

INTELLIGENCE

No subject in psychology has provoked more intense public controversy than the study of human (1) _____ (**intelligent**). From its beginning, research on how and why people differ in overall mental (2) _____ (**able**) has fallen prey to political and social agendas that obscure or distort even the most well-established (3) _____ (**science**) findings. Journalists, too, often present a view of intelligence research that is (4) _____ (**exact**) the opposite of what most intelligence experts believe. For these and other reasons, public (5) _____ (**understand**) of intelligence falls far short of public concern about it. The IQ experts discussing (6) _____ (**they**) work in the public arena can feel as though they have fallen down the rabbit hole into Alice's Wonderland.

The debate over intelligence and intelligence testing focuses on the question whether it is useful or (7) _____ (**meaning**) to evaluate people according to a single major dimension of cognitive (8) _____ (**competent**). Is there indeed a general mental ability we commonly call 'intelligence', and is it important in the (9) _____ (**practice**) affairs of life? The answer, based on decades of intelligence research, is a unequivocal yes. No matter their form or content, tests of mental skills invariably point to the (10) _____ (**exist**) of a global factor that permeates all aspects of cognition. And this factor seems to have (11) _____ (**consider**) influence on a person's practical quality of life. Intelligence as (12) _____ (**measure**) by IQ tests is the single most effective predictor known to individual (13) _____ (**perform**) at school or on the job. It also predicts many other aspects of well-being, including a person's chances of divorcing, dropping out of school, being unemployed or having illegitimate children.