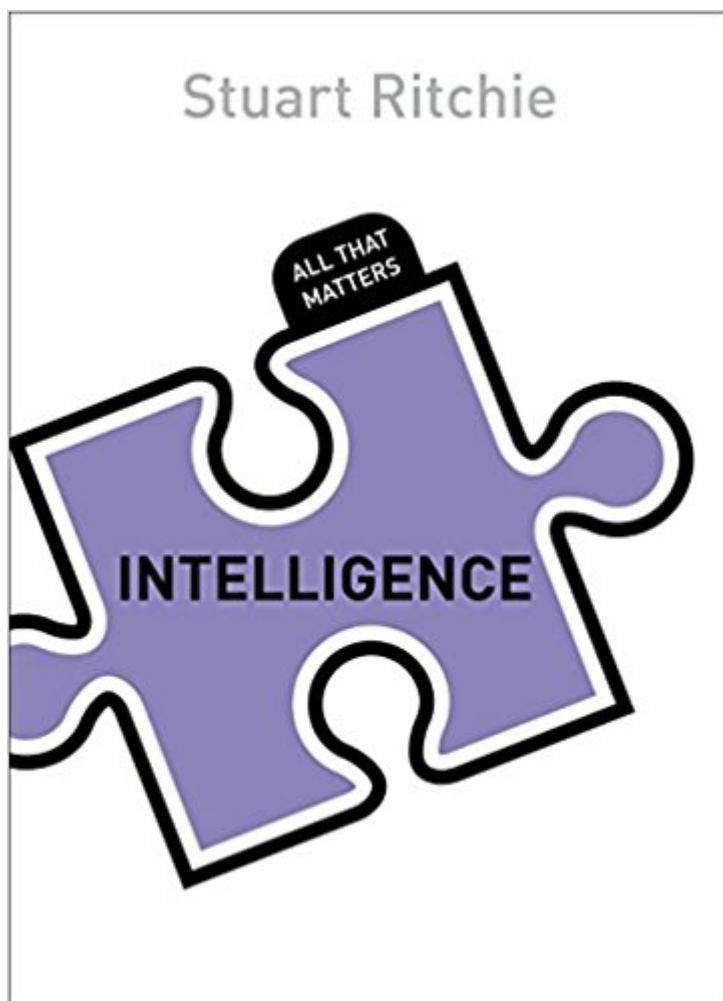


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# Intelligence: All That Matters



## Synopsis

There is a strange disconnect between the scientific consensus and the public mind on intelligence testing. Just mention IQ testing in polite company, and you'll sternly be informed that IQ tests don't measure anything "real", and only reflect how good you are at doing IQ tests; that they ignore important traits like "emotional intelligence" and "multiple intelligences"; and that those who are interested in IQ testing must be elitists, or maybe something more sinister. Yet the scientific evidence is clear: IQ tests are extraordinarily useful. IQ scores are related to a huge variety of important life outcomes like educational success, income, and even life expectancy, and biological studies have shown they are genetically influenced and linked to measures of the brain. Studies of intelligence and IQ are regularly published in the world's top scientific journals. This book will offer an entertaining introduction to the state of the art in intelligence and IQ, and will show how we have arrived at what we know from a century's research. It will engage head-on with many of the criticisms of IQ testing by describing the latest high-quality scientific research, but will not be a simple point-by-point rebuttal: it will make a positive case for IQ research, focusing on the potential benefits for society that a better understanding of intelligence can bring.

## Book Information

Series: All That Matters

Paperback: 160 pages

Publisher: Teach Yourself; 1 edition (April 5, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1444791877

ISBN-13: 978-1444791877

Product Dimensions: 5 x 0.2 x 7 inches

Shipping Weight: 8.5 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 16 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #38,164 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #30 in [Books > Health, Fitness & Dieting > Psychology & Counseling > Testing & Measurement](#) #33 in [Books > Medical Books > Psychology > Testing & Measurement](#) #67 in [Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government > Specific Topics > Intelligence & Espionage](#)

## Customer Reviews

A superb introduction to the field of human intelligence. The best available short introduction to intelligence, and word for word the most effective. A wonderful, readable summary of what we know

about intelligence

Dr. Stuart J. Ritchie is a postdoctoral research fellow at the Centre for Cognitive Ageing and Cognitive Epidemiology in the University of Edinburgh's Department of Psychology. His research focuses on how intelligence develops and changes across the lifespan, what might influence it in childhood, and how we might prevent it from declining in later life. His studies of intelligence have been published in journals such as Psychological Science, Current Biology, Child Development, and Intelligence.

This book is an excellent summary of current research into the nature of intelligence. The author clears away popular misconceptions about the basic scientific consensus regarding IQ, and provides a convenient, though short, sourcebook that should prove useful in any debate on the subject. More concise than the Bell Curve and A Troublesome Inheritance, Intelligence: All That Matters would serve as a good primer before delving into those more complicated books. Recommended without reservation.

In our day-to-day consciousness, we automatically assume that people have different types of intelligences. If someone is lacking in one aspect, it is common to give them the benefit of doubt - "he's good at art, but terrible at math". We seem to naturally think of intelligence as distributive, where you have a certain number of points that you can allocate to each different type of intelligence. What intelligence research shows is that there is 'g' or general intelligence that is positively correlated with different tests of intelligence and that intelligence can be consolidated into one entity. This book is very short and can possibly be read in an hour. But it's not a book, but a primer. It summarizes the research that backs up that general intelligence does exist as a fairly stable property. Furthermore, he dives briefly into what life outcomes 'g' correlates with and the possible biological foundations for intelligence. He explains potential consequences of the discovery of intelligence as a stable and not-so-trainable property for both sides of the political aisle: offensive to the left because even in conditions of equality, biological determinism will force some to excel over others, and to the right because it reduces the value of hard work and education and "seizing opportunities" as a driver for society since some are simply inherit intelligence and can display it at a remarkably young age. Perhaps the greatest strength of the book is that he states all the important questions that intelligence research aims to answer - and what answers we think we have...with an emphasis on 'think' because he doesn't simply state conclusions but instead outlines theories that

have sound empirical evidence while also considering alternative explanations, confounding variables and even possible weaknesses in a proposed theory. If you have a background in cognitive science, or even if you're still a skeptic of measuring intelligence (a seemingly natural impulse) - you may use it for what I think it can be best used: a research portal. The back of the book is equally important as the actual book since it gives recommendations for articles or books to pursue to further convince yourself of the various hypothesis stated in the book. In the end, if you follow the research trail, the book will give you a guide of where to go looking for evidence, independent of its future impact on your opinion: whether it will allow you to form counterintuitive opinions or perhaps reinforce your stance that you still need more convincing.

This is a must-have for anybody interested in understanding intelligence, and understanding where the field of intelligence research stands right now. I would recommend it to psychology undergrads, and to teachers teaching intelligence. It is an easy and pleasant read, but packed with information. He also brings up those areas that are so inflamed that it is not possible at the moment to really do good research.

A lot of people have been dissing IQ as not relevant. There has been much talk about things like emotional intelligence, grit, growth mindset, etc. This brief book gives a nice look at the history of IQ, what it really means, the research behind it. Along the way there is a lot of evidence that IQ is still very important and relevant. It does not tell the whole story, but it does tell an important part of the story.

Excellent book. It includes the most important and recent literature and contents about intelligence and its implications. Is very well written and precise with the technical terminology.  
Excellent book.

I loved this wonderful book. It is easy to understand and makes current research easily accessible to a lay reader. I recommended it to my adult children and encourage you to enjoy it.

A concise, non-partisan introduction to the topic, and debunks the argument that IQ doesn't matter. Definitely recommended for anyone looking to learn more about IQ

An excellent and very readable introduction to the state of the art of intelligence research. Patiently

clears up many pop-sci misconceptions and takes care to reference outside material. A worthy successor to Deary's *Intelligence: A Very Short Introduction*.

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