Noesis

The Journal of the Mega Society
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EDITORIAL
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An interesting new test from a new source is in this issue.

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Rick Rosner
Editor: NOESIS
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Dear Rick Rosner:

A response or two to Kevin Langdon and the rest of you. Firstly I only received Noesis Number 125 for November 1996 today (March 18th 1997).

I was not a member of the ISPE committee responsible for the expulsion of what were to become the Founders of T.N.S. By the late 1970's I was already quite ill and well into the phase of my disconnection from the ISPE which was being run by Steve Whiting.

I WAS NOT ON THIS COMMITTEE AND WAS NOT ASKED TO JOIN IT AND DID NOT KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT IT AT THE TIME. My earliest knowledge came from a published report in the Society journal that stated that Kevin and some others (names now escape me) had been expelled. In those days mail reached me at least as slowly as it does now. I'd have had great difficulty being involved with the politics of ISPE any more than I would be able to be involved in the politics of Mega.

In all of Kevin's comments on this over the years is the assumption that some how I hold power in ISPE. This is not so.

As for Mr. Maxim having filed a complaint for ''practicing psychology without a licence''against Kevin in the state of California I can tell you this one will simply bounce and Kevin need not have any fears about it.

NOT EVEN THE INTERNATIONAL TEST COMMISSION HAS BEEN ABLE TO SO FAR AGREE ON ANY SET OF RULES THAT WOULD ALLOW A CASE TO BE MADE OUT AGAINST HIM. Indeed one of the criteria for test use which was recommended in the European Journal of Psychology quite reciently generally centres around an awareness of the appropriatness of tests to a context in contrast to statements about qualifications held by users of the tests which are held to be secondary in all cases !. All Kevin would need to do is front the courts quote the published recommendations and display a wide and deep knowledge of his subject.

As for any threat against the Society: the answer to any such future threat which might emerge and we are not in one now would be to go off shore. For business operations this is pretty much standard proceedure. The tax laws of most countries are framed to allow this. If any one doesn't believe this just check it out. Governments are always two faced about this.

Best Regards

Chris. Harding

R. Rosner, Editor: NOESIS
5711 Rhodes Ave.,
N. Hollywood CA. 91607-1627
(818)985-5230
U.S.A.

Dear sir:

Kevin Langdon says the same wording for the Guinness entry in 1982 ? was the same as that found in some earlier writings of mine. I HAVE LOOKED BUT CAN FIND NOTHING HERE IN MY POSSESSION WHICH WOULD INDICATE THIS. If I am wrong, then let Kevin show me the item. I believe him wrong on this point. The wording in question looks suspicious to me and to have come from a pretty standard psychological text. These tend on the whole to simply be xerox copies of each other. I do recall a very similar wording in reference works by both Eysenck and Wechler. Ask any of 10,000 'experts' for a comment and it will leed back to this or a similar quote.

I can only applaud the points covered on page 2 of your August issue by Mr. Langdon. His set of proposals are excellent and do cover everything without having to take more extreme measures such as the removal of Mr. Maxim from the subscriber list which has already been suggested. Kevin and I don't see eye to eye on much but at least we do here.

With reference to the difficulties that Chris. Langon is experiencing trying to lay claim to his own original concept in the CTMU theory: I have I think a natural solution for him. He has already written on Artificial Intelligence and is no stranger to the field. As things stand the whole area has ground to a hault awaiting the appearance of a great Genius to achieve a real breakthrough. With enough effort on his part put into the A.I. area he might well provide the bridge since he is aware of the need to incorporate the power of self modification into the encoding of the program. His guarrantee will be that his product is alive in a way none other is - it can introduce itself to the world alone with its creater !. It could be the final knock out blow against Academia. I have heard of at least one program that can write its own code - something I believe possible - but nothing has come of this. About 12 years ago I encountered a program able to defend itself against modification by ~~my~~ myself and others. This was quite shocking to a number of people I pointed it out to at the time who saw me remove lines only to find them reappear else where. I have no idea how this was possible nore could anyone else shed any light on this curious little program. I had nothing to do with the writing of either so can not help much here. I have mentioned both these to show the door remains open to him.

Best Regards,

Chris. Harding

R. Rosner,
5711 Rhodes Ave.,
N. Hollywood CA. 91607-1627
[818] 985-5230
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Dear Rick:

I was some what saddened to learn that Paul Maxim had actually scored 178 IQ at age 10 and closed on this peak score as an adult. One is of course very aware of the difficulty with test ceilings in many cases. I can of course supply a copy of my old skyscraper test form B-C which has a top for adults of approximately 186, the Mega line being 177. Mr. Maxim can take this test if he so wishes. Perhaps we would need to consider supervision least Mr. Maxim still find himself questioned should he happen to reach or exceed that 177 figure ?. Or perhaps that test is not acceptable to our members ?. I do not know. It is an AQ test - this means it measures the ability to achieve and not pure intelligence. It could not be used to rule someone out, but we may wish to accept the result, if positive ?. If no one likes the idea I will of course back off. If anyone wants to speed up this issue one way or another they can phone Australia - within Australia my phone number is 079 278 932.

I am placing this issue with the rest of the membership. I shall not act on my own on this matter.

Best Regards,

Chris. Harding
10th December 1996.

TEST FOR GENIUS

PAUL COOIJMANS

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5737 ZG LAARBEEK
NEDERLAND

ANALOGIES

1 PRISONERS is to JAIL as SYNONYMS AND ANTONYMS is to ?
2 ALCHEMY : ARCHEOLOGY :: THE PHILOSOPHER'S : ?
3 ALL : MANY :: HOMOLOGY : ?
4 RUST : BURN :: BURN : ?
5 CHILD : GLUE :: BEAT : ?
6 ICE : SUGAR :: WATER : ?
7 RECTANGLE : ELLIPSOID :: CUBE : ?
8 OCIP : OTTA :: ONAN : ?
9 MOZART : MAÇON :: SATIE : ?
10 CROSSREFERENCE : X :: ZELFREFERENTIE : ?
11 KRUISREFERENTIE : SELFREFERENCE :: DIX : ?
12 BATH : FROG'S LEGS :: ARCHIMEDES : VOLTA
13 HIGH : LOW :: ALWAYS : NEVER
14 TOAST : TAN :: BREAD : ?
15 BURGLE : HOMELESS :: TREPAN : ?
16 DEAR : GENIUS :: GENIALITY : ?
17 ZIMBABWE : RHODESIANITY :: CEYLON : ?
18 UNIVERSAL PEACE : CONSCIOUSNESS :: REALIZATION : ?
19 KRIEG : SICKNESS :: PEACE : GESUNDHEIT
20 RUE : NAOMY :: PUNICA : ?
21 SANITY : SUPERIOR :: NORMAL : ?
22 VERSA : ARCANUM :: UR GERM : ?
23 LIMERICK : HAIKU :: 1444.478261 : ?
24 ALARM : VORSEN :: C YON AURUM : ?
25 ARISE PURER : O :: MARTYR : ?

(pocket-)
Reference books and calculator allowed. Write, type or print and draw the solutions on a sheet of paper. Also your age, sex and previous test-scores, including the names of the tests. Studie the already completed analogies before beginning. Dutch version available. I will let you know your score after having received your answers. There are NO penalties for wrong answers or for using any amount of time. Enclose US $8 with your answers.

REVISION 1996

NO TIME LIMIT

DON'T GIVE UP

NUMBERS

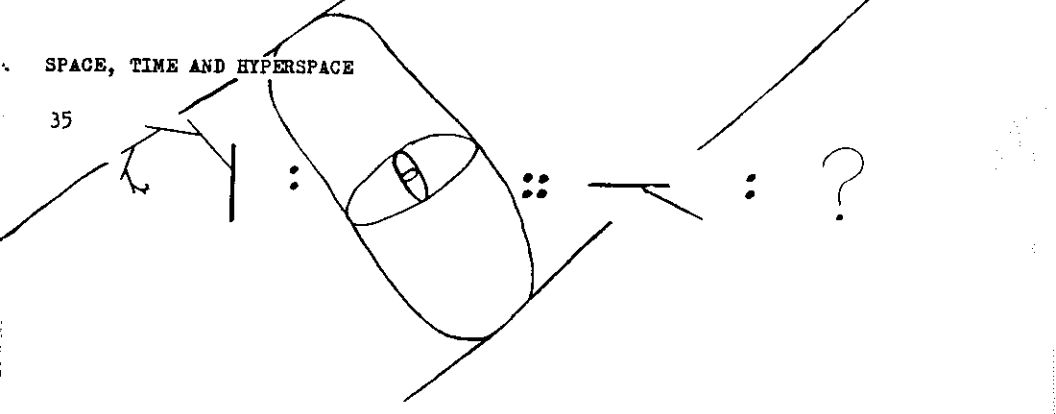
26 -1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1 11111111 333333 5555 77 ?
27 59044 59049 1015 59049 0 59049 59045 59049 ?
28 3 5 11 17 31 41 59 67 83 ? ?
29 2 6 18 52 130 ?
30 12 21 3 1 19 141422???
31 1 65536 7625597484987 256 ?
32 ? 3 3 0 8 1 6
33 28657 463??
34 25 13 15 1 14 0 5 21 ?

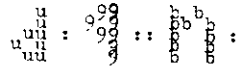
Examples: 1 3 5 7 9 ? (11)
100 200 300 4?? (00)

NO COMPUTERS
NO DISCUSSIONS WITH OTHERS

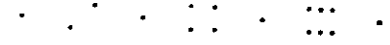
SPACE, TIME AND HYPERSPACE

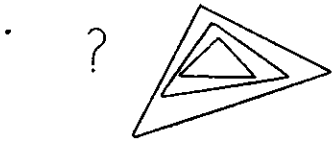
35

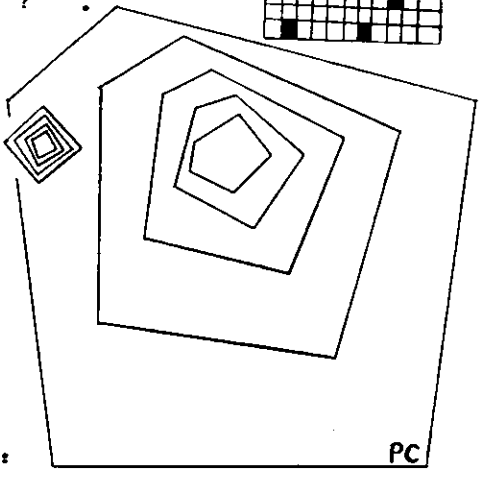


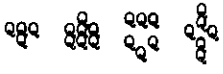
36 

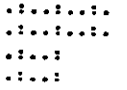
37 III 69 pod The common feature?

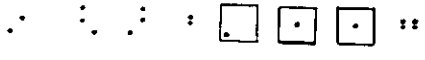
38 

39 



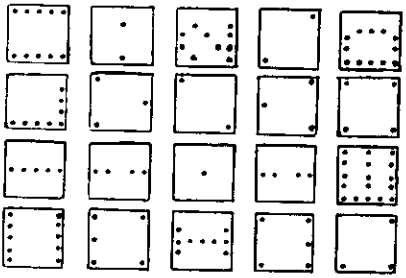
40 ?  ?

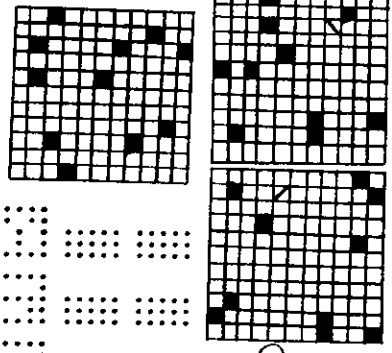
41 
The common feature?

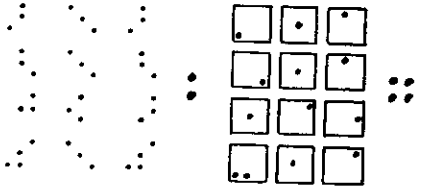
42 

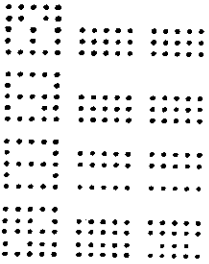
Items 38, 39, 40 and 43: complete these series in the best possible way.

43 ? ? ? ? ?





44 



45 Through a wormhole in the time-space-continuum your score will leak onto this sheet. Unfortunately I can't predict in what way it will get scrambled.

END OF THE TEST FOR GENIUS. PLEASE LOOK FOR THE BEST POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS.

TEST FOR GENIUS

(short form -- revision 1996)

3rd norming

Januari 1st, 1997

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INTRODUCTION

The Test For Genius was created in 1995 as a possible instrument for measuring high ability in solving IQ-style problems requiring skills related to intelligence, intellectual creativity and potential creative genius. My motivation to undertake this project lay in the absence of high-ceiling tests in my country; I had suffered from the fact that no available test had been able to give a realistic indication of my performance on it, and assumed that I could not possibly be the only one to have met with this problem.

Since I understood that norming the TFG on scores from Dutch testees only would be A PRIORI impossible - no high previous scores available, only 1500 Mensans to recrute testees from, and outside Mensa most Dutch people have never even SEEN an IQ-test, let alone that they would be able to report previous scores - I constructed the test in such a way that it could be presented in both Dutch and English. Now I could spread it among members of foreign (American) IQ societies, which would make norming possible.

The TFG first consisted of 45 problems (plus 2 examples). In March '96 I normed it; this first norming was based on 17 answer sheets. Around September '96 I issued a second norming, based on 33 testees. In order to arrive at this second norming, three of the problems were discarded. The 'revision 1996' in the subtitle of the present test refers to the remaining 42 problems (plus 3 examples). The second norming is the one currently in use.

Shortly after putting the second norming into use, I got the idea to write a norming report. This would give testees better insight in the meaning of their scores, and would encourage others to try my test, so I thought. It would also enable officers of IQ societies to study the TFG's norming, and decide whether or not to accept it as an entrance test. Unfortunately, I had not documentated the data and method that led to the second norming. So I decided to perform a third norming, based on the now available 38 answer sheets. Off we go...

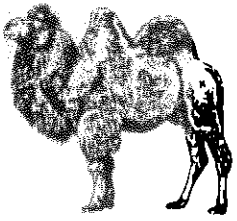


TABLE 1 - DISTRIBUTION OF RAW SCORES

'G' is the number of problems solved correctly (raw score). Each dot represents one testee.

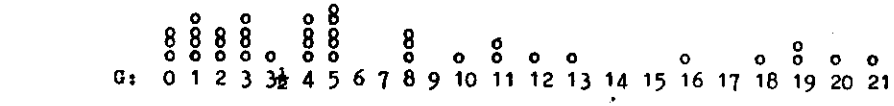


TABLE 2 - HOW THE PROBLEMS SCORE

'P' is the item number, according to the TFG (short form) 'revision 1996', as reprinted at the end of this report. '$\overline{G}$' is the mean raw score of all testees giving the correct answer to the problem in question. 'N' is the number of correct answers received to that problem. 'SQRT ($\overline{G}$/N)' indicates to what extent the problem is functioning in the measurement of the G dimension. The higher G, and the lower N, the harder the problem. So $\overline{G}$/N should give a sound estimate of a problem's G loading. The square root (SQRT) is used to bring the values closer together without disturbing their order.

SQRT($\overline{G}$/N):	P:	$\overline{G}$:	N:
.57	37	8.9	27
.69	38	8.2	17
.82	5	10.0	15
.88	26	10.8	14
.92	8	12.8	15
.96	4	11.0	12
.98	35	8.7	9
1.04	1	10.9	10
1.08	3	10.6	9
1.15	32	13.2	10
1.15	6	10.6	8
1.16	2	14.7	11
1.20	31	14.5	10
1.22	28	14.8	10
1.32	41	15.7	9
1.35	34	16.33	9
1.39	40	11.5	6
1.44	36	12.3	6
1.50	33	15.7	7
1.63	18	8.0	3
1.72	30	17.8	6
1.73	39	12.0	4
1.73	7	15.0	5
1.73	17	17.0	5
1.87	45	3.5	1
2.01	16	16.25	4
2.06	9	17.0	4
2.14	23	18.25	4
2.24	15	10.0	2
2.56	29	19.7	3
3.18	42	15.2	1½
3.20	27	20.5	2
4.36	14	19.0	1
4.58	20	21.0	1
4.58	44	21.0	1

Looking at Table 2, the option of a weighted norming comes to mind. If weights were ascribed to the problems, based on this data, the resulting weighted scores might give a more accurate impression of the testees' performances. However:

- Several problems have not yet been solved.
- Even for the ones that have been solved, I feel the available data is insufficient to arrive at appropriate weights; weighting is a tricky thing to do. It may result in artificial IQ gaps between people of equal ability having different response profiles, if the weights are chosen incorrectly.
- The norming based on raw scores and previous scores I am about to present looks good enough for the moment.

Therefore I will only reconsider a weighted norming when all the problems will have been solved, preferably by at least two persons per problem. This should be possible. To speed things up - I hope - I hereby announce that I will return half the scoring fee to testees who are the first to solve a particular problem, provided they submit serious answers to the rest of the test as well. In the unlikely event of someone solving two or more unsolved problems, the following applies:

2 solved: 1 fee returned
3 solved: 1½ fee returned
4 solved: 2 fees returned
5 solved: 3 fees returned, and the future journal of The Giga Society will be named after you
6 solved: 3 fees returned, and a celestial body of your choice will be named after you
7 solved: 3 fees returned, and you will be transformed into a constellation of stars and forever light up the nightly sky

And then there are a few old rewards I put out back in '95:

$50 for the first to score 37
$100 for the first with a perfect score

PREVIOUS SCORES

Of the testees, about a hundred previous scores were known. Obviously, the quality of the norming would depend on the quality of the previous scores used. I eliminated the following categories:

1 ceiling scores, when the testee in question had proved capable of scoring significantly higher on other tests;
2 childhood scores;
3 scores I suspected were the result of cheating;
4 scores on tests of which I did not fully trust the norming and scoring method;
5 scores, so extremely high that I, also looking at the contents of the test in question and comparing it to the TFG, decided they were not a realistic indication of a person's ability to solve problems like those in the TFG.

The category 1 scores would have lowered the norming if used; all the other would have boosted it. By eliminating them, I hope to have protected my test from the 'inflation' of high scores that is, in my opinion, likely to occur when high-ceiling tests are being normed on other high-ceiling tests. The 63 previous scores remaining came from:

A) Cattell Culture Fair
Raven's Advanced Progressive Matrices
California Test of Mental Maturity
Scholastic Aptitude Test
Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale
Admissions Test for Graduate Study in Business

B) Graduate Record Examination
Miller Analogies Test
Mega Test
Concept Mastery Test

C) Numbers
Space, Time and Hyperspace

The latter two are of my own creation; I used them because otherwise I would have had too little data. I will provide norming reports for them later. The letter A tests only cover the IQ range below 3 sigma, the letter B tests cover the range from 3 sigma up, and the letter C tests cover the entire range. The scores, converted to a scale with 16 points per standard deviation where necessary, were:

TABLE 3 - RAW SCORES VS PREVIOUS IQ'S

G:	Previous IQ:	Previous IQ mean:
0	127 132 132 140 142	134.6
1	125 132 132 133 135 139 139 147	135.2
2	125 125 137 137 137 139 148	135.3
3	132 134 135 138 140	135.8
3½	133 134 137	134.7
4	128 132 138 139 142 142 142 145	138.5
5	138 138 138 138 142 145	139.8
8	142 142 147 147 147 160	147.5
10	148 151 151	150
11	150 150	150
12	142 153 154 159	152
16	150	(150)
19	163 166 169	166
21	170 172	171

As can be seen, there is a positive but imperfect correlation between raw scores and previous IQ's. To arrive at useful norms, some shoving around with previous IQ's is needed. One way to do this is to put all raw scores and IQ's in two columns in ascending order, the columns facing each other one-to-one:

TABLE 4 - RAW SCORES AND PREVIOUS IQ'S IN ASCENDING ORDER

G:	IQ:				
0	125	3	138	8	145
0	125	3	138	8	147
0	125	3	138	8	147
0	127	3	138	8	147
0	128	3½	138	8	147
1	132	3½	138	8	148
1	132	3½	139	10	148
1	132	4	139	10	150
1	132	4	139	10	150
1	132	4	139	11	150
1	132	4	140	11	151
1	133	4	140	12	151
1	133	4	142	12	153
2	134	4	142	12	154
2	134	4	142	12	159
2	135	5	142	16	160
2	135	5	142	19	163
2	137	5	142	19	166
2	137	5	142	19	169
2	137	5	142	21	170
3	137	5	145	21	172

If, for each raw score, we take the mean of the IQ's facing it, round off downward, and interpolate to fill in the gaps, we get:

TABLE 5 - PRELIMINARY NORMS

G:	IQ:						
0	126	5	142	11	150	17	162
1	132	6	143	12	154	18	164
2	135	7	145	13	155	19	166
3	137	8	146	14	157	20	168
3½	138	9	148	15	158	21	171
4	140	10	149	16	160		

Looks good, but there are still some rough edges. I feel these should be smoothened, because, especially considering the fact that there are many possible ways to arrive at each raw score (except 42), irregularities like 148-149-150-154 are unlikely to be accurate. Rather than to smoothen them 'by hand', I take the means and average deviations of the two columns in Table 4:

G values: mean 5.91 average deviation 4.41
IQ's: mean 142.32 average deviation 8.29

If we pin the means together and connect the average deviations, a G of 0 would correspond with an IQ of:

142.32 - 5.91/4.41 x 8.29 = 131.21

And each correct answer should earn the testee

1/4.41 x 8.29 = 1.88 points of IQ.

Thus the norming formula becomes:

IQ = 1.88G + 131.21 (third norming)

Rounded off downward, this yields the following table:

TABLE 6 - THIRD NORMING

G:	IQ:							
0	≤131	11	151	22	172	33	193
1	133	12	153	23	174	34	195
2	134	13	155	24	176	35	197
3	136	14	157	25	178	36	198
4	138	15	159	26	180	37	200
5	140	16	161	27	181	38	202
6	142	17	163	28	183	39	204
7	144	18	165	29	185	40	206
8	146	19	166	30	187	41	208
9	148	20	168	31	189	42	≥210
10	150	21	170	32	191		

Compared to Table 5, this mathematical procedure has indeed smoothened things without changing the global picture in any way. Since the third norming happens to be almost identical to the second one, I prefer, for practical reasons, to keep the latter in use for the time being. See below; the percentiles are calculated according to the 'normal distribution'.

TABLE 7 - SECOND NORMING; CURRENTLY IN USE

G:	IQ:	%ile:						
			13	155	99.97	28	183	99.99999
			14	157	99.983	29	184	99.999993
0	≤132	97.7	15	159	99.989	30	186	99.999997
1	133	98	16	161	99.993	31	188	99.999998
2	135	98.5	17	163	99.996	32	190	99.999999
3	137	98.9	18	164	99.997	33	192	99.9999994
4	139	99.2	19	166	99.9983	34	194	99.9999998
5	141	99.4	20	168	99.999	35	195	99.9999999
6	143	99.6	21	170	99.9995	36	197	99.99999994
7	144	99.7	22	172	99.9997	37	199	99.99999998
8	146	99.79	23	173	99.99976	38	201	99.99999999
9	148	99.87	24	175	99.99984	39	203	99.999999994
10	150	99.91	25	177	99.9999	40	204	99.999999996
11	152	99.94	26	179	99.99995	41	206	99.999999999
12	153	99.95	27	181	99.99998	42	≥208	99.9999999994

For completeness, I will also give some values from the first norming. The TFG had three more problems then, two of which were never solved.

TABLE 8 - FIRST NORMING; USED BEFORE THE AUTUMN OF 1996

G:	IQ:									
		4	140	8	146	12	152	16	158
1	136	5	142	9	148	13	154	17	160
2	137	6	143	10	149	14	155	18	161
3	139	7	145	11	151	15	157	19	163

THE PROFILE

Apart from the overall IQ, the TFG also gives a profile. Each dimension of this profile is based on a particular set of problems. These sets overlap. The table below shows the number of problems in each set, and the norming formula for that set, according to the second norming:

TABLE 9 - THE PROFILE

DIMENSION	PROBS.	FORMULA(capital = raw score on set)
SERENDIPITY	16	4.87S + 136.35
PATTERN RECOGNITION	39	1.93P + 132.69
REASONING	33	2.53R + 131.92
NUMERICAL	15	3.38N + 134.45
SPATIAL	15	8.16Sp+ 127.65
KNOWLEDGE	20	2.80K + 134.13

A COMMENT ON TABLE 2

Generally, the lower N, the harder a problem. But, especially in a small sample, N may be somewhat off, just by chance. The same goes for $\overline{G}$, provided 'lower' is replaced by 'higher'. In $\overline{G}/N$, the possible incorrectness of one value is corrected by the other (unlikely that both would be off in opposite directions for the same problem), so $\overline{G}/N$ should give a more reliable idea than $\overline{G}$ or N on their own. Since $\overline{G}/N$ is really the same as $\Sigma G/N^2$ (ΣG = sum of raw scores of testees giving the correct answer to the problem in question), the squared denominator is causing a kind of squared distribution, which is corrected back to normal proportions by taking the square root of the ratio. This explains why I consider

$SQRT(\Sigma G/N^2)$ an important value for each problem.

A similar value, but independent of the size of the norming sample, and having a more universal meaning, could be calculated like this:

$SQRT(\overline{G}/(N/n))$, in which 'n' is the number of testees in the norming sample. I will consider using this value to determine the weights in a future weighted norming.

RETESTS

Five people retested. Mean score on first try was 10.4 (IQ 150.8). Mean retest score was 10.8 (IQ 151.5). Roughly half a year between test and retest in all cases. The average deviation among both test and retest scores was about $6\frac{1}{2}$ ($12\frac{1}{2}$ points of IQ).

STATISTICS

The 38 testees (see Table 1) had a mean score of 6.86 (IQ 144.1). The data for several possible subgroups:

TABLE 10 - STATISTICS

Group:	Mean raw score:	Mean IQ:	Size of group:
native English	7.6	145.5	17
native Dutch	7.1	144.5	11
others	5.3	141.2	10
females	2.8	136.4	8
males	7.9	146.1	30
age 20-29	6.3	143.0	7
age 30-39	7.4	145.1	8
age 40-49	3.9	138.6	7
age 50-59	10.7	151.3	3
age 60-69	3.0	136.8	1
age 70-79	0.0	≤131.1	1

OTHER TESTS DESIGNED BY ME

There is a longer version of the TFG, consisting of four subtests: Association (problems of an unusual kind, not appearing in the short version), Analogies (as those in the short version, but twice as many and containing a few easier ones), Numbers (see Analogies) and Space, Time and Hyperspace (see Analogies). This long version can be obtained from me for US $3.00.

I have also created a verbal analogies test called The Final Test, which is to some extent meant as a friendly parody on the analogies appearing in certain other tests, but will be scored and normed and give entrance to The Giga Society if hard enough. A copy can be ordered for $1.00.

THE GIGA SOCIETY

This Grail among societies was conceived by me for hypothetical testees scoring at or above the 99.9999999th percentile of the unselected population, which my current normings place at about 35 out of 42 right on the Test For Genius (short form) and 28 out of 30 right on Space, Time and Hyperspace. Future renormings may specify this further. The only member of TGS so far got in because he gave himself a founder's exemption.

When normed, scores on Association and Analogies and overall scores on the long TFG may also be acceptable for entrance.

REACTIONS I GOT

- Wow! What a test!
- Without doubt the most difficult test I ever encountered.
- I took one look at it and threw it right away.
- I finally got so sick of it that I had to stop. Not that I would have gotten many, if any, more correct.
- I would venture to say that your test is more likely to gauge a person's actual intelligence than the X Test (for example), and other tests I have seen of this variety. Your questions seem to measure lateral thinking abilities, logic, and general knowledge. Mr. Y's tests seem to be

aimed more at esoteric math type problems, for which calculus and the like may be a prerequisite. Some of the items are also quite tedious to work out, while your problems are generally more entertaining. I wouldn't even work on your test if it were not a little fun!

- Please send me your test. With the answers, of course, so that I can score it myself.
- After norming, you may wish to submit your test to (mentions the X, Z and other societies), because they accept tests similar - though I would propably say inferior - to this one. This is a true work of art!
- If anyone knows what genius is, it should be Paul Cooijmans from Lieshout. (Eindhoven Daily Newspaper)
- Go to the asylum!

A COMMENT ON VERBAL ANALOGIES

I have always been disappointed to see that certain analogies in IQ-tests are merely asking for vocabulary and knowledge, rather than insight and reasoning. My first reaction to such problems is: this has nothing to do with intelligence and doesn't belong in an IQ-test. And the more I learn about intelligence, the more I see that this first reaction is basically, if not totally, right. For example, take the analogy:

SUN : RAIN :: TAN : ?

The naive testee would arrive at answers like WET APPEARANCE or FASHIONABLE WET-LOOK. The experienced testee, wisened by say the X, W and U tests, might on the other hand scan the glossies for synonyms thereof rhyming or alliterating with TAN. And, sadly, the test maker might indeed have meant that synonym. But would that make either one of the latter two any brighter than the first? And - even worse - could not a REAL genius find an even better solution, and thus lose his point?

TABLE 11 - LIST OF CELESTIAL BODY'S TO CHOOSE FROM (INCOMPLETE)

Just in case you would solve six unsolved problems:

MERCURYMERCURYMERCURYMERCURYMERCURY
VENUSVENUSVENUSVENUSVENUSVENUSVENUS
EARTHEARTHEARTHEARTHEARTHEARTHEARTH
MARSMARSMARSMARSMARSMARSMARSMAR
JUPITERJUPITERJUPITERJUPITERJUPITER
SATURNSATURNSATURNSATURNSATURNSATUR
URANUSURANUSURANUSURANUSURANUSURANU
NEPTUNENEPTUNENEPTUNENEPTUNENEPTUNE
PLUTOPLUTOPLUTOPLUTOPLUTOPLUTOPLUTO

APPEARANCE?

ESSENCE

END

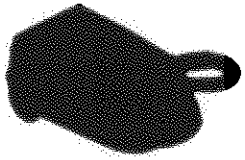
(clipping)

COMPUTER DEFEATS VAGANT

For the first time in the history of IQ-testing, machine has defeated man. The powerful Polymac Systems computer Maximum Orange outscored the human world record holder in solving intelligence tests, Miss Marilyn S. Vagant, by 5 points of IQ on the Stanford-Binet scale. Used was the Hyper Test, designed by Prof. Dr. L. Ron Hölin of the Hölin Institute for Decoding Philosophy. Miss Vagant, though stupefied at first, challenged M. O. for a retest on the Hölin Power Test 21, that combined the best 36 crawling ant problems from Dr. Hölin's first 43 tests.

This time Vagant won, mainly because Mr. Orange gave up after one problem, claiming his opponent's private secretary, seated in the audience with a laptop, was breaking into his circuits and decoding them via the Internet. 'Pull the plug out on the brat', Vagant sharply responded, and mailed her score sheet off to Guinness.

A riot followed when Maximum, having scored IQ 871 + on Ron Hölin's Hyper Test, demanded entrance into the Megalom Society, that selects its members at or above an IQ of 671 on a scale where 140 constitutes genius. J. Christ Haring, President of the Society, member of all known committees and right hand to God, denied admission, stating the machine had never passed the Turing Test. M. Orange, enraged, beeped neither of the four members of Megalom ever had — or would be able to. The Megalom Society is now scanning its bylaws for a way out of this crisis...



Mr. Maximum Orange...

Author's note: although my name is appended, the above article appears to be from the New Amsterdam Times of April 6th, 2001. It leaked back in time into the archives of The Giga Society through a wormhole in my vacuum cleaner. The Turing Test, by the English mathematician and logician Alan M. Turing (1912 - 1954), was meant to decide whether or not a machine - or being - could 'think'. Turing predicted that by the year 2000 a computer would be able to pass his test. Turing's work is widely acknowledged as the foundation of research in artificial intelligence. His tragical death, on the other hand, is a sublime example of how humanity treats its geniuses; he apparently killed himself because of the depressing medical treatment he'd been forced to undergo (in lieu of prison) to 'cure' him of homosexuality.

Paul Cooijmans, Postbus 44
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