

Race and Intelligence: the Facts

HOW MUCH DO YOU REALLY KNOW?

Race differences in intelligence have been the subject of decades of research by experts like Arthur Jensen, Richard Lynn, and J.P. Rushton. This flyer is a very brief introduction to their work. You may not like their findings, but that doesn't make them any less true.

INTELLIGENCE

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."

Furthermore, intelligence tests "are among the MOST ACCURATE (in technical terms, RELIABLE and VALID) of all psychological tests and assessments." For one thing, intelligence tests "are NOT CULTURALLY BIASED against American blacks."

THE 'G' FACTOR

Psychologists have detected a GENERAL MENTAL ABILITY factor, called **g**, which underlies all forms of thinking: verbal, spatial, mathematical, and so on. **g** is raw brainpower: both HIGHLY GENERAL and HIGHLY PRACTICAL. It even helps you read a bus schedule. It is not a "statistical artifact" or just "book smarts."

From teachers to welders, from lawyers to soldiers, **g** predicts job performance better than any other factor — even job experience (Schmidt & Hunter, 2004).

IQ

IQ tests, like the WAIS, Stanford-Binet, and Raven's Matrices, are a very 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." In other words, your childhood IQ score is a VERY GOOD PREDICTOR of future success.

MIND THE GAP

In the US, the average white IQ is about 100, the average black IQ is about 85, and the average East Asian IQ is about 105. The 15- to 18-point black-white difference is known as the IQ GAP, and it is an ESTABLISHED SCIENTIFIC FACT. You can skip *The Bell Curve* (not that there was anything wrong with it), and look it up in basic college textbooks like *Human Biological Variation* (2006): "There is LITTLE DEBATE over the average 15-point difference [in IQ] between American blacks and whites."

"BUT I KNOW LOTS OF SMART BLACK PEOPLE"

Congratulations. Have them explain AVERAGES to you.

STANDARDIZED TESTING

The standard deviation, σ ("sigma"), of a set of test scores measures how much the scores "spread out." σ changes from test to test, but it always represents the same thing, so σ provides a STANDARDIZED UNIT for measuring test score gaps. For IQ tests, σ is 15 points, so the black/white gap there is about 1.1 σ 's.

A 2001 meta-analysis (Roth et al.) looked at 105 studies of cognitive ability, with a total of over 6 MILLION test subjects. It found that the average black **g** is 1.1 σ 's lower than the average white **g**. So whether it's the SAT or the Stanford-Binet, tests of brainpower always find VERY SIMILAR RACIAL DIFFERENCES.

A CASE OF POVERTY AND "PRIVILEGE"?

Researchers have already tested that theory and proved it WRONG. Let's consider the SAT, which mostly measures **g**. Colleges use it because it predicts academic success well. SAT scores tend to rise with family income. But AT EVERY INCOME LEVEL, whites score MUCH HIGHER than blacks on both the math and verbal sections (by 100 to 110 points). For example, in 2009, white children from the POOREST families, earning under \$20K a year, outscored (by 12 points) black children from the RICHEST families, earning up to \$200K a year.

STRONG EVIDENCE FOR A GENETIC GAP

Busing, affirmative action, special scholarships, No Child Left Behind, "stereotype threat" experiments, even the Flynn effect... NONE OF THEM closed the IQ gap, because it's probably 50 to 80% genetic (Rushton & Jensen, 2005). That is what SCIENCE tells us.

Three quick points to make: (1) **g** is 80% heritable in adulthood: an 89% correlation between genes and **g**. (2) Race is genetic; with 326 genetic markers, you can predict self-identified race with 100% accuracy (Tang et al., 2004). (3) Any study that claims the gap is "environmental," but DOESN'T CONTROL FOR GENES (like twin studies do), is worthless.

Strong evidence for a genetic gap comes from IQ-testing the kids of smart parents. Biology predicts they will regress (go back) to the mean (average) for their population (race). In fact, white kids regress toward a mean IQ about 15 points higher than black kids. Environmental theories can't explain that.

The 1976 Minnesota Transracial Adoption Study tested the IQs of white, black, and mixed-race kids, all ADOPTED by advantaged white families. As always, whites scored 15 points above blacks. Mixed-race kids placed according to their GENES: between black and white. 12 families mistakenly believed their mixed-race child was black, and raised them that way; these kids scored like the other MIXED-RACE kids (similar genes), not like actual black kids (similar environment).

MAJOR SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The **g** gap explains racial disparities in social outcomes, which are usually blamed on "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 blacks beyond their abilities?

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