

## New Evidence Confirms that the IQ in Sicily Is Lower than in the Mainland

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A recent study of a representative sample of 6 to 11 year olds in Sicily tested with the Coloured Progressive Matrices obtained a British-scaled IQ of 92. Literature review shows that this result is in agreement with earlier studies using psychometric IQ tests in the Italian provinces.

**Keywords:** Italy, Sicily, Intelligence, Coloured Progressive Matrices

Twelve years ago I published a paper presenting evidence that British-scaled IQs (Greenwich IQs") are highest in the north of Italy (103 in Friuli-Venezia Giulia) and decline steadily through twelve regions to reach the lowest in the South (89 in Sicily) (Lynn, 2010a). The paper proposed that these regional IQ differences explain the differences in average income, literacy, educational attainment, stature, infant mortality and the numbers of individuals who have achieved eminence in the arts and sciences and that they are attributable to immigration from North Africa and the Middle East in the more southerly regions, whose genetic legacy has been to reduce the IQs of the populations.

There have been positive and negative responses to these propositions. Criticisms of the regional IQs have been made on the grounds that they were calculated from PISA (Program for International Student Assessment) data of 15-year-old students' reading, mathematics and science literacy scores adopted as a proxy for IQ and it was argued that these are measures of educational attainment rather than intelligence (Cornoldi, 2013; D'Amico, 2012). Further criticisms have been made by Beraldo (2010) and Cornoldi et al. (2010), and have been answered in Lynn (2010b). A further critical paper by Felice & Giugliano (2011) has been answered in Lynn (2012).

Supporting evidence by Templer (2013) confirmed the higher IQs in the north of Italy with a correlation of regional IQs of 0.83 with latitude and also documented correlations of 0.82 with cephalic index, 0.67 with percentage of blond hair, and 0.65 with prevalence of multiple sclerosis. Blond hair and multiple sclerosis are

markers for northern and central European ancestry because both are more common in northern and central than in southern Europe.

Further evidence for higher IQs in the north of Italy has been presented by Piffer and Lynn (2022), who showed that north-south differences in student performance are mirrored by differences in polygenic scores for educational attainment and that there are north-south differences in economic development, educational attainment, intelligence, and stature.

The criticism that the regional IQs were calculated from PISA data and not from IQs is addressed here by a review of studies of regional differences in intelligence in Italy that have used tests of intelligence. The studies are listed by latitude from north to south. The results of these studies are summarized in Table 1.

**Table 1.** *Regional IQs in Italy; CPM = Coloured Progressive Matrices, SPM = Standard Progressive Matrices, CCF = Cattell Culture Fair test.*

Location	Age	N	Test	IQ	Reference
Genoa	8-11	600	CPM	95	Galeazzi et al., 1979
Florence	11-16	2462	SPM	103	Tesi & Young, 1962
Pisa	6-11	500	CPM	103	Prunetti, 1985
Pisa	7-11	459	CPM	99	Prunetti et al., 1996
Rome	Adults	1350	CCF	102	Buj, 1981
Sicily	18	5370	CCF	90	Pace & Sprini, 1998
Sicily	8	278	WISC-III	88	Bianchini et al., 2013
Sicily	6-11	947	CPM	92	Smirni, 2020

The last of these studies by Smirni (2020) confirms that the IQ in Sicily is lower than in the mainland. This study presents data for a representative sample (N = 947) of 6 to 11 year olds in Sicily for the Coloured Progressive Matrices. These results and the British IQs of these are given for each age group in Table 2. The British IQs are derived from the British 2007 norms given in Raven (2008). The mean British IQ for the sample is 92.0

**Table 2.** *British IQs in Sicily.*

Age	Mean	British IQ
6.0	20.8	105.0
6.5	21.1	97.5
7.0	21.5	92.5
7.5	22.7	90.0
8.0	24.4	90.0
8.5	25.5	87.5

Age	Mean	British IQ
9.0	26.8	90.0
9.5	27.8	90.0
10.0	28.3	92.5
10.5	29.2	90.0
11.0	29.8	90.0
11.5	30.8	90.0
Mean		92.0

It will be seen from the results given in Table 1 that despite the anomalous result for Genoa (IQ 95), the general trend of the results is for IQs to be higher in the north of Italy than in the south.

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