

Unit XI

Testing and Individual Differences

Overview

Unit XI tackles the enduring question and challenge of how to define and measure intelligence. The unit reviews the theories of Howard Gardner, Charles Spearman, and Robert Sternberg and the brain structures involved in activities requiring intelligence. Next follows an explanation of the origin and rise of intelligence testing and the methods researchers utilize to ensure reliability and validity of tests. The role genetics and environment play in intelligence and the traits of those who demonstrate extreme high or extreme low scores on intelligence assessments are also covered. The unit concludes by considering the roles gender, race, and ethnicity play in intelligence.

Modules

- 60** Introduction to Intelligence

- 61** Assessing Intelligence

- 62** The Dynamics of Intelligence

- 63** Studying Genetic and Environmental Influences on Intelligence

- 64** Group Differences and the Question of Bias

Tip #11

Visit the College Board® Website and Review

Take a moment to visit the AP® Psychology page of the College Board® website to look at the Course Description. There you will find a list of all of the AP® Psychology topics and learning objectives, along with the approximate percentage of the multiple choice portion of the test that will cover those topics. As you begin to review and prepare for the exam, group your vocabulary cards from previous units into topics and set up a schedule of review that takes into account the greater emphasis on certain topics. For instance, from the Course Description you can see that States of Consciousness, Unit V, makes up about 2–4% of the test while Social Psychology, Unit XIV, accounts for about 8–10% of the exam. Obviously you only have so many hours in the day, and perhaps other AP® courses you are preparing for, so it makes sense to allocate more vocabulary review time to the sections that make up more of the test.

Module 60

Introduction to Intelligence

Before You Read

Module Summary

Module 60 discusses the difficulty of defining intelligence and presents arguments for and against considering intelligence as one general mental ability, as Charles Spearman proposed. Various theories of intelligence, including those of Howard Gardner and Robert Sternberg are presented and compared. The four components of emotional intelligence are explained and the relationship between intelligence and brain structure and function is described.

Before beginning the module, take a moment to read each of the following terms and names you will encounter. You may wish to make vocabulary cards for each.

Key Terms

intelligence	savant syndrome
intelligence test	grit
general intelligence (g)	emotional intelligence
factor analysis	

Key Names

Charles Spearman
L. L. Thurstone
Howard Gardner
Robert Sternberg

While You Read

Answer the following questions/prompts.

60-1

1. Why is it difficult to define intelligence? How would your definition differ from that given in the text? What would you add or delete from the text's definition?

60-2

1. Explain how L.L. Thurstone's studies on intelligence supported the results of Charles Spearman's work with *g*.
2. In what way did both Thurstone and Spearman use factor analysis in the development of their theories?
3. Describe how Satoshi Kanazawa's contentions about the evolution of intelligence complement the studies of Thurstone and Spearman.

60-3

1. List the common characteristics of someone with savant syndrome.
2. Discuss Howard Gardner's contribution to the discussion of intelligence. How do his critics refute his work?

3. Explain how the quote by Bill Gates below relates to the work of Thurstone, Spearman, and Gardner.

“You have to be careful, if you’re good at something, to make sure you don’t think you’re good at other things that you aren’t necessarily so good at . . . Because I’ve been very successful at (software development) people come in and expect that I have wisdom about topics that I don’t.”—Bill Gates (1998)

Thurstone:

Spearman:

Gardner:

4. Summarize Sternberg’s three intelligences.

5. Discuss how Robert Sternberg’s triarchic theory of intelligence agrees with Gardner’s theory. In what ways do Sternberg’s and Gardner’s theory differ?

60-4

1. List and elaborate on the four components of emotional intelligence.
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - d.

2. How might each of the components listed above help or hinder someone involved in an unwanted break up of a relationship?

60-5

1. Summarize the statistical information on the connection between brain size and intelligence.

60-6

1. Summarize the research findings on the connection between neural processing speed and intelligence.

After You Read

Module 60 Review

Complete the chart to see if you have mastered the basics.

Theory	Brief Summary of the Theory	An Example of Someone Demonstrating This Proposed Intelligence
Spearman's general intelligence (<i>g</i>)		
Thurstone's primary abilities		
Gardner's multiple intelligences		
Sternberg's triarchic theory		

Module 61

Assessing Intelligence

Before You Read

Module Summary

Module 61 discusses the history of intelligence testing and distinguishes between aptitude and achievement tests. The meaning of standardization is explained, and validity and reliability in relation to testing is covered. The normal curve is also described.

Before beginning the module, take a moment to read each of the following terms and names you will encounter. You may wish to make vocabulary cards for each.

Key Terms

mental age	standardization
Stanford-Binet	normal curve
intelligence quotient (IQ)	reliability
achievement test	validity
aptitude test	content validity
Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale (WAIS)	predictive validity

Key Names

Francis Galton
Alfred Binet
Louis Terman
David Wechsler

While You Read

Answer the following questions/prompts.

61-1

1. Explain how Francis Galton attempted to measure intelligence. Discuss which of his assertions were disproved and which have shown a lasting impact on the study of intelligence.

61-2

1. Give an example of a test you have taken that was
 - a. an achievement test:

b. an aptitude test:

2. Discuss the components and subsets of David Wechsler's intelligence test. How does it differ from the Stanford-Binet?

61-3

1. What population should be used in order to standardize the AP[®] Psychology exam you will be taking? After determining your population, explain how the exam can be standardized.

2. Draw and label a normal curve of intelligence scores in the space below. Include three standard deviations above and below the mean and the percentages that fall within one, two and three standard deviations. Refer to Figure 61.2. when finished to check your work.

3. Why is the normal curve important to standardized testing?

4. Define the *Flynn effect* and describe the explanations that have been suggested for its occurrence.

61-4

1. Why is reliability a key consideration in test development? What are two specific methods researchers utilize to measure the reliability of a test?

2. Alfred Binet referred to children's actual age in years as their _____ age and their performance ability level as their _____ age.
3. The rising average intelligence test score over the last century is referred to as the _____.
4. The Advanced Placement® exam you will take this year is an example of an _____ test.
5. The researcher credited with adapting and revising Binet's original test for use with American children is
 - a. Francis Galton.
 - b. Charles Darwin.
 - c. Louis Terman.
 - d. William Stern.
 - e. David Wechsler.
6. A test-taker is asked to use four white and red shaded geometric blocks to make patterns. The tester is most likely taking the
 - a. Stanford-Binet.
 - b. MMPI.
 - c. Stern-Terman.
 - d. WAIS.
 - e. Achievement Test.
7. A researcher who wishes to be sure her personality test for teen introversion is accepted in the field initially gives it to a representative sample of teens to establish a base line performance score. This researcher is in the process of
 - a. making the test reliable.
 - b. establishing the aptitude quotient.
 - c. validating the test.
 - d. establishing the achievement quotient.
 - e. standardizing the test.
8. Draw and label the normal curve of intelligence scores in the space below. Once finished, use it to answer questions 9 and 10.

9. According to your normal curve from #8, a score of 115 is higher than what percentage of scores?
- 68%
 - 95%
 - 2%
 - 84%
 - 81.5%
10. According to your normal curve from #8, approximately 99% of scores fall between which two scores on an intelligence test?
- 55-70
 - 70-130
 - 55-145
 - 145 and beyond
 - 115-145
11. Gwen is attempting to produce a solid intelligence test that will give dependable and consistent results each time it is taken. She gives her prototype test to one group then retests them one week later. Gwen is attempting to prove the test's
- reliability.
 - validity.
 - standardization.
 - Flynn effect.
 - normality.
12. Cynthia is preparing for her semester exam in biology. Her instructor has covered 7 units and Cynthia expects to see material from all 7 units on the exam. When over one-half of the exam deals with the life cycle of the Amazon tree frog, Cynthia is upset. Her dissatisfaction with the exam comes primarily due the exam's lack of
- predictive validity.
 - aptitude validity.
 - content validity.
 - split-half reliability.
 - test-retest reliability.

Module 62

The Dynamics of Intelligence

Before You Read

Module Summary

Module 62 discusses the changes in crystallized and fluid intelligence that occur with age. Studies comparing intelligence over the decades are presented to prove that intelligence is stable over time. The traits of those at the low and high extremes of intelligence are discussed.

Before beginning the module, take a moment to read each of the following terms you will encounter. You may wish to make vocabulary cards for each.

Key Terms

cohort

crystallized intelligence

fluid intelligence

intellectual disability

Down syndrome

While You Read

Answer the following questions/prompts.

62-1

1. Summarize the cross-sectional evidence for intellectual decline.

Module 63

Studying Genetic and Environmental Influences on Intelligence

Before You Read

Module Summary

Module 63 discusses the evidence for a genetic influence on intelligence and explains what is meant by heritability. The module also discusses the evidence for environmental influences on intelligence.

Before beginning the module, take a moment to read each of the following term and name you will encounter. You may wish to make vocabulary cards for each.

Key Term _____

heritability

Key Name _____

Carol Dweck

While You Read

Answer the following questions/prompts.

63-1

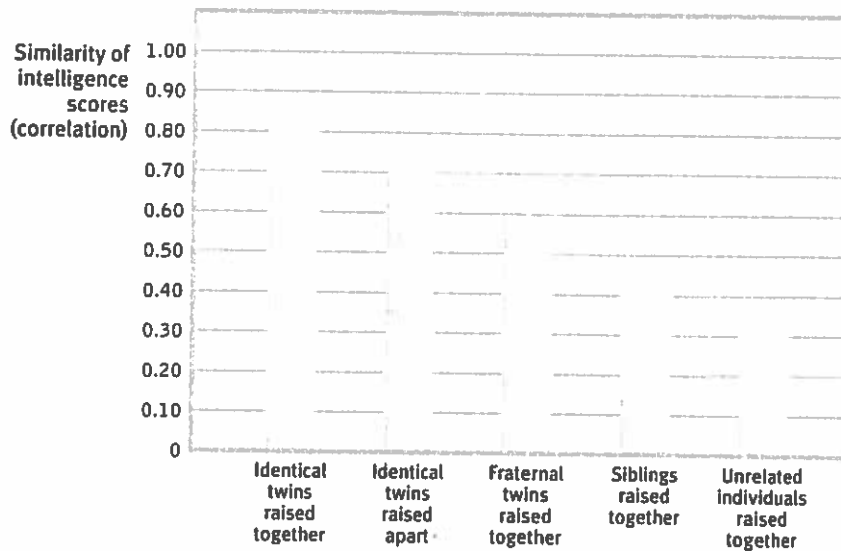
1. In Module 14 (Unit III), the concept of heritability was discussed. Refresh your memory by defining heritability in your own words.

2. Explain why the heritability of intelligence can range from 50% to 80%.

After You Read

Module 63 Review

Answer the following questions to see if you have mastered the basics.



Use the graph above to answer questions 1 and 2.

- Janelle and Chantelle are identical twins but grew up in different homes. Janelle's score on an intelligence test is 134. What can you predict about Chantelle's intelligence test score? Provide a rational explanation based on your reading.
- Timothy and Kristen are both adopted children living in the Murphy's home. They are unrelated. Kristen has an intelligence test score of 101. What can you predict about Timothy's intelligence test score?
- Your father tells you he will not pay for you to take additional classes in college although you are hoping to double-major and pursue as many courses as possible in your time there. Use the findings of Carol Dweck to formulate an argument to convince your father that his money will be well-spent.

Module 64

Group Differences and the Question of Bias

Before You Read

Module Summary

Module 64 describes research of gender and racial differences in mental ability scores. The question of bias in intelligence tests is discussed.

Before beginning the module, take a moment to read each of the following term you will encounter. You may wish to make vocabulary cards for each.

Key Term

stereotype threat

While You Read

Answer the following questions/prompts.

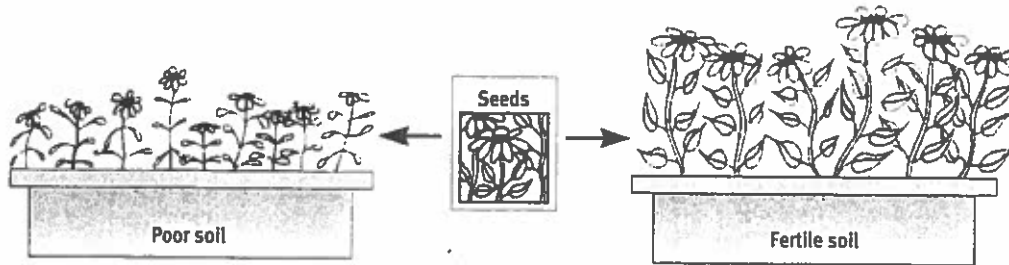
64-1

1. Summarize the findings of various researchers regarding differing intellectual abilities of girls versus boys.
2. How do biological and sociological (nature and nurture) factors play a role in these differing abilities?

64-2

1. Summarize the findings of various researchers regarding differing intellectual abilities in racial and ethnic groups.

2. Using the following figure, explain why the flowers in the garden box to the right have grown larger than the flowers in the left garden box. Describe the heritability of height in this example.



3. Using the figure above, explain why certain flowers in the left garden box are taller than other flowers in that same box. Describe the heritability of height in this example.

64-3

1. Explain and compare the two meanings of bias in a test. Use examples to illustrate your comparison.
2. If you suspect that a test is biased against a given group of individuals, how can you test this belief?
3. Using examples from the text, explain how the stereotype threat hijacks mental performance for minority groups.
4. Suggest two ways that stereotype threat could be reduced in testing situations.

After You Read

Module 64 Review

Answer the following questions to see if you have mastered the basics.

1. You are good friends with a girl in your class who believes that girls are much smarter than boys. Since you are studying psychology and intelligence, what can you tell her?
2. A teacher in your school tells you that boys are evolutionarily built for hunting and girls are evolutionarily built for gathering. What evidence can you provide to support that statement? What evidence can you provide to refute this statement?
3. Your friend believes that all intelligence tests are biased as they only reflect the environment and experiences you have been exposed to. Another friend responds that intelligence tests are not biased. Since you are taking psychology, how can you respond to your friends?
4. Explain why heredity may contribute to individual differences in intelligence but not necessarily contribute to group differences.

✓ Check Yourself

Now that you have mastered the basics, work through the problems below to see if you can *synthesize, evaluate, and analyze* what you have learned.

Justin is an unusually bright seventh grade student who is being tested for acceptance into a school for gifted children. He has taken one intelligence test three times and received the scores of 150, 149, and 150. Justin is an accomplished and recognized violist, and has been invited to perform with the National Symphony Orchestra. He has many friends and is so well-liked in his school that he won the election for class president. As president, Justin has presented some cool new ideas for homework help, class service projects and an innovative way to move the lunch trays through the cafeteria. However, he is also known to be a silly kid who forgets his lunch quite frequently, gets lost in the halls of the school and often does not have his assignments or materials for class. His parents worry that despite his IQ, his distracted habits may inhibit his future success.

Answer the following questions with specific information from the scenario above to support your response.

1. What is the relationship of Justin's intelligence test scores to other scores on the normal curve?
2. Which two of Gardner's multiple intelligences does Justin seem to possess?
3. How would you assess Justin's three components of intelligence as Robert Sternberg would identify them?
4. How reliable are the intelligence tests Justin has taken?



Before You Move On

Use the checklist below to verify your understanding of the unit's main points.

Can I define intelligence and lists characteristics of how psychologists measure intelligence using

- Abstract versus verbal measures
- Speed of processing
- Can I discuss how culture influences the definition of intelligence?

Can I compare and contrast the historic and contemporary theories of intelligence of:

- Charles Spearman
- Howard Gardner
- Robert Sternberg
- Can I explain how psychologists design tests, including standardization strategies and other techniques to establish reliability and validity?
- How do I interpret the meaning of scores in terms of the normal curve?

Can I describe relevant labels related to intelligence testing such as:

- Gifted
- Intellectually disabled
- Can I debate the appropriate testing practices, particularly in relation to culture-fair test uses?

Can I identify key contributors in intelligence research and testing such as:

- Alfred Binet
- Francis Galton
- Howard Gardner
- Charles Spearman
- Robert Sternberg
- Louis Terman
- David Wechsler