



The Journal of Social Psychology

Publication details, including instructions for authors and subscription information:

<http://www.tandfonline.com/loi/vsoc20>

A Comparative Study of the Performance of Jewish and Gentile College Students on the American Council Psychological Examination

Omar C. Held ^a

^a Department of Psychology , University of Pittsburgh , USA

Published online: 01 Jul 2010.

To cite this article: Omar C. Held (1941) A Comparative Study of the Performance of Jewish and Gentile College Students on the American Council Psychological Examination, The Journal of Social Psychology, 13:2, 407-411, DOI: [10.1080/00224545.1941.9714088](https://doi.org/10.1080/00224545.1941.9714088)

To link to this article: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/00224545.1941.9714088>

PLEASE SCROLL DOWN FOR ARTICLE

Taylor & Francis makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of all the information (the "Content") contained in the publications on our platform. However, Taylor & Francis, our agents, and our licensors make no representations or warranties whatsoever as to the accuracy, completeness, or suitability for any purpose of the Content. Any opinions and views expressed in this publication are the opinions and views of the authors, and are not the views of or endorsed by Taylor & Francis. The accuracy of the Content should not be relied upon and should be independently verified with primary sources of information. Taylor and Francis shall not be liable for any losses, actions, claims, proceedings, demands, costs, expenses, damages,

and other liabilities whatsoever or howsoever caused arising directly or indirectly in connection with, in relation to or arising out of the use of the Content.

This article may be used for research, teaching, and private study purposes. Any substantial or systematic reproduction, redistribution, reselling, loan, sub-licensing, systematic supply, or distribution in any form to anyone is expressly forbidden. Terms & Conditions of access and use can be found at <http://www.tandfonline.com/page/terms-and-conditions>

SHORT ARTICLES AND NOTES

The Journal of Social Psychology, 1941, **13**, 407-411.

A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF THE PERFORMANCE OF JEWISH AND GENTILE COLLEGE STUDENTS ON THE AMERICAN COUNCIL PSYCHO- LOGICAL EXAMINATION*

Department of Psychology, University of Pittsburgh

OMAR C. HELD

The problem of the intelligence of Jews compared with that of Gentiles is of particular interest at the present time. More heat than light has been shed upon the question by some groups and individuals who are more concerned with securing support for preconceived opinions rather than with securing facts. Our schools, colleges, and other institutions have children from all groups and if there are any real differences in mentality it is extremely important to know about them if they are to be dealt with intelligently.

In the present study 158 Jewish students who are freshmen in the College of Liberal Arts and in the School of Business Administration of the University of Pittsburgh were used for the experimental group. Of this group 55 were girls and 103 were men students. The control group of 53 Gentile Girls and 103 Gentile boys were selected at random from the same class and schools. No attempt was made to equate the groups on the basis of economic background.

Both groups of students took the 1938 Edition of the *American Council Psychological Examination* after admission to the University. The 1938 Edition of the *American Council Psychological Examination* is broken down into two sections, the one consisting of the linguistic elements and the other the quantitative elements of the test. Thus each student had a linguistic score, a quantitative score, and a gross or total score which is a summation of the linguistic and the quantitative scores. Each of these three raw scores for each

*Received in the Editorial Office on August 23, 1939.

student was translated into percentile rank among corresponding scores of all students in the same freshman class.

The mean linguistic percentile score, the mean quantitative percentile score, and the mean total percentile score were computed for the Jewish group, for the Gentile group, for the Jewish girls, the Jewish boys, for the Gentile boys, and for the Gentile girls. Table 1 summarizes this data.

TABLE 1
MEAN RANKS OF THE VARIOUS GROUPS ON THE AMERICAN COUNCIL
PSYCHOLOGICAL EXAMINATION

Group	N	Mean lin- guistic per- centile rank	Mean quanti- tative per- centile rank	Mean gross per- centile rank
(1) Jewish group	158	58.3	50.1	57.3
(2) Jewish girls	55	61.5	43.7	57.5
(3) Jewish boys	103	56.7	53.5	57.1
(4) Gentile group	158	49.7	47.1	50.1
(5) Gentile girls	55	59.1	47.3	56.6
(6) Gentile boys	103	44.6	47.1	46.7

TABLE 2
RELIABILITY OF DIFFERENCES BETWEEN MEAN LINGUISTIC RANKS OF VARIOUS
GROUPS

Groups	Actual differences	Sigma of difference	Difference Sigma of difference
1-2	3.2	4.09	.78
1-3	1.6	3.43	.47
1-4	8.6	3.05	2.80
1-5	0.8	4.35	.18
1-6	13.7	3.38	4.00
2-3	4.8	4.40	1.09
2-4	11.8	4.12	2.86
2-5	2.4	5.15	.47
2-6	16.9	4.36	3.90
3-4	7.0	3.45	2.03
3-5	2.4	4.64	.52
3-6	12.1	3.75	3.20
4-5	9.4	4.37	2.15
4-6	5.1	3.41	1.49
5-6	14.5	4.61	3.14

Reference to Table 2 shows that there is a statistically reliable difference between the mean of the Jewish group and the mean of the Gentile boys (Groups 1 and 4); between the mean of the Jewish

TABLE 3
RELIABILITY OF DIFFERENCES BETWEEN MEAN QUANTITATIVE RANKS OF
VARIOUS GROUPS

Groups	Actual differences	Sigma of difference	<u>Difference</u> <u>Sigma of</u> <u>difference</u>
1-2	6.4	4.22	1.52
1-3	3.4	3.72	.91
1-4	3.0	3.12	.96
1-5	2.8	3.92	.72
1-6	3.0	3.58	.84
2-3	9.8	4.59	2.14
2-4	3.4	4.12	.82
2-5	3.6	4.76	.75
2-6	3.4	4.48	.76
3-4	6.4	3.60	1.80
3-5	6.2	4.31	1.44
3-6	6.4	4.01	1.59
4-5	0.2	3.81	.05
4-6	0.0	—	—
5-6	0.2	4.20	.05

TABLE 4
RELIABILITY OF DIFFERENCES BETWEEN MEAN GROSS PERCENTILE RANK OF
VARIOUS GROUPS

Groups	Actual differences	Sigma of difference	<u>Difference</u> <u>Sigma of</u> <u>difference</u>
1-2	0.2	4.10	.05
1-3	0.2	3.52	.06
1-4	7.2	3.06	2.35
1-5	0.7	4.07	.17
1-6	10.6	3.46	3.06
2-3	0.4	4.45	.09
2-4	7.4	4.09	1.81
2-5	0.9	4.89	.18
2-6	10.8	4.40	2.45
3-4	7.0	3.51	2.00
3-5	0.5	4.42	.11
3-6	10.4	3.87	2.70
4-5	6.5	4.06	1.60
4-6	3.4	3.46	1.00
5-6	9.9	4.37	2.26

girls and the mean of the Gentile boys (Groups 2 and 6); between the mean of Jewish boys and the mean of the Gentile boys (Groups 3 and 6); between the mean of the Gentile girls and the mean of the Gentile boys (Groups 5 and 6).

The difference between the mean quantitative ranks for various groups is in no instance statistically reliable.

The only difference which is statistically reliable in this table is the difference between the mean for the Jewish group and the mean of the Gentile boys.

In each instance where there is a statistically reliable difference between the means of any of the various groups it has been due to the poor showing of the Gentile boys on the linguistic portion of the test. There is a possibility that the random sampling for the Gentile boys was not representative of the freshman male student body.

In the next part of the study the performance of all groups on the linguistic part of the test is compared with their performance on the quantitative part. Table 5 summarizes these data.

TABLE 5
RELIABILITY OF DIFFERENCE OF EACH GROUP'S PERFORMANCE ON THE LINGUISTIC
AND QUANTITATIVE PARTS OF THE EXAMINATION

Group	Actual difference	Sigma of difference	Difference Sigma of difference
Jewish group	8.2	3.14	2.6
Jewish boys	3.2	3.96	.81
Jewish girls	17.8	4.97	3.6
Gentile group	2.6	3.03	.85
Gentile boys	2.5	3.79	.66
Gentile girls	11.8	4.94	2.4

The Jewish girls are the only group whose mean percentile rank on the linguistic part of the test is significantly higher than their performance on the quantitative part. The Gentile girls likewise do much better on the linguistic part of the test than they do on the quantitative part, but the difference falls slightly below what is generally considered a reliable difference. However there does seem to be a sex difference here.

It might be of some interest to compare the result of other studies with the present one. Garrett (2), in a study of Columbia University freshmen, found that the Jewish students ranked significantly higher than other freshman groups classified as to national origins both in grades and in Thorndike intelligence score. He suggests that this superiority of Jewish students is due to better preparation and more rigorous selection.

Hayes (3), in a study of college grades at Illinois University, found the average of the 93 Jews studied was below that of the unclassified students. He did not calculate the reliability however.

Cohen (1), in a study of the intelligence of Jews and non-Jews at Ohio State University as measured by the total score on the *O. S. U. Psychological Examination*, found a definite superiority in favor of Jewish students. This superiority was especially evident on tests which necessitated language ability.

The results of the study at the University of Pittsburgh may be summarized as follows:

1. The only difference between the performance of the various groups on the *American Council Psychological Examination* was the lower performance of the Gentile boys on the linguistic portion of the examination. The mean percentile rank for the Gentile boys on this portion of the test was reliably lower than that for the Gentile girls, the Jewish boys and the Jewish girls.

2. The score of the Jewish girls on the linguistic part of the test was statistically superior to their score on the quantitative part of the test.

3. The girls from both groups, seem to do better on the linguistic part of the test.

4. The Jewish boys do better on the linguistic part of the test than on the quantitative part; the Gentile boys do better on the quantitative part but in neither instance is there a statistically reliable difference in the performance of the two groups of boys.

REFERENCES

1. COHEN, I. L. *The Intelligence of Jews as Compared with Non-Jews*. Columbus: Ohio State Univ. Press, 1927.
2. GARRETT, H. E. Jews and others. *Person. J.*, 1928-29, 7, 341-348.
3. HAYES, E. C. Racial groups in a university. *Sci. Mo.*, 1928, 26, 158-159.

Department of Psychology
University of Pittsburgh
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania