

THE WORLD'S HARDEST IQ TEST

By Scot Morris

Perhaps the ultimate combination of challenge and threat is an IQ test. Taking one forces you into a self-confrontation on the most personal, ego-involved level—an anxiety-arousing experience for anyone. If you've ever gotten nervous taking an intelligence test, here's one that will make you break out into a cold sweat just from looking at the questions. It is the most difficult IQ test ever designed to measure the intellectual stratosphere—I Q's between 125 and 180.

It is, as far as we know, the only IQ test that is unsupervised and untimed. You are bound on your honor to take it alone and without help, but you may spend as long as you want on it—an hour, a day, or a month. What matters is not the time it takes you to ferret out the correct answers, nor any special knowledge or expertise you may have, but your powers of attention and your ability to follow a problem through to its logical solution. These problems can be viewed from a number of different angles. To solve them, you must be able to take all parts at once, wrap your mind around the whole thing, and move through the chain of reasoning without getting lost.

Any test discriminates most accurately in the middle of its range. On ordinary IQ tests, such as the Wechsler or Stanford-Binet scales, the average scores cluster around 100, and the tests best measure IQ's near that number; they become increasingly unreliable on IQ's that are extremely high or low. The reason is that ordinary intelligence tests are designed for use with ordinary people, and there are a lot of them with IQ's near the mean, the 100 mark. There are relatively few people with extremely high IQ's, so ordinary tests don't include many questions to discriminate fine differences among them.

This test is different. Out of about 3,000 persons who have ordered copies of it, approximately 500 have bothered—or dared—to complete it and send in their answer sheets. The average of these, with about 58 percent correct answers, had IQ scores just short of 150. Pure guesswork would net you about 20 percent correct answers and an IQ "score" somewhere in the subterranean marsh of "below 125." This test is most effective in measuring IQ's between 130 and 170.

This test was devised two years ago by Kevin Langdon, a San Francisco systems and procedures analyst and a member of Mensa, the international high-IQ club. Mensa's only criterion for membership is an IQ test score in the upper 2 percent of the population—that is, at or above the ninety-eighth percentile (corresponding to an IQ of 133 on the Stanford-Binet or a score of 1300 on the Scholastic Aptitude Test or 1250 on the Graduate Record Examination).

Langdon wanted a way to discriminate among his fellow Mensans, to define a subgroup of persons at the very highest intelligence levels. Langdon's group is called the

Four Sigma Society and has about thirty-five members. You can qualify for membership by getting 85 percent or more of the test items correct, a level comparable to a Stanford-Binet IQ of 164 or better, which puts you above the 99.997th percentile. Approximately one person in 30 thousand meets this standard. The name refers to the statistical term for standard deviation. Four Sigma members exhibit a tested intelligence level four or more standard-deviation units above the general population mean.

Langdon confesses that one of the reasons he devised this test and founded the Four Sigma Society was to meet women he wouldn't have to talk down to. But of those who have qualified for Four Sigma membership so far, only one in seven is female. "I think it has been rather conclusively shown," he says by way of explanation, "that the distribution of intelligence for men and women is not the same. The IQ's of women tend to be clustered in the middle. There are both more geniuses and more idiots among men."

On the following pages, *Omni* presents the Langdon Adult Intelligence Test in its entirety. Instructions to some items may seem opaque or ambiguous, but a close look at the questions and answers will show that only one interpretation is correct. Part of what the test measures is the ability to understand the questions clearly in their stated form. Simplifying the wording of an item or giving clarifying examples would change one's chances of correctly answering it. This would invalidate the test score, making it not comparable to previous norms. Against some editorial impulses, then, we present the test with its original wording intact.

If you decide to take the test, fill in the answer sheet on page 120 to the best of your ability. You needn't do it all in one sitting, though you will probably make a better score if you complete the test in one or a few concentrated periods. Your IQ and percentile scores will be computed on the basis of your raw score. Your raw score will be proportional to the number of items you answer correctly minus one-fourth of the number of items answered incorrectly. No credit will be given for unanswered items. Items marked with more than one answer will be counted wrong. Mark the answer sheet the way you want it scored and send it (or a Xerox copy), along with any comments you wish to call to the test maker's attention, and a \$2.50 scoring fee, to Four Sigma Society, P.O. Box 795, Berkeley, Calif. 94701. (Make checks payable to Four Sigma Society.) You will receive a computer-generated score-report form, telling you your measured IQ (as well as subscore IQ's for verbal, spatial, and inductive reasoning), along with the percentiles these scores correspond to in the general adult population. You will also get a full Stanford-Binet population percentile norms.

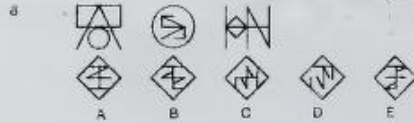
If you decide not to take the test just now, we understand. It will always be here, in your *Omni*, waiting.

PART I

FIGURE ANALOGIES

INSTRUCTIONS Each item in this section consists of three figures on one line, followed by five lettered figures on the line below. Choose the letter of the figure that is related to the third figure on the first line in the same way that the second figure is related to the first.

1.   
A  B  C  D  E 
2.   
A  B  C  D  E 
3.   
A  B  C  D  E 
4.   
A  B  C  D  E 
5.   
A  B  C  D  E 
6.   
A  B  C  D  E 
7.   
A  B  C  D  E 



PART II

NUMBER SERIES

INSTRUCTIONS Each item in this section consists of a sequence of numbers on one line, followed by five lettered alternatives on the next line. Choose the letter of the number on the second line that continues the progression of the first line.

9. 5 8 17 24 37
A 46 B 48 C 53 D 62 E 65
10. 1 3 4 6 15 27 50
A 85 B 90 C 92 D 94 E 96
11. 7 10 5 9 3 6 2
A 5 B 6 C 8 D 9 E 10
12. 5 7 3 1 4 5 9 5
A 1 B 2 C 4 D 5 E 7
13. 8 10 7 12 5 16 3
A 17 B 18 C 20 D 21 E 22
14. 11 13 17 25 32 37 47 56 71
A 79 B 83 C 88 D 92 E 97
15. 2 3 6 10 17 28
A 41 B 42 C 44 D 46 E 47
16. 5 6 4 8 3 12 1 16
A 0 B 4 C 6 D 8 E 12

PART III

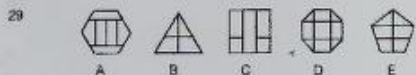
VOCABULARY

INSTRUCTIONS Each item in this section consists of two words on one line, followed by five lettered words on the line below. Choose the letter of the word on the second line that is not a synonym for either of the words on the first line.

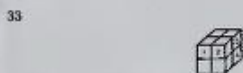
17. set pass
A. oppose B. invert C. adjust D. happen E. pronounce
18. render part
A. translate B. carry C. melt D. settle E. tell
19. state mind
A. object B. interpret C. ceremonize D. opinion E. express
20. mean register
A. range B. intend C. condition D. poor E. align
21. chuck stock
A. enter B. restrain C. both D. draft E. security
22. bear subject
A. cast B. prone C. head D. expose E. stand
23. smart flying
A. measure B. warp C. release D. logic E. scale
24. pitch charge
A. responsibility B. potential C. amp D. term E. frequency

PART IV
EXTRANEIOUS FIGURES

INSTRUCTIONS: For each numbered set of figures, choose the letter of the figure that does not belong with the other four.



PART V
SPATIAL ORIENTATION



If a worm gnaws a hole through the eight-cube solid shown above, starting on the outside of one cube and emerging from the inside of another, without crossing any boundary where more than two cubes meet, which cube or cubes of those marked 2, 3, and 4 can it emerge from?

- A. only 2 B. 2 or 3 C. 2 or 4 D. 3 or 4 E. 2, 3, or 4

34



If three gallons of paint are required to paint all sides of one cube, how many gallons will be required to paint all exterior surfaces of the figure shown? (Three cubes in the lower right rear corner are not visible.)

- A. 19 B. 20 C. 21 D. 22 E. 23

35 What is the maximum number of cubes that can be piled on the squares of a five-by-five square board, with the side of each square equal to that of each cube and with no square piled more than three cubes high, such that all cubes are visible?

- A. 62 B. 63 C. 66 D. 68 E. 69

36

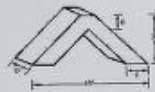


The large solid figure at the left above is taken apart into three pieces. Two of the pieces are shown at the right above. Which of the following is the third piece?



E. none of the above

37



How high a tower can be built using seven blocks with the dimensions shown above without rotating any block more than ninety degrees from the orientation shown?

- A. under 67 B. 67-71 C. 72-76 D. 77-81 E. over 81

38



Assuming that two holes go all the way through the cube and the third only halfway through, what is the total number of faces of the body shown above?

- A. 22 B. 23 C. 24 D. 25 E. 26

39



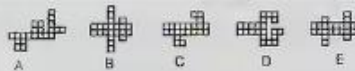
What is the maximum total number of faces of the pieces produced by one plane cut through the figure shown?

- A. 18 B. 19 C. 20 D. 21 E. 22

40



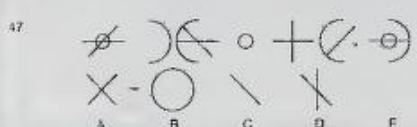
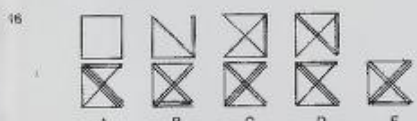
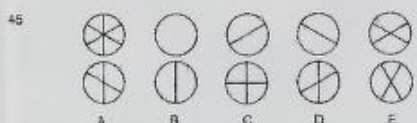
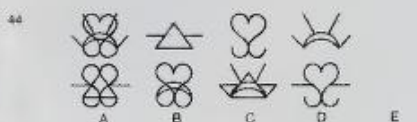
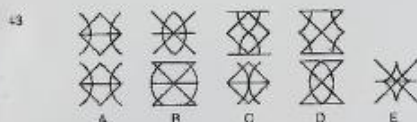
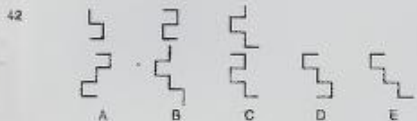
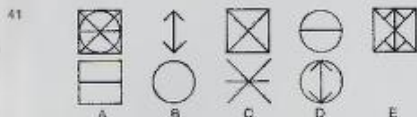
Which of the following could be folded to make the six-cube solid shown above? (Ignore the difference in scale.)



PART VI

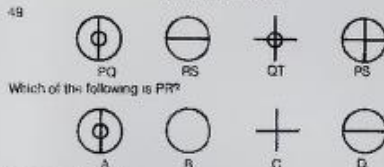
FIGURE SERIES

INSTRUCTIONS Each part in this section consists of a sequence of figures on one line, followed by five labeled figures on the line below. Choose the letter of the figure on the second line that continues the progression of the first line.



PART VII

PROBLEM SOLVING



Which of the following is PPR?

E. none of the above

50. How many different ways are there to connect six points arranged in a regular hexagonal array with a continuous path consisting of five straight lines meeting only at these points?

A. 42 B. 48 C. 54 D. 60 E. 72

51. One third of the members of a parliamentary body are elected every two years. The body has six committees. Each member of the body is a member of at least one committee, and no member is a member of more than two committees. No committee has more than eleven members. Each pair of committees has exactly two members in common. The chairman is a member of the Rules Committee and of no other committee. Each member of the Budget Committee is also a member of another committee. The last digit of the number of members of the parliamentary body is

A. 2 B. 3 C. 4 D. 6 E. It cannot be determined from the information given

52. To begin playing a certain card game, an ordinary deck of playing cards is dealt out completely to four players. Each player looks at his cards and passes one card to the player on his left. A player does not look at the card passed to him until he has passed a card. If a player has more than one king, he must pass a king. If he has only one king, he may not pass it. How many rounds of passing are necessary to insure that each player has one king?

A. 3 B. 4 C. 5 D. 6 E. 7



The missing pattern:
A. belongs in the third row.
B. is asymmetrical.
C. contains the same elements as one of the patterns above, but in a different order.
D. does not contain a straight line.
E. satisfies none of the above conditions.

54. A certain country manufactures coins of eight integral denominations, from 1 piaster to 300 piasters. The ratios between adjacent denominations are all either 2, $2\frac{1}{2}$, or 3. To purchase a 69 piaster souvenir, a tourist gives the seller one coin and receives one coin in exchange.

Which of the following is true?

- A. There are both 5-piaster and 30 piaster coins.
- B. There is a 5-piaster coin but no 30 piaster coin.
- C. There is a 30-piaster coin but no 5-piaster coin.
- D. There is neither a 5 piaster nor a 30-piaster coin.
- E. None of the alternatives above can be positively established from the information given.

55. A man plays a game of Russian roulette in the following way. He puts two bullets in a six-chamber cylinder and pulls the trigger twice. The cylinder is spun before the first shot, but may or may not be spun after pulling the first bullet and after taking the first shot.

Which of the following situations produces the lowest probability of survival?

- A. Spinning the cylinder after loading the first bullet, and spinning again after the first shot.
- B. Spinning the cylinder after loading the first bullet only.

- C. Spinning the cylinder after firing the first shot only.
- D. Not spinning the cylinder either after loading the first bullet or after the first shot.
- E. The probability is the same for all cases.

56. You are given

- a 2½-gallon container full of water
- an empty 1-gallon container
- a 1½-pound weight
- a 2½-pound weight
- a 4½-pound weight
- a 6½-pound weight, and
- a 2-pan balance.

Each container weighs five pounds. A pint of water weighs one pound. One of the weights is slightly inaccurate—either lighter or heavier than the weight indicated above. Which weight is inaccurate and in which direction?

- A. can be determined in three weighings.
- B. can be determined in four weighings.
- C. can be determined as to which weight in two weighings, but which direction it is off cannot necessarily be determined.
- D. can be determined as to which weight in three weighings, but which direction it is off cannot necessarily be determined.
- E. cannot be determined from the given conditions.

ANSWER SHEET

1	A	B	C	D	E	29	A	B	C	D	E
2	A	B	C	D	E	30	A	B	C	D	E
3	A	B	C	D	E	31	A	B	C	D	E
4	A	B	C	D	E	32	A	B	C	D	E
5	A	B	C	D	E	33	A	B	C	D	E
6	A	B	C	D	E	34	A	B	C	D	E
7	A	B	C	D	E	35	A	B	C	D	E
8	A	B	C	D	E	36	A	B	C	D	E
9	A	B	C	D	E	37	A	B	C	D	E
10	A	B	C	D	E	38	A	B	C	D	E
11	A	B	C	D	E	39	A	B	C	D	E
12	A	B	C	D	E	40	A	B	C	D	E
13	A	B	C	D	E	41	A	B	C	D	E
14	A	B	C	D	E	42	A	B	C	D	E
15	A	B	C	D	E	43	A	B	C	D	E
16	A	B	C	D	E	44	A	B	C	D	E
17	A	B	C	D	E	45	A	B	C	D	E
18	A	B	C	D	E	46	A	B	C	D	E
19	A	B	C	D	E	47	A	B	C	D	E
20	A	B	C	D	E	48	A	B	C	D	E
21	A	B	C	D	E	49	A	B	C	D	E
22	A	B	C	D	E	50	A	B	C	D	E
23	A	B	C	D	E	51	A	B	C	D	E
24	A	B	C	D	E	52	A	B	C	D	E
25	A	B	C	D	E	53	A	B	C	D	E
26	A	B	C	D	E	54	A	B	C	D	E
27	A	B	C	D	E	55	A	B	C	D	E
28	A	B	C	D	E	56	A	B	C	D	E

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

AGE _____

SEX _____

DATE _____

OTHER PREVIOUS IQ SCORES, IF KNOWN:

TEST _____	SCORE _____	DATE _____
TEST _____	SCORE _____	DATE _____
TEST _____	SCORE _____	DATE _____