

Chapter 1: What it Means to Have a High IQ

Once the sample results have been collated, the results are plotted and statistical techniques used so that the test can state, with a reasonable level of certainty, how an ‘average’ person of a particular age might be expected to score on the various questions. While this is going on, the validity and voracity of the questions will be examined, as will the ethics of the test itself – creating a scientifically rigorous IQ test is a huge amount of work across a number of different disciplines, and this explains why the tests can be so expensive to purchase. Part of why psychologists charge what they do for an assessment is to recoup the cost of buying up-to-date tests!


Connections


1. ‘Hot’ is to ‘cold’ as ‘top’ is to ...
2. ‘Baby’ is to ‘adult’ as ‘chick’ is to ...
3. ‘Trombone’ is to ‘brass’ as ‘oboe’ is to ...

Meanings

4. What is a tree?
5. What is hop?
6. What is sleep?





What comes next?

7.  ...



8.  ...

9. Red, dog, girl, lettuce, easy, yellow, ...

10. Which net makes the cube?

 a.  b.  c. 

11. How many small cubes make up the big cube?

12. I am facing north. I take a turn to my right, then to my left twice, then to my right three times. Which direction am I now facing?

The precise contents of IQ tests are kept confidential, partly to ensure that participants can’t skew the results, deliberately or otherwise, by looking the test up ahead of time. Therefore, we will use a selection of original questions created for this book in the example IQ test shown here. They’re similar to the kinds of problems you might find in some IQ tests or in the puzzle section of a magazine, and they will prove useful when we think about instances where IQ tests work really well, and a couple of cases where they don’t.

The specific answers can be found at the end of this chapter, but consider the types of problem that were posed – there’s a heavy emphasis on spotting patterns, spatial awareness and lateral

thinking, all of which test intelligence. They’re very different questions from the kind you might find in an English exam or a general knowledge quiz,