

A new study of intelligence in Morocco

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Abstract

The Standard Progressive Matrices (SPM) was administered in Morocco in 2010-12 to a sample of 1177 rural secondary school children aged 12-17 years. The sample obtained a British IQ of approximately 74.

Keywords: Morocco, Standard Progressive Matrices, intelligence

A research program to collect IQs for all nations in the world was initiated by Lynn (1978) and has been extended in a number of subsequent publications summarized in Lynn and Vanhanen (2012). In these studies national IQs are given in relation to a British mean of 100 and standard deviation of 15 and are designated British IQs or Greenwich IQs.

In their most recent compilation of national IQs Lynn and Vanhanen (2012) give six IQs for Morocco. These range between 75 and 85 with a median of 84. These studies were all based on studies of Moroccan immigrants in the Netherlands or Spain. These are not the most satisfactory samples because immigrants are not necessarily representative of their home country and their IQs may be increased by the better environments of Europe. We therefore summarise here the first study of the intelligence of Moroccans in Morocco.

This study consisted of an administration in 2010-2012 of the Standard Progressive Matrices (SPM) to 1177 secondary school children aged 12-17 years in the rural commune of Sidi El Kamel in North-Western Morocco published by Sbaibi, Aboussaleh & Ahmani (2014). The results are shown in Table 1. This gives the means for the sample and British percentiles in the 1979 standardisation for the 12-15.5 year olds (Raven, (1981). There are no British norms for 16 -17.5 year olds, but norms for these

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ages are given for the United States by Raven, Raven & Court (2000, Table SPM9, p. 82).

Table 1. Standard Progressive Matrices data for children in Morocco.

Age	N	Mean	British PC	American PC
12	38	25.1	3	-
12.5	90	24.8	5	-
13	86	24.6	3	-
13.5	76	25.4	4	-
14	94	29.3	5	-
14.5	137	30.6	2	-
15	154	30.5	6	-
15.5	137	32.3	4	-
16	137	30.7	-	5
16.5	99	32.5	-	4
17	81	32.4	-	4
17.5	52	34.4	-	5

The scores of the 12-15.5 year olds are at the 4th British percentile and this is equivalent to a British IQ of 74 (Raven, (1981). The scores of the 16 -17.5 year olds are at the 4.5th American percentile is equivalent to an IQ of 74.5. No adjustment is needed for a possible Flynn effect increase in British norms because there were no gains in the British SPM during the years 1979-2008 (Flynn, 2012, Table A16, p.211). The American IQ is two points lower than the British, so this figure needs to be reduced to a British IQ of 72.5. It will be noted that there is virtually no tendency for the British IQs to decline with age.

The Moroccan IQs of 74 and 72.5 are substantially lower than the median of 84 obtained in the seven studies of Moroccan immigrants in the Netherlands or Spain and may be regarded as a better estimate of the Moroccan IQ. However, the sample came from a rural area and rural samples generally obtain lower IQs than urban samples, probably as a result of selective migration from the country to towns and cities. For instance, in 13 regions of the British Isles in the mid-twentieth century and reported that the highest IQ was in London and the south east, and the lowest IQs were in rural Scotland, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland (Lynn, 1979). Similarly in France, regional differences in intelligence in the mid-1950s obtained from 257,000 18 year old male conscripts into the armed forces were highest in those from the Paris region and the lowest in rural Corsica. by Montmollin (1958). Thus, the sample in the present study

from the rural region in Morocco is likely to be an underestimate of the Moroccan IQ. It is therefore proposed that the best estimate of the true Moroccan IQ lies about midway between the 84 obtained by immigrants in the Netherlands and Spain and the 74 obtained by the present sample.

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Peer review

The peer review of this paper can be found in [the submission thread](#).

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