





October 2007 · 226 pages · 5 tables · 7 figures

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Do IQ gains mean that each generation is more intelligent than the last?

Do they suggest how each of us can enhance our own intelligence?

For over twenty years, psychologists have struggled to understand the implications of IQ gains. Professor James Flynn, one of the most creative and influential psychologists in the field of intelligence, is finally ready to give his own views. His answer is both surprising and illuminating. Flynn's unrivalled book makes an important contribution to our understanding of human intelligence.

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- I. A bombshell in a letter box
- 2. Beyond the Flynn Effect
- **3.** Towards a new theory of intelligence
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- **5.** Why did it take so long?

- 6. IQ gains can kill
- 7. What if the gains are over?
- 8. Knowing our ancestors Appendix I: Tables; Appendix II: Declaration in a capital case.

## WHAT THE EXPERTS SAY

James Flynn has been a saintly anomaly in this contentious debate. His latest book is a classic expression of the man – advancing a particular point of view, but committed to following the data, responding to criticism with reason and evidence, and unfailingly good-humored.

CHARLES MURRAY, CO-AUTHOR WITH RICHARD HERRNSTEIN OF THE BELL CURVE: INTELLIGENCE AND CLASS STRUCTURE IN AMERICAN LIFE (1994)

This highly engaging, and very readable book takes forward the Dickens and Flynn model of intelligence... A most unusual book, but one that holds the reader's attention and leaves behind concepts and ideas that force us to rethink all sorts of issues.

Professor Sir Michael Rutter, Institute of Psychiatry, King's College London Flynn provides the first satisfying explanation of the massive rise in IQ test scores...

PROFESSOR N. J. MAKINTOSH, UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

In a brilliant interweaving of data and argument, Flynn calls into question fundamental assumptions about the nature of intelligence that have driven the field for the past century.

Professor S. J. Ceci, Cornell University

There are relatively few eponymous effects in psychology, and the Flynn Effect is among the best known. The Flynn Effect, in Flynn's hands, makes a good, gripping, puzzling, and not-quite-finished story.

PROFESSOR IAN J. DEARY, UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH

# **EXTRACT FROM THE BOOK**

About 1981, it struck me that if IQ gains over time had occurred anywhere, they might have occurred everywhere and that a phenomenon of great significance was being overlooked. Therefore, I began a survey to see what data existed throughout the developed world. It was on a rather dull Saturday in November 1984 that I found a bombshell in my letterbox...

Read more at www.cambridge.org/flynn





## **ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

James R. Flynn is Professor Emeritus at the University of Otago, New Zealand, and a recipient of the University's Gold Medal for Distinguished Career Research. In 2007, the International Society for Intelligence Research named him its Distinguished Scientist of the Year.

He has been Distinguished Visiting Fellow at the Hoover Institution, Stanford, and Distinguished Visiting Speaker at Cornell, and has been profiled in Scientific American.

As a psychologist, he is best known for the "Flynn effect," the documentation of massive IQ gains from one generation to another. His current research includes IQ and gender.

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