## Proves d'accés a la Universitat per a més grans de 25 anys Maig 2009

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## THE DECLINE OF IQ

The influence of the Intelligence Quotient (IQ) is on the decline. Intelligence Quotient was the most dependable way of measuring mental aptitude because it was objective—it counted electrical pulses in the brain.

There is such a thing as general intelligence and it is partly hereditary. According to a study carried out at the University of Pittsburgh, genes account for about 48 percent of the differences in IQ scores.

But IQ has always been mysterious. First, there's no consensus about what intelligence is. Some people think intelligence is the ability to adapt to an environment, others the capacity to think abstractly, and so on. In addition, there are also various theories of multiple intelligences. We just don't have one thing called intelligence; rather, we have a lot of distinct mental capacities. These theories have many followers because they explain daily experience: we're good at some things, but terrible at others.

Some patterns in IQ are hard to explain. Over the past century, average IQ scores have risen by 3-6 points each decade. This phenomenon has been observed in many countries and across all age groups. Nobody seems to understand why this happens. The environment can also affect IQ. Research has shown that growing up in poverty or in an emotionally difficult situation, like an orphanage, can negatively affect your intelligence.

Adapted from a text by David Brooks. The International Herald Tribune (September 15-16, 2007)

Després de llegir el text, contesteu les preguntes seguint les instruccions que es donen en cada cas. Cada pregunta val un punt. En les preguntes d'opció múltiple, es descomptaran 0,33 punts per error; en la resta, es descomptaran 0,05 punts per cada falta d'ortografia, de morfologia, de lèxic o de sintaxi. Si una falta es repeteix, només es descomptarà una vegada.

Después de leer el texto, responda a las preguntas siguiendo las instrucciones que se dan en cada caso. Todas las preguntas valen un punto. En las preguntas de opción múltiple, se descontarán 0,33 puntos por error; en el resto, se descontarán 0,05 puntos por cada falta de ortografía, de morfología, de léxico o de sintaxis. Si una falta se repite, sólo se descontará una vez.

## Choose the correct answer (1-7).

- 1. According to the text,
  - a) intelligence only depends on environmental factors.
  - **b**) intelligence is related to brain size.
  - *c*) intelligence is related to genetic and environmental factors.
  - *d*) the IQ test is easy to pass.
- 2. Which of the following is affirmed in the text?
  - a) The IQ test is losing its influence.
  - **b**) Researchers never measure mental aptitude.
  - *c*) Everyone should take the IQ test.
  - d) The IQ test explains our distinct mental capacities.
- **3.** According to the text, which of the following statements is true?
  - *a*) People with bigger brains are smarter.
  - **b**) There has recently been a gradual decline in IQ test scores.
  - c) IQ tests used to be considered the most dependable method of measuring intelligence.
  - *d*) Poverty has no effect on test scores.
- **4.** According to the text, why do many people support theories of multiple intelligences?
  - a) Because there is such a thing as general intelligence.
  - b) Because in our daily experience, we do some things well but other things prove difficult for us.
  - *c*) Because researchers have determined that intelligence is partly hereditary.
  - **d**) Because intelligence is defined as the ability to think abstractly.

5.	Over the past hundred years, scores on IQ tests in many countries
	a) have remained stable.
	b) have gone up 3-6 points every 10 years.
	c) have gone down 3-6 points every 10 years.
	d) have gone up 3-6 points.

- **6.** According to the article, researchers have
  - a) shown that growing up in poverty lowers one's IQ.
  - b) shown that growing up in poverty has no effect on IQ.
  - *c*) agreed on what intelligence is.
  - d) developed a new method of measuring IQ.
- 7. Which of the following words is a synonym for *consensus*?
  - *a*) intelligence
  - **b**) aptitude
  - c) quotient
  - d) agreement

## Change in sentence structure.

It		·		
Please answer the follow	wing questions in English. (Plo	ease do not copy text	but rather answe	r in vour

own words; your answer should be between forty and sixty words in length.)

Change the sentence "Some patterns in IQ are hard to explain" to begin with the word It.

**9.** State two reasons why the use of IQ is declining.

10. State at least two factors affecting IQ.

Etiqueta identificadora de l'alumne/a		Etiqueta del corrector/a