On retesting

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A long controversial issue on high range testing regards the value (if any) of retesting. Mainly of 1st retesting, but lately regarding further retesting, too. The sad thing is, as in many matters regarding high range testing, that there appear several, strong headed, candidates or test authors in favor of or against retesting, without presenting sober arguments; just dogmatizing.

Step-by-step, one has to see what retesting may mean.

To begin with, in case of tests hosted at hriqtests.com, it seems that retesting (the so called "2nd submission") results in an average improvement of 3,3% in terms of raw score (that means, 1 point higher in tests with 30 items) and in an average improvement (coincidentally) of 3,3 TIQ points (SD=15). Sample used at N=20 retesting attempts. Not that much of a big deal.

Seeing it by parts, greater improvement is noticed at candidates with 1st TIQ 132-140, that may succeed a 2nd TIQ of 150+ in several occasions. Lower scores at retesting, thus lower TIQ, are usually noticed at candidates with a TIQ of 150+ achieved at first attempt.

So, it is all about error detecting. The more the errors, the easier it gets to detect some of them, which is quite obvious. The fundamental question that appears here, is whether one wants to test this ability and whether this correlates to IQ. No matter what, it is quite a useful ability in everyday life.

So, the interesting part follows.

Test	Mean IQ	TIQ1	TIQ2	TIQmean	Correl.1	Correl.2	Correl.mean
Total (20)	145,3	141,7	147,8	144,8	0,89	0,75	0,86
SEE30 (9)	140,3	138,3	154	146,2	0,94	0.91	0,92
CPE-N (9)	149	144,7	148,3	146,5	0,96	0,97	0,96

Tests used : SEE30 (9), CPE-N (9), Nexus (2).

Mean IQ : Mean of reported IQs on standard psychometric batteries & tests by Dr. Jouve.

TIQ1 : Mean of achieved TIQs on 1st attempt.

TIQ2: Mean of achieved TIQs on 2nd attempt.

TIQmean : Mean of mean TIQs (1st & 2nd attempts).

Correl.1-2-mean : Respective correlation between reported scores and achieved TIQ.

In case of comparison within a test, it seems that second attempt is as "psychometrically valid" as the first attempt. In case of total scores, including & comparing scores in different tests, it seems that 2nd attempt is of lower value compared to 1st attempt, without, however, being of objectively low value - on the contrary.

Current results are preliminary as more data is required for one to draw safe conclusion. However, they are quite indicative and reveal some tendency. So, the only thing that can be said safely, is that 2nd (or even further) attempts shouldn't be forbidden; on the contrary, they should be encouraged and they should provide a step towards further investigation, including, definitely, separate stats.