

Commentary on Burt's figures

Table I: Distribution of Intelligence According to Occupational Class: Adults												
	50–60	60–70	70–80	80–90	90–100	100–110	110–120	120–130	130–140	140+	Total	Mean IQ
I: Higher Professional									2	1	3	139.7
II: Lower Professional							2	13	15	1	31	130.6
III: Clerical				1	8	16	56	38	3		122	115.9
IV: Skilled			2	11	51	101	78	14	1		258	108.2
V: Semiskilled		5	15	31	135	120	17	2			325	97.8
VI: Unskilled	1	18	52	117	53	11	9				261	84.9
Total	1	23	69	160	247	248	162	67	21	2	1000	100.0
Table II: Distribution of Intelligence According to Occupational Class: Children												
	50–60	60–70	70–80	80–90	90–100	100–110	110–120	120–130	130–140	140+	Total	Mean IQ
I: Higher Professional							1		1	1	3	120.8
II: Lower Professional				1	2	6	12	8	2		31	114.7
III: Clerical			3	8	21	31	35	18	6		122	107.8
IV: Skilled		1	12	33	53	70	59	22	7	1	258	104.6
V: Semiskilled	1	6	23	55	99	85	38	13	5		325	98.9
VI: Unskilled	1	15	32	62	75	54	16	6			261	92.6
Total	2	22	70	159	250	247	160	68	21	1	1000	100.0

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“[the occupational classifications were based] not on prestige or income, but rather on the degree of ability required for the work.”

“... the assessments of adult intelligence were less thorough and less reliable.”

“The frequencies inserted in the various rows and columns were proportional frequencies and in no way represent the number actually examined: from Class I the number examined was *nearer* a hundred and twenty than three. To obtain the figures to be inserted (number per mille) we *weighted* the actual numbers so that the proportions in each class should be equal to the *estimated* proportions for the total population. Finally, for the purposes of the present analysis we have *rescaled* our assessments of intelligence, so that the mean of the whole group is 100 and the standard deviation 15.”

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- ❖ Data collected over 50 years [methodology unclear, some by interviews, others by test]
- ❖ Sample size standardised to 1000 [suggested, but not explicitly said, from 40,000?]
- ❖ IQs adjusted and rescaled, mean 100, standard deviation 15 [fit to a theoretical normal distribution, adjustment bias?]