

Soviet Colleges Before WWII: How Entrance Exams Were Conducted

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This presentation attempts to describe the system of college admissions that existed in Soviet Russia before the Second World War. In this respect, it continues the investigation begun in Karp (In print), which is devoted to the prerevolutionary period. The early post-revolutionary years saw a wholesale rejection of entrance exams (Abakumov et al, 1974). It proved necessary to return to them, however (Glavprofobr, 1929). The history of exams was part of a political battle, proving once again that mathematics education is closely connected with social and political history.

During the pre-war years, certain ways of conducting mathematics exams became established, old exam problems returned and new ones appeared (see Shreider 1928, or Voronov 1928). Literature for students entering colleges reappeared, blossoming after the war. This paper is based on archival materials and the analysis of pre-war publications.

References

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