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**Abstract**

Each year thousands and millions Chinese senior high school students have to prepare for the university entrance examination (UEE) for their aspiration for higher education. This preparation

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learning lasts almost one year, with a great amount of learning content, difficult problems, complicated tasks, and fierce competition. During this period, they have to meet lots of challenges, such as, adjusting or maintaining their interest for learning, improving learning strategies, adapting to the learning environment, alleviating test anxiety, etc. All these activities require active self-regulation. Given the fact that exam preparation is a critical part of students' lives and important for students all over the world, or even adults who are going to take professional qualification exams, it would be significant to study the learning characteristics in exam preparation. Although there are many practical guides for exam preparation, scientific research is indeed scarce in this potential-stricken field. Researchers and educators have the responsibility to discover effective determinants for exam preparation so as to help students overcome difficulties and reach their goals. Thus, exam preparation, as an important educational event, deserves intensive research and intervention for many students who are tortured by test anxiety, lacking of motivation for learning, ineffective learning strategies, or poor test performance. (HRK / Abstract übernommen)

**Signature**

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