Why Intelligent People Fail

1. **Lack of motivation** - Motivation may be external or internal. External sources tend to be transient, while internal sources tend to produce more consistent performances.

2. **Lack of impulse control** - Habitual impulsiveness gets in the way of optimal performance. Some people do not bring their full intellectual resources to bear on a problem.

3. **Lack of perseverance and preservation** - Some people give up too easily, while other are unable to stop even when the quest will clearly be fruitless.

4. **Inability to translate thought into action** - Some people are buried in thought. They have good ideas but can't seem to do anything about them.

5. **Inability to complete tasks** - For some students nothing ever reaches closure. Maybe it is the fear of what they would or should do next or fear of becoming hopelessly tangled in detail.

6. **Failure to initiate** - Some people are unwilling or unable to initiate a project. It may be indecision or fear of commitment.

7. **Fear of failure** - People may not reach their intellectual performance because they avoid the really important challenges in life.

8. **Procrastination** - Some people are unable to act without pressure. They may look for little things to do in order to put off the big ones.

9. **Misattribution of blame** - Some people always blame themselves for even the slightest mishap; some always blame others.

10. **Excessive self-pity** - Some people spend more time feeling sorry for themselves than expending the effort necessary to overcome the problem.

11. **Excessive dependency** - Some people expect others to do for them what they ought to be doing themselves.

12. **Wallowing in personal difficulties** - Some people let their personal difficulties interfere grossly with their work. During the course of life, one can expect some real joys and some real sorrows.

13. **Lack of concentration** - Even some very intelligent people have very short attention spans.

14. **Spreading oneself too thin or too thick** - Undertaking too many activities may result in none being completed on time. Undertaking too few can also result in missed opportunities and reduced levels of accomplishment.

15. **Inability to delay gratification** - Some people reward themselves and are rewarded by others for finishing small tasks, while avoiding bigger tasks that would earn them larger rewards.

16. **Too little or too much self-confidence** - Lack of confidence can gnaw away at a person's ability to get things done and become a self-fulfilling prophecy. Conversely, individuals with too much self-confidence may not know when to admit they are wrong or in need of self-improvement.