



## Unit 4

# What's your IQ?

### International cultural knowledge – Mensa International

- 1 An *intelligence quotient*, or IQ, is a score from a test designed to assess intelligence. Here are some questions typically found in an IQ test. Can you answer them?
- 2 Read the text. Match the headings to the paragraphs.
  - 1 What are Mensa's goals? paragraph .....
  - 2 What tests can you take to join Mensa? paragraph .....
  - 3 What kind of people join Mensa? paragraph .....
  - 4 What is Mensa? paragraph .....



**Mensa**  
The High IQ Society

### Mensa International

**A** Mensa is an organisation that was founded in England in 1946 by Roland Berrill, a barrister, and Dr. Lance Ware, a scientist and lawyer. It is a non-political organisation for bright people of all races and religions, for which the only qualification for membership is a high IQ. The word 'Mensa' means 'table' in Latin. Mensa is a round-table society, where race, colour, creed, national origin, age, politics, educational or social background are irrelevant. The society welcomes people from every walk of life whose IQ is in the top 2% of the population.

**B** Mensa has three stated purposes: to identify and advance human intelligence for the benefit of humanity; to encourage research in the nature, characteristics and uses of intelligence; and to promote stimulating intellectual and social opportunities for its members. There are Mensans for whom Mensa provides a sense of family, and others for whom it is a casual social activity. There have been many marriages between Mensa members, but for most, it is simply an opportunity to exercise their minds.

- 3 Which of the highlighted words in the text means the following?

- 1 authorised or allowed .....
- 2 percentage group .....
- 3 set of beliefs .....
- 4 causing interest or excitement .....
- 5 amazing, unbelievable .....
- 6 unimportant .....
- 7 receiving financial help .....
- 8 achieved .....

- 1 What is the word coiled inside this circle?

N G  
O E  
R R  
T S

- 2 Which of the following is least like the others?

Poem **Novel** Painting **Statue** Flower

- 3 Four years ago, Jane was twice as old as Sam. Four years on from now, Sam will be  $\frac{3}{4}$  of Jane's age. How old is Jane now?
- 4 Continue the following number series with the group of numbers below which best continues the series.

11, 5 10, 5 10, 4 11, 6

1 10 3 9 5 8 7 7 9 6 \_ \_

**C** Today there are around 110,000 Mensans in 100 countries throughout the world. Mensans have ranged in age from 2 to more than 100, but most are between 20 and 60. In education they range from preschoolers to people with multiple doctorates. There are Mensans on welfare and Mensans who are millionaires. The range of occupations is staggering. Mensa has professors and truck drivers, scientists and firefighters, musicians, police officers and glassblowers. There are famous Mensans and prize-winning Mensans, but there are many whose names you wouldn't know.

**D** Membership of Mensa is open to persons who have attained a score within the upper 2% of the general population on an approved intelligence test that has been properly administered and supervised. However, the term 'IQ score' can be confusing as there is a wide variety of tests each with different scales: the result on one test of 132 can be the same as a score 148 on another test and some tests don't use IQ scores at all. Mensa has set a percentile as a boundary to avoid this confusion. Candidates for membership must achieve a score at or above the 98<sup>th</sup> percentile on a standard intelligence test, that is, a score that is the same as or greater than the score achieved by 98 per cent of the general population taking the test.

- 4 Complete the notes about Mensa.

Founded in: (1) ..... by: (2) .....

Aims: (3) .....

(4) .....

(5) .....

People join Mensa for: (6) .....

Mensans:

age: (7) .....

nationalities: (8) .....

professions: (9) .....

- 5 Answer the questions.

How much do you think intelligence tests can tell us about a person's intelligence? What are the advantages and disadvantages of intelligence tests?