

A STUDY OF INTELLIGENCE IN JORDAN^{1,2}

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Summary.—The Raven's Standard Progressive Matrices test was standardized in Jordan in 2004 on a sample of 1,015 school students ages 12 to 17 yr. The sample obtained a British IQ of 82.6.

A research program to collect IQs for all nations in the world was initiated by Lynn (1978). Subsequent work has obtained national IQs for 160 countries and territories and shown that these are a significant correlate of national differences in educational attainment, economic development, per capita income, and a number of other political, demographic, sociological, epidemiological, climatic, and geographical phenomena reviewed in Lynn and Vanhanen (2012a, 2012b). In these studies, national IQs are given in relation to a British mean of 100 and standard deviation of 15.

Three studies of intelligence in Jordan are reported by Lynn and Vanhanen (2012a). The first of these studies reported results for a sample of 151 8- to 13-yr.-olds on Piagetian tests, on which the Jordanian children obtained a British IQ of 82 (Za'rour & Khuri, 1977). The second study reported results for a sample of 210 6- to 12-yr.-olds on the Kaufman KAB test, on which the Jordanian children obtained a British IQ of 84 (El-Mneizel, 1987). The third study reported results for a sample of 2,542 11- to 40-yr.-olds on the Advanced Progressive Matrices, on which the Jordanian sample obtained a British IQ of 86 (Lynn & Abdel-Khalek, 2009).

The authors report here the results of a further study of intelligence in Jordan carried out in 2004 by Muaz Adnan Salem Al-Majali (2005) and the results reported in Arabic in a Master's thesis of Mutah University, Jordan. The sample consisted of 1,045 school students aged 12 to 17 yr. selected by the classified cluster method from the regions of Jordan. The children were tested with Raven's Standard Progressive Matrices (Raven, 1998) in class, and instructions for the test were given in Jordanian Arabic, the language of everyday use in Jordan.

The results were given for two age groups. The first was aged 12 to 13 yr. with a mean age of 12.0 (185 boys, 256 girls). The mean score was 31.3 and is equivalent to the 10th percentile on the 1979 British standard-

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ization, equivalent to an IQ of 80.8. This IQ needs correction for the 4-IQ point increase of children aged 13.0 in British IQ scores from 1979 to 2009 reported in Lynn (2009), representing 1.3 IQ points per decade. The thesis was awarded in 2005, so it can be assumed that the data were collected in 2004. It is therefore necessary to reduce the Jordan IQ by 3 IQ points to equate it to the British IQ in 2004, reducing it to 77.8.

The second group was aged 14 to 17 yr. with a mean age of 15.5 (288 boys, 316 girls). The mean score was 40.2 and is equivalent to the 20th percentile on the 1979 British standardization, equivalent to an IQ of 87.5. There was no increase in the IQ of British children aged 15.5 yr. from 1979 to 2009 reported in Lynn (2009), so no adjustment needs to be made to the IQ of 87.5 of this sample. Averaging the two results gives a Greenwich IQ of 82.6 for Jordan. There was no significant difference between the scores of the boys and girls in either sample.

The three previous studies of intelligence in Jordan obtained British IQs of 82, 84, and 86. The present study giving an IQ of 82.6 confirms these results and is a testament to the reliability of the data. Combining the four studies gives an IQ of 83.65 as the best estimate of the British IQ in Jordan.

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