

There Are Innate Race Differences in Intelligence

How much do you know?

Race differences in intelligence are the subject of **decades of research** by experts like Arthur Jensen, J. Philippe Rushton, and Richard Lynn. This flyer is a very brief introduction. You may not like the answers, but that doesn't make them any less **true**.

Intelligence is real, objective, and measurable

From "Mainstream Science on Intelligence" (1994), endorsed by 52 experts: "Intelligence is a **very general mental capability** that, among other things, involves the ability to reason, plan, solve problems, think abstractly, comprehend complex ideas, learn quickly and learn from experience. ... [Intelligence tests] are among the most accurate (in technical terms, **reliable and valid**) of all psychological tests and assessments. ... [They] are **not culturally biased** against American blacks."

The g factor

Psychologists have detected a **general mental ability** factor (*g*) that underlies all forms of thinking: verbal, spatial, and so on. *g* is raw brainpower, highly general and highly practical. It even helps you take the bus. It is not some "statistical artifact." *g* predicts **job performance** better than any other indicator — even better than job experience (Schmidt & Hunter, 2004).

The IQ gap

- IQ tests, like the WAIS and Stanford-Binet, are a good way to measure *g*. From "Mainstream Science on Intelligence," again: "IQ is strongly related, probably more so than any other single measurable human trait, to many important educational, occupational, economic, and social outcomes. ... Whatever IQ tests measure, it is of **great practical and social importance**."
- In the USA, the average black IQ is about **85**, and the average white IQ is about **100**. (East Asians score about **105**.) The 15 to 18-point black-white **IQ gap** is an established **scientific fact**. Forget "The Bell Curve" (1994). You can read about it in college textbooks like "Human Biological Variation" (2006): "There is **little debate** over the average 15-point difference [in IQ] between American blacks and whites."

Standardized testing

- The **standard deviation** (σ , pronounced "sigma") of a set of test scores measures how much they spread out: how much the scores vary from the average. σ changes from test to test, but it always represents the same thing, so σ provides a **standardized unit** for measuring group differences. For IQ tests, σ is 15 points, so the black-white gap is about **1.1 σ** .
- A 2001 meta-analysis (Roth et al.) of 105 studies of cognitive ability, with a total of over **6 million** test subjects, showed that the average black *g* is **1.1 σ** lower than the average white *g*.
- The gap for **educational g**, not including the GRE, is **1.0 σ** . This difference explains why more money can't close the school **achievement gap** (see: Kansas City desegregation experiment).

"But I know lots of smart black people!"

Congratulations. Please ask them to explain **averages** to you, so you'll know why listing thousands of smart black people proves nothing, and also why you shouldn't take statistics personally. As Harvard psychologist Steven Pinker puts it: "**Political equality** is a commitment to universal human rights, and to policies that treat people as individuals rather than representatives of groups; it is not an empirical claim that all groups are indistinguishable."

Do poverty and privilege explain the gap?

It sounds plausible — except someone already tested that theory and proved it **wrong**. Consider the SAT, which mostly measures *g*. Colleges use it because it predicts academic success well. SAT scores tend to rise with family income, and that's as far as most people look into it. But at **every income level**, whites score much higher than blacks on both the math and verbal sections (by about 100 and 110 points). In 2009, white children from the **poorest** families (earning < \$20k a year) outscored by 12 points black children from the **richest** families (\$160k–\$200k a year).

The gap is mostly genetic, not environmental

- Forced busing, affirmative action, hundreds of scholarships for blacks, "No Child Left Behind," even the Flynn effect (IQs rise each decade) — **none of them** closed the racial gap in *g*, because it's probably **50–80% genetic** (Rushton & Jensen, 2005).
- *g* is **80% heritable** in adulthood (rising with age). This 89% correlation of genes and *g* has stood up to decades of criticism.
- **Race is genetic**. For instance, 326 genetic markers predict self-identified race with **99.9% accuracy** (Tang et al., 2004).
- All the studies that claim the gap is mostly environmental, but don't control for genes (like twin studies do), are **worthless**.

Regression to the mean

Strong evidence for an innate gap comes from IQ testing the kids of smart parents. Biology predicts they will *regress* (go back) to the racial *mean* (average). In fact, white kids regress toward a mean IQ about **15 points higher** than black kids. They all had "smart families," so environmental theories can't explain this.

The Minnesota Transracial Adoption Study

This 1976 study tested the IQs of white, black, and mixed-race children, all adopted by **advantaged white families**. As always, whites scored about **15 points higher** than blacks. **Mixed-race** children placed according to their genetic makeup, **partway between white and black** (despite the double discrimination mixed-race children face). Twelve families mistakenly believed their mixed-race child was black, and raised them accordingly; those children scored like the other mixed-race children (similar genes), not like the black children (similar environment).

The gap has profound social implications

The predictive value of *g* guarantees that the black-white *g* gap has profound consequences. At least **1 in 4 blacks** (vs. 1 in 20 whites) has an **IQ below 75** (Jensen, 1994). Compared to people with average IQs, for people with IQs below 75, the odds are

- **1.8** times higher to be unemployed 1+ months/year (men),
- **2.4** times higher to go to prison at some point (men),
- **5.2** times higher to be chronic welfare recipients (women),
- **5.4** times higher to have illegitimate children (women),
- **6.7** times higher to live in poverty as an adult, and
- **19** times higher to drop out of high school (Gottfredson, 2002).

The *g* gap **predicts racial disparities** in social outcomes, which are usually put down to "systemic racism." Since **88%** of blacks are born **below the white average** in intelligence (Levin, 1997), does it make sense to "correct" black under-representation with **affirmative action**, or are we just discriminating against whites in order to advance some black people beyond their abilities?