

A Study of Intelligence in Venezuela

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A results of a standardisation of the Rey Auditory Verbal Learning Test (RAVLT) in Venezuela on a representative sample of 629 adults aged 20 to 79 years were compared with a standardisation in the Netherlands. The Venezuelan sample obtained an IQ 12 points lower than the Netherlands' sample and therefore a Greenwich IQ of 88.

Key words: Venezuela; Rey Auditory Verbal Learning Test; Intelligence

A research program to collect IQs for all nations in the world was initiated by Lynn (1978) and developed in subsequent work to obtain IQs for 160 countries and territories summarized by Lynn & Vanhanen (2012a). It has been shown that national IQs are a significant correlate of national differences in educational attainment, economic development, per capita income and a number of other demographic, sociological, epidemiological, political, climatic and geographical phenomena reviewed in Lynn & Vanhanen (2012b). In these studies national IQs are given in relation to a British mean of 100 and standard deviation of 15. These have been designated "Greenwich IQs" by Rindermann, Ngoc & Baumeister (2013) analogous to the lines of longitude that are measured in relation to zero in Greenwich.

In this paper an addition is made to this research program by summarizing a recent study of intelligence in Venezuela. There appears to be no study of the IQ in Venezuela based on the standardization of an intelligence test, although Meisenberg & Lynn (2011) and Lynn & Vanhanen (2012a) have estimated an IQ of 83.3 based on results of the 2009 PISA test of mathematics, science and reading comprehension in a number of countries, and a Unesco study of mathematics

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and verbal abilities in several countries in Latin America.

It is now possible to calculate an IQ for Venezuela based on the standardisation of the Rey Auditory Verbal Learning Test (RAVLT) published by Ferreira Correia & Campagna Osorio (2014). This test consists of five learning trials of a word list followed by an interference list (Trial 6). In Trial 7 the participant is asked to recall the first list. After a delay, participants are once more asked to recall the first list (Trial 8) followed by a recognition task (Trial 9). The test is therefore largely a test of working memory, i.e. the ability to hold material in a memory store while attention is diverted to some other task, and then to recall the first material: "The RAVLT requires information to be processed in working memory and passed into long-term storage" (Blumenau & Broom, 2011, p.229).

There is considerable evidence that working memory capacity is highly associated with general intelligence, e.g. Troche, Wagner, Voelke, Roebers & Rammsayer (2014, p.40) who write of "the well-known relationship between working memory and psychometric intelligence".

A standardisation of the Rey Auditory Verbal Learning Test (RAVLT) in Venezuela published by Ferreira Correia & Campagna Osorio (2014) was based on a representative sample of 629 adults aged 20 to 79 years. To calculate a Greenwich IQ of the sample, the results are compared with the standardisation of the RAVLT in the Netherlands published by Van der Elst, van Boxtel, van Breukelen & Jolles (2005) based on a representative sample of 1855 adults aged 24 to 81 years. The IQ in the Netherlands is the same as that in Britain (Lynn & Vanhanen, 2012, p.26) and can therefore be used to estimate the Greenwich IQ in Venezuela.

The results of the standardizations of the test in the Netherlands and in Venezuela are given in Table 1. This gives the mean scores for three age groups and the sds for

Venezuela (sds are not given in the report for the Netherlands). The right hand column headed *d* gives the difference between the two means divided by the sds. The average of the *ds* for the three age groups is 0.8 and is equivalent to 12 IQ points giving the Venezuelan sample an IQ 12 points lower than the Netherlands and therefore a Greenwich IQ of 88.

Table 1. Means for the Rey Auditory Verbal Learning Test in the Netherlands and Venezuela

Age	Netherlands	Venezuela	<i>d</i>
20-49	48	42 (5.7)	1.0
59-64	43	29 (7.4)	0.8
65-79	39	34 (8.0)	0.6

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