



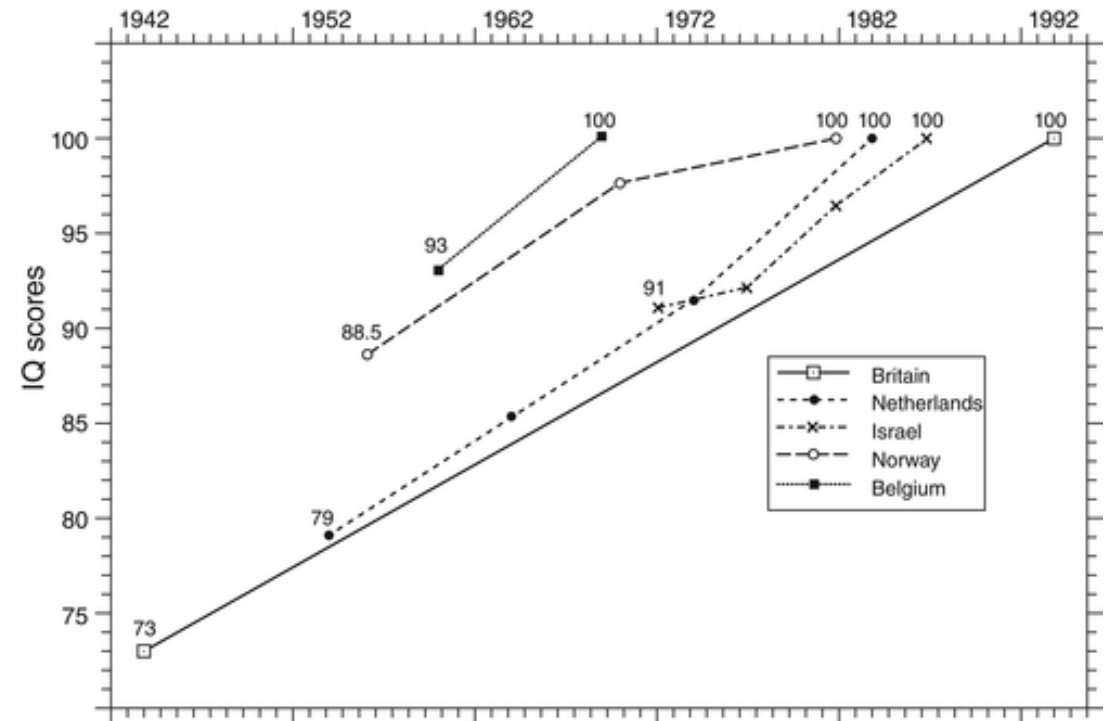
The Flynn effect

Evidence against the concept of static, innate intelligence



What is the Flynn effect?

- IQ raised by 18 points in 2 generations¹
- Effect visible over many countries¹



Reasons for effect

- Biological evolution not possible that fast²
 - Improvements mainly in abstract thinking⁴
 - increase of scientific thinking in society & educational revolution^{1,4}
 - Cognitive abilities increasingly required for adult life⁴
- => environmentally driven²

Consequences for IQ

- IQ of population is not static²
- IQ of unique person is not static¹
- IQ does not measure potential¹
- IQ \neq Intelligence²

=> does Flynn effect also affect intelligence?

What about intelligence?

- fMRIs show increased usage of CEFs⁴
- Not „generically more intelligent“ than ancestors²
- Intelligence can evolve⁴
- Intelligence as set of developed properties¹
- Skill set trained out of necessity¹

Consequences of Flynn effect for research

- Culturally distant groups should not get compared³
- Improper comparison can lead to fatal results -> comparison of ethnic groups³
- New measures for intelligence are required³
- Compels rethinking of intelligence

Literature

- <https://every.to/divinations/how-memes-control-everything-8ef8ece7-58b3-45b7-b906-0b6acc48d387> (Image source Frontpage)
- 1. Shenk, D. (2016). What is the Flynn Effect, and how does it change our understanding of IQ? In *WIREs Cognitive Science* (Vol. 8, Issues 1–2). Wiley. <https://doi.org/10.1002/wcs.1366>
- 2. Flynn, J. R. (1987). Massive IQ gains in 14 nations: What IQ tests really measure. In *Psychological Bulletin* (Vol. 101, Issue 2, pp. 171–191). American Psychological Association (APA). <https://doi.org/10.1037/0033-2909.101.2.171>
- 3. Flynn, J. R. (1999). “Searching for justice: The discovery of IQ gains over time.” *American Psychologist*, 54(1), 5–20. <https://doi.org/10.1037/0003-066X.54.1.5>
- 4. Baker, D. P., Eslinger, P. J., Benavides, M., Peters, E., Dieckmann, N. F., & Leon, J. (2015). The cognitive impact of the education revolution: A possible cause of the Flynn Effect on population IQ. In *Intelligence* (Vol. 49, pp. 144–158). Elsevier BV. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.intell.2015.01.003>