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978-1-107-02809-8 - Are we Getting Smarter? Rising IQ in the Twenty-First Century

James R. Flynn

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Are We Getting Smarter?

The “Flynn effect” is a surprising finding, identified by James R. Flynn, that IQ test scores have significantly increased from one generation to the next over the past century. Flynn now brings us an exciting new book which aims to make sense of this rise in IQ scores and considers what this tells us about our intelligence, our minds, and society. *Are We Getting Smarter?* features fascinating new material on a variety of topics including the effects of intelligence in the developing world; the impact of rising IQ scores on the death penalty, cognitive ability in old age, and the language abilities of youth culture; as well as controversial topics of race and gender. He ends with the message that assessing IQ goes astray if society is ignored. As IQ scores continue to rise into the twenty-first century, particularly in the developing world, the “Flynn effect” marches on!

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. He is renowned for the “Flynn effect,” the documentation of massive IQ gains from one generation to another. Professor Flynn is the author of 12 books including *Where Have All the Liberals Gone?* (Cambridge, 2008) and *What Is Intelligence?* (Cambridge, 2007), which caused many to rethink the prevailing theory of intelligence.

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CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS
Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town,
Singapore, São Paulo, Delhi, Mexico City

Cambridge University Press
The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge CB2 8RU, UK

Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press,
New York

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781107609174

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First published 2012

Printed in the United Kingdom at the University Press, Cambridge

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

Library of Congress Cataloguing in Publication data

Flynn, James Robert, 1934–

Are we getting smarter? : rising iq in the twenty-first century / James R.
Flynn.

p. cm.

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 978-1-107-02809-8 – ISBN 978-1-107-60917-4 (pbk.)

1. Intelligence tests – History. 2. Intelligence levels – History. I. Title.

BF431.F565 2012

153.9'309–dc23 2012015437

ISBN 978-1-107-02809-8 Hardback

ISBN 978-1-107-60917-4 Paperback

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To Arthur Jensen
Whose integrity never failed

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Acknowledgments

As stated in the text, Chapter 2 is a summary of my book, *What Is Intelligence? Beyond the Flynn Effect* (expanded paperback edition), Cambridge University Press (2009). An earlier version appeared in R. J. Sternberg and S. B. Kaufman (eds.), *The Cambridge Handbook of Intelligence* (2011).

The section on British Raven's gains in Chapter 3 is based on "Requiem for nutrition as the cause of IQ gains: Raven's gains in Britain 1938 to 2008," *Economics and Human Biology* 7, 18–27 (2009). The section on *Daubert* motions in Chapter 4 is based on "The WAIS-III and WAIS-IV: *Daubert* motions favor the certainly false over the approximately true," *Applied Neuropsychology* 16, 1–7 (2009). Chapter 6 draws heavily on two articles: "The spectacles through which I see the race and IQ debate," *Intelligence* 38, 363–366 (2010); and "Modern women match men on Raven's Progressive Matrices" (with L. Rossi-Casé), *Personality and Individual Differences* 50, 799–803 (2011).