaged in 1.56 more activities than did the average parochial-school student.

The investigator was inclined here to point out that there may be some extenuating circumstances for the difference of means described above. The writer was aware of the fact that the activities offered in
the public junior high schools were of a more simflar nature to the high-school activities than were the activities of parochial junior high. The adjustments of the parochial-schoal student may be supposed to be mare critical than that of a public-junior-high student to the curriculum, to procedures of passing to class, to activities offered, and to departmentalization. The entire program apparently was less familiar to the parochial student than to the public-school student.

The "t" score computed from the differences of the means in this case was 2.11. This number, using F1sher's table, indicated a significant difference at the $5 \%$ level but not at the $1 \%$ level. However, this significant difference of means indicated that there was one chance in twenty that this significant difference of means could be in error.

## Parsonality and Charactor Ratings Compared

The second part of the comparisan th the social area, that of personality and character ratings, was tested for agnificant difference.

Table V. Comparison of the Ratings in Personallty and Character Traits of the Public-Trained and Parochial-Trained Students

| Trait | ParochialTrained Mean | PublicTrained Mean | $\begin{gathered} \hline \text { Difference } \\ \text { of } \\ \text { Means } \end{gathered}$ | Computed nt | Value of "t" 5\% level of Signiflcance |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Personal Appearance | 69.55 | 71.48 | *f 1.93 | 1.261 | 1.976 |
| Social Maturity | 67.59 | 70.01 | + 242 | 1.475 | 1.976 |
| Cooperation | 71.24 | 73.23 | $f 1.99$ | 1.087 | 1.976 |
| Dependabilits | 68.59 | 71.52 | + 2.93 | 1.502 | 1.976 |
| Leadership | 56.48 | 60.77 | +4.29 | 2.568 | 1.976 |
| Initiative | 60.02 | 63.36 | +3.34 | 1.748 | 1.976 |
| Industry | 60.24 | 63.72 | + 2.48 | 1.158 | 1.976 |
| Thoroughness | 61.83 | 64.20 | + 2.37 | 1.144 | 1.976 |

The basic data employed in this study ware taken from the Personality and Character Rating card (see Appendix B). Each student was rated in each trait approximately twenty-five times by as many as twelve to eighteen different teachers. It was noted, but not proved statistically, that there was in almost every case a tendency of the frequencies to cluster at a certain degree of success in each trait. As an example, where twenty-six teachers had rated a student in a personality and character trait, twenty-three thought him to be above average, one considered him to be excellent and two considered him to be average. There were, of course, variations from excellent on one hand to average on the other, but the tendency was to cluster at a certain attainment in each trait.

All of the "t " scores in Table $V$ with the exception of the "t" score of the leadership comparison, are emaller than those at the 5\% level of significance value. The investigator assumed that all other differences of the means indicated were insignificant at that level. The "t" score in leadership was 2.568. This vas larger than the 5\% level value but amaller than the $1 \%$ level and was, therefore, indicative of a significant difference in the means of the two groups at the $5 \%$ level of aignificance.

This significant difference in leadership may have stemmed from the only other significent difference in activity participation. There may have been a relationship between the participation in an activity and leadership. In other words, leadership ability might not normally be developed unless there ware activity participation.

All differences in means in all traits were found to favor the public-trained students. The anly significent difference in means, however, was found in the rating the teachers gave the students of the respective groups in the leadership trait. The only other significant difference foum in this study by the use of the "tn test was in the activity participation of the two groups. One conclusion which one might draw from this difference in means in leadership could be based on the lack of participation in activities by parochial students.

The value of Section III of the study should not be overestimated. These comparisons in this phase of the social area were severely handicapped by the following limitationss
(1) Greene, Jorgensen, and Gerberich 4 state that teachers ratings in the less tangible traits are aften less accurate than the more readily observable characteristics.
(2) The teachers may have been guilty of giving high ratings to the quiet, unobtrusive, but maladjusted student, and of giving low ratings to the extrovert.
(3) Personality and character of an individual have proved to be illugive and difficult to measure under the very best of controlled conditions.

T Herry A. Greene, Albert N. Jorgensen, and J. Raymund Gerberich, Measurement and Evaluation in the Secondary School, Published for the United States Armed Forces Inotitute, Longmans, Green and Company, 1943, p. 250 -

## SBCTION IV

## SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

For the convenience of the reader, the oummary and conclusions of the study have been divided into two partss a general sumary statement and a summarization of conclusions, with an over-all table (Table VI) to show the results of all comparisons.

## General Summary Statemant

The purpose of this study was to compare the students on the basis of their scholastic attainment and social adjustment who received the first nine fears of their training in a parochial school with those who had received their training in a public school to see if there were any statistical differences in their perfarmance during the last three years of their high-school training in the pabic high school.

Since the parochial and public-trained students were of the same population in terms of mental ability, it rast be said that in terms of achievement no statistical differences as tested at the 5\% level of signiflcance eaisted.

In terms of social adjustment, however, two significant differences of means at the $5 \%$ level of significance vere at once apparent. ane aignificant difference was indicated by the "t" test in activity participation, and the other significant difference was indicated in the leadership trait. One must not, however, in the case of the personality and character trait of leadership, make too definite conclusions because of the unreliability of teacher ratings.

## Gomolugions Drawn from the study

The main conclusions from the study will be summarized in this section under mental ability, marks; rank in class, activity participation, and personality and character traits. The data can be found in Tables I, II, III, IV, and $\nabla$.

## Part I. Mental dbility

In mental ability there was a difference of means of 3.35 points on the I. Q. scale which favored the pubiic-school group. When this difference in means was tested for significant difference by the use of the "t" test at the $5 \%$ level, no significant difference was noted.

## Part II. Marks Received in High School

The difference in means in marks received favored the parochial students in English and history, whereas a difference in means favored the public-school pupils in science and mathematics. When the comparisons were tested at the $5 \%$ value of significance, there was noted no significant difference in respect to the marks received by the groups in English, science, history, and mathematics.

## Part III. Rank of Student in Glass

The difference of means in rank of student in class favored the public-school group. Although there may be some importance in this difference of means, the " t " test cannot be used because the data did not have the distribution of a normal curve.

## Part IV. Extra-Class Activity

The difference in means of the extra-class activity was 1.56, which may be interpreted to mean that the public-school student participated
in 1.56 more activities on the average than did the parochial student. When this was tested at the $5 \%$ level of significance, a siguificant difference was apparent.

## Part V. Personality and Charactor Rating

The differences of means in the area of personality and character rating favored in every case the public-achool group. When these differences of means were tested by use of the "t" score value, all the differences proved to be insignificant with the exception of the leadership trait which was found to have a significant difference at the $5 \%$ leval.

## Part VI. The Conclusions in Table Form

The conclusions based upon data concerning pupils in terms of I. Q. scores, subject achievement, rank in class, activity participation, and personallty and character traits can best be presented to the reader in the sumnary Table VI. The "t" scores that represent a significant differance are shown by an asterisk. The diffarance of means that favors the parochial group are shown by minus aigns. The difference of means which cannot be tested by the "t" test of significance is shown by double asterisks. The $f$ sign indicates that the difference of means favors the prblic-school group.

Table VI. Summarized Computed Data Concerning I. Q., Achievement Measures, and Social Adjustment Factors

| Area | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Parochial- } \\ & \text { Trained } \\ & \text { Mean } \end{aligned}$ | PublicTrained Mean | $\begin{gathered} \text { Difference } \\ \text { of } \\ \text { Means } \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Computed } \\ & \text { nt } \end{aligned}$ | Value of "tn 5\% level of Significance |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| I. Q. | 104.34 | 107.69 | \&3.35 | 1.87 | 1.976 |
| Engliah | 64.51 | 63.21 | -1.30 | . 341 | 1.976 |
| Science | 55.91 | 59.55 | t3.54 | . 928 | 1.976 |
| Hestory | 61.40 | 59.32 | -2.08 | . 569 | 1.976 |
| Mathematica | 56.87 | 57.52 | +. 65 | -157 | 1.976 |
| Rank in Class | 216.63 | 110.21 | f**6042 |  |  |
| Activities | 6.02 | 7.58 | +1.56 | *2.108 | 1.976 |
| Appearance | 69.55 | 71.48 | t1.93 | 1.261 | 1.976 |
| Maturity | 67.59 | 70.01 | -2,42 | 1.475 | 1.976 |
| Cooperation | 77.24 | 73.23 | +1.99 | 1.087 | 1.976 |
| Dependability | 68.59 | 77.52 | +2.93 | 1.502 | 1.976 |
| Leadership | 56,48 | 60.77 | +4.29 | *2.568 | 1.976 |
| Initiative | 60.02 | 63.36 | +3.34 | 1.748 | 1.976 |
| Industry | 60.24 | 63.72 | +2.48 | 1.158 | 1.976 |
| Thoroughness | 61.83 | 64.20 | 12.37 | 1.14 | 1.976 |

* Statistically gignificant at the $5 \%$ level
- Difference in means favors the parochial-school group
** Cannot be tested by the "t" test of significance
$\not \subset$ Differences in means favars the public-school group


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$\triangle P$ PENDI

personality and Character Rating.....

CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL Aberdeen, South Dakota

NAME

ABOVE AVERAGE
BELOW AVERAGE
POOR
I GRSONAI, APPEARANCE: Consider the cleanness and neatness of his clothing and person and the appropriateness of his dress as they contribute to his appearance.


SHCIAL MATURITY: Consider his ability to adjust socially as shown by his sense of soc la responsibility, his poise. manners, and emotional balance.

io OPERATION: Consider his ability to get along with others, his adaptability, and his willingness to do bia share of the work.


DEPENDABILITY: Consider his ability to work without supervision. bis reliability and punctuality.


## Table of "t" Probabillty Scale*



* Edwards, Allen L., Statistical Analysis, Rinehart and Company, Inc., New York, 1951, p. 330.
Appendix D TO OSTAIN THE "t" VALUE SCORE 24


$\begin{array}{ll}c^{2}=1,100,019-(107.69)^{2} & S^{2}=\frac{538,364}{49}-(104.34 \\ y^{2}=11,702-11,597 & y^{2}=10,987\end{array}$


$$
1.371
$$

Appendix E





[^0]:    I Helen M. Walker, Elamantary Statigtical Mothods, Henry Holt and Company, New York, 1949, p. 286.

