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Re: Comments on Steve Wilson (high IQ's)

From: Ndunlks <Ndunlks@aol.com>
Date: Sun, 28 Dec 1997 08:18:27 -0800

In a message dated 97-12-26 21:30:37 EST, burnettc@gte.net (Tom Burnett) writes (via UFOMIND):

- > I don't suppose the 'Men in Black' can access these sources of data,
- > or look at the address on his retirement check. Actually, I don't
- > suppose that anyone is looking for the man. IQ of 232...really?
- > Intelligence Quotient is a measure of intelligence derived from norms
- > provided by standardized intelligence tests. Would any of our
- > illustrious PhDs (no derogation intended) care to comment on how high
- > IQ can be measured?

I am not a doctor, nor do I have a PhD, however, as a past member of Mensa, it is my understanding that properly measuring an IQ is rather difficult. (A common discussion with members).

To answer your question, we can simply pickup a 1989 copy of the Guinness Book of World Records. Marilyn Vos Savant is listed on page 26 as having the highest recorded IQ. It says "...as a ten year old she achieved a ceiling score for 23-year-olds, thus giving her an IQ of 228." Her record was retired to the Guinness hall of fame because scores that high are no longer possible due to a lowering of test score ceilings. (As I'm sure you're already guessing it's because scores that high weren't very valid in the first place.) Most other reference books state Marilyn Vos Savant's, IQ at 190, and still the

highest ever recorded .

Even at 190, it is hard to comprehend her IQ rating . Einstein's IQ has been placed at only 161 by most references . Many have "guessed" Plato's as about 170 . I have heard of so many people who "claim" to have high IQ's that it seems that the world average is at least 140.

To give you a better idea, I took the following from a Mensa BBS . I hope the information sheds a little light on the subject. In the mean time, I would question anyone who claims to have an IQ higher than 190 .

Steven L Wilson Sr
(Not the Colonel)

COMPARISON OF IQ LEVELS

There are many standard IQ tests in use around the world. On most tests, average IQ is 100, but some tests give different numerical values to the level required for entry into Mensa, in the same way that the same temperature is expressed by different numerical values on the Fahrenheit and Celsius scales.

One way of comparing scores from different IQ tests is to convert them to a ranking, or percentile, score which tells you in which band you fit. A percentile score of 99% means that you are in the top 1%, a percentile score of 98% puts you in the top 2% and so on.

In the UK, Mensa uses two main tests to identify people's IQ scores, the Cattell B Test and the Culture Free Test. A pass level which puts you in the top 2% will qualify you for membership of Mensa.

Some comparisons of frequently used tests are given below. A middle aged adult can only get a maximum IQ of 161 on the Cattell "B" test.

A top 2% mark in any of the tests below qualifies you for entry to Mensa. The minimum test mark to get into Mensa is:

Cattell B - 148 Culture Free - 133 Ravens Advanced Matrices - 148 Ravens Standard Matrices -131 Wechsler Scales - 132

And yet even more information:

Mensa Testing Information Test Scores Accepted by American Mensa Last Updated: October 11, 1996

California Test of Mental Maturity (CTMM) IQ 132

California Test of Cognitive Skills IQ 132

Cattell IQ 148 Cattell Culture Fair

* Stanford Binet, Form L-MIQ 132 Wechsler Adult and Children Scales (WAIS and WAIS-R, WISC, WISC-R, WISC-III) IQ 130 Otis-Lennon Tests IQ 132

Otis-Gamma Test IQ 131

PSAT (Taken in Junior Year) prior to 4/93 180 effective 4/93 NA PSAT (Taken in Senior Year) prior to 4/93 180 effective 4/93 NA SAT or CEEB prior to 9/77

13009/77 thru 8/93 1250 effective 9/93 NA LSAT prior to 1982 662 1982 thru

5/91 139 effective 6/91 163 GRE prior to 6/94 (Math + Verbal) 1250 effective 6/94

(Math + Verbal + Analytic) 1875 GMAT (Percentile rank of verbal +

quantitative)**

95 ACT Composite prior to 9/89 29 effective 9/89 NA Miller Analogies Test (MAT)

-- Raw Score 66 Army GCT*** prior to 10/80 136 effective 10/80 NA

Navy GCT*** prior to 10/80 68 effective 10/80 NA Henmon-Nelson *NY State Regents

Scholarship Test (Aptitude Section only) *Medical College Admission Test

(MCAT)

*SRA Primary Mental Abilities *

NA These tests no longer correlate with an IQ test. Note that the acceptance date applies to the date you took the test, not the date you join Mensa. You can still join Mensa by using older scores. *Many intelligence test scores will qualify you for Mensa, but Mensa's supervisory psychologists will have to individually appraise the documentation. Almost any test with "achievement" in the title is not acceptable to Mensa. **For the GMAT, unlike most tests, the qualifying score is based on the percentile of the total score. There are three columns on the score report, each with a numerical score and a percentile. You're looking for the percentile next to the score in the "total" column -- if it's 95% or greater, the score qualifies you for Mensa. ***The only scores that Mensa can accept are the AGCT scores from the Army, and the GT scores from the Navy -- before the use of the ASVAB (9/80). The new military tests are vocational aptitude tests and are not suitable for Mensa admission.

Mensa reserves the right to alter or change these scores as the tests shown are reformed or restandardized. Mensa will individually appraise all applications, and reserves the right to make the final determination about the

acceptability of any test.

I hope the above information sheds a little light on the subject . In the mean time, I would question anyone who claims to have an IQ higher than 190 .

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PO Box 30303, Las Vegas, NV 89173 Glenn Campbell, Webmaster & Moderator

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Created: Dec 28, 1997