What Is Intelligence?

Over the past century there have been massive increases in IQ test scores. Many psychologists have struggled to understand the implications of these IQ gains. Do they mean that each generation is more intelligent than the last? Do they suggest how each of us can enhance our own intelligence? These gains were called the “Flynn effect” to recognize the central role played by James R. Flynn in measuring them. However, Flynn himself confessed that he was unsure of their significance.

Finally, in What is Intelligence? Beyond the Flynn Effect, Professor Flynn is ready to take a stand. One of the most creative and influential psychologists working in the field of intelligence, he offers a new picture of human intelligence that is both surprising and illuminating.

What is Intelligence? bridges the gulf that separates our minds from those of our ancestors a century ago. It is a fascinating book that makes an important – and lasting – contribution to our understanding of the evolution of human intelligence.

JAMES R. FLYNN is Professor Emeritus at the University of Otago, New Zealand, and a recipient of the University’s Gold Medal for Distinguished Career Research. In 2007, the International Society for Intelligence Research named him its Distinguished Scientist of the Year.
What Is Intelligence?

Beyond the Flynn Effect

JAMES R. FLYNN
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To Bill Dickens

Whose intelligence solved the fourth paradox
The Flynn Effect is important... it is such novel facts, when fully investigated, that lead to an increased level of understanding. (Arthur Jensen, *The g factor: The science of mental ability*, p. 330)

What he knew, and what they could not have known, was that their species would change and that he, a modern man, ... was not quite human in the same way as they had been. (Sebastian Faulks, *Human traces*, p. 205)
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