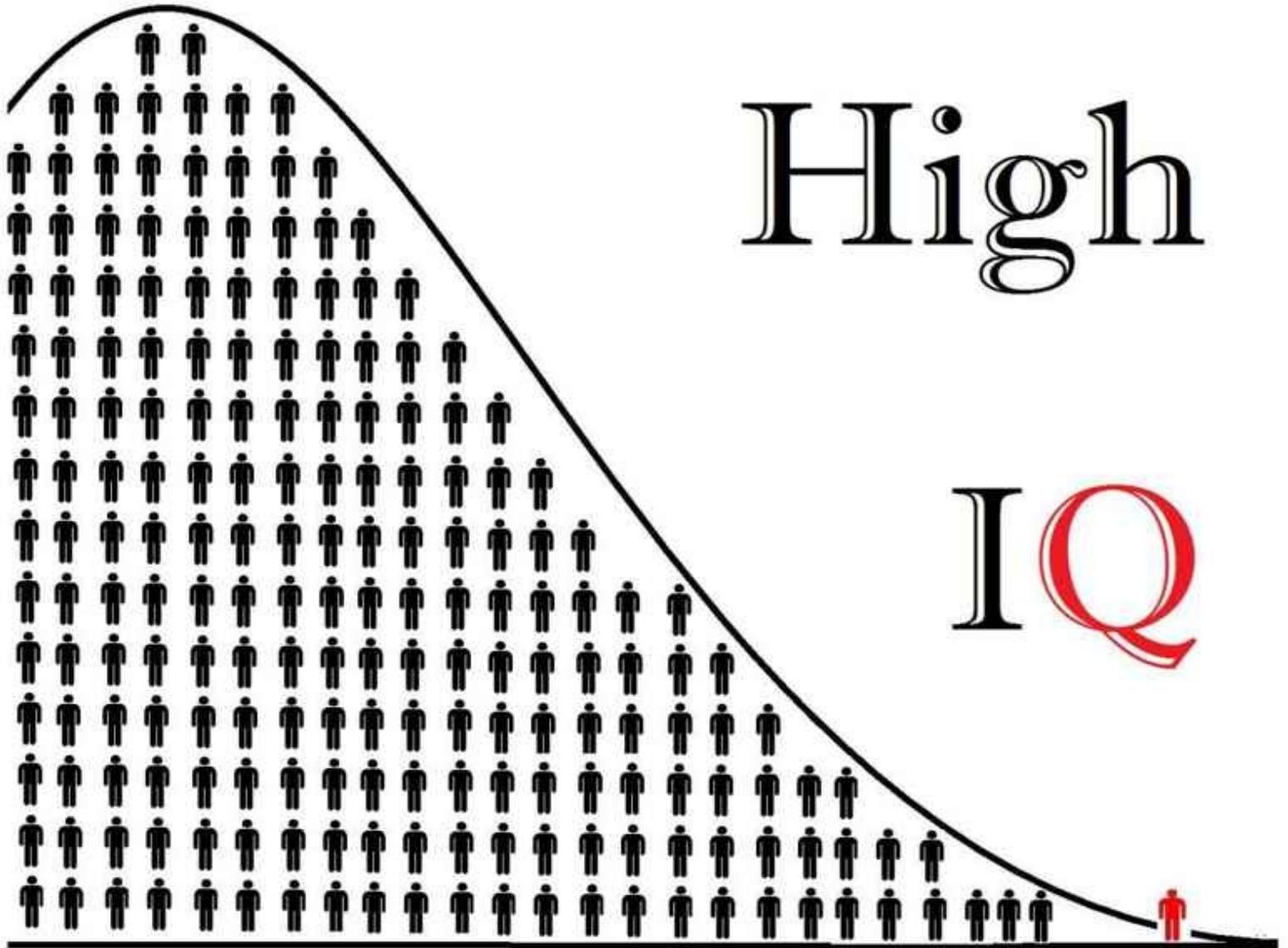


Curse of the

High

IQ



by

Aaron Clarey

THE CURSE OF THE HIGH IQ

By

Aaron Clarey

To the 30 geniuses
who attended my 40th birthday party...
and Ken

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FOREWORD BY MATT BALDONI

It's not often that you go from fan to friend in the arts world. As a musician, I've had the opportunity to meet a few of my musician heroes personally, but never become friends with them. I do have talented friends and colleagues in my business and in other fields of art, and most of them inspire me at least a little bit. None as much as Aaron does.

I was introduced to his material by simple recommendation and became a fan very quickly. I watched videos, purchased books, downloaded podcasts, and added his material as part of my life's routine until the material became a powerful influence that changed my life. Upon realizing this, I reached out to thank him. A few years later, we are close and personal friends, and I remain one of his biggest fans. Becoming friends with someone whom you're this big of a fan of is an honor and can change your life.

When Cappy Cap announced to me that he was writing another book, and the subject was High IQ, we discussed it and shared ideas about it. As usual with his books, I became interested and excited to eventually buy it and read it as a fan. When he asked me if I'd like to contribute to this work, a second life-changing honor occurred, and I happily accepted. For me, this was like a musical hero asking me to play on his record or sit in with him on a gig. Now that I have read the work and understand its message, I can safely say that it's my favorite work of Aaron's so far, and it may be his most powerful book yet.

Those of us who are fans of his will know his work's message(s) well. He speaks to young people, particularly men, about how to live an optimized life in most every way. Education, finance, dating, friendships, health, hobbies, romantic relationships, and many more subjects are all covered in his books, podcasts, videos, and consultations. Those of us who know him will know without a doubt that he is an expert enough to demand damn good money for his advice and thoughts.

Perhaps for some of you, this is your first time reading one of Aaron Clarey's books. If that's the case, I have some advice for you. Prepare to be reaffirmed in many opinions you may already have, but felt you needed to keep quiet due to societal pressures/conditions, professional aspirations, or friends and loved ones. One thing all of us who are fans have in common is that we love that there's someone who says what we've all been thinking.

I'll also advise that you keep going deeper into Aaron's prolific catalog after reading this book. "Bachelor Pad Economics" is the mens' encyclopedia for life, "Worthless" has saved young people thousands of dollars and years of shame, "Behind The Housing Crash" predicted the near-collapse of the U.S. Economy and tells you why, and "Captain Capitalism: Top Shelf" and "Reserved" are the quintessential collections from his blog writings, allowing you to not only learn from his expertise but witness

his evolution and growth as a writer, which is remarkable. I advise all those new to Captain Capitalism to dig deep and read EVERYTHING. TWICE.

One night recently on a gig, I had the opportunity to spend time with someone I can easily equate to Aaron Clarey. This gentleman is also a staunch libertarian, an intelligent and high-level thinker with a likely-high IQ, an entertainment hero of mine, and a personal friend. The man I am speaking of is magician Penn Jillette, my personal hero in Las Vegas entertainment. He and I spoke of Aaron Clarey that night, and he was familiar. This brought a huge smile to my face, and I walked out onto a stage that night to receive an award for Entertainer of The Year here in Las Vegas. As Penn looked on smiling from side-of-stage, I thought of us just speaking of Aaron. As I accepted the award and took a bow amidst the applause, I thought to myself, *“There's no way you'd be getting this tonight without Aaron.”* That is no lie. The guy'll change your life.

I also can't help but remember the time that Aaron and I stood at the near-top of an 11,000 foot peak in rural Nevada, talking to each other about the journey up that far, and admiring the view with smiles on our faces. The mountain and our journey to the top is a metaphor for life. Aaron has written in nearly all of his works that “the most important part of life is other human beings”. They are the ones that help you get to the top of that mountain where you can enjoy the view and survey your domain from a new place in life. I am one of the lucky guys to call Aaron a friend who's helped me get there, and after you read this book, you will feel the same.

Matt Baldoni
www.mattbaldoni.com
Las Vegas, January 2016

INTRODUCTION

Highly Successful, Miserable Freaks

Mike was 43 and although his real estate business took a terrible turn during the housing crash, he was one of the few who survived it. He made wise decisions, cut the budget as necessary, and with some hard work and clever investments he recovered nicely. He had his dream cabin up north as well as a schwanck James Bond early 60's style house in the city all in his name. A nice gun collection to pursue his passion of hunting with. And free time. Loads of free time as he would read books, watch Black Adder, and pursue his various entrepreneurial ideas plastered on the white board in his office.

He was his own man. He answered to no one. He was living the dream.

Jeff was also very successful. After selling his stake in a small business at 46, he started his own special materials transport company. He move to Las Vegas to avoid the Minnesota winters and, again, with some wise decisions and hard work was clearing nearly half a million a year in profit. With this profit came a lifestyle of luxury and free time he never experienced before, but one he certainly capitalized on, affording himself a fine cigar hobby, frequent travel, a Harley, not to mention courtships with one or two (perhaps three or four...certainly no more than five or six) girls half his age.

He too was his own man. Answered to no one. And was living the dream.

And then there was Tony. Tony was a major in the US Army tortured about whether to stay his 20 years and collect a pension. Not that he needed the money - he was a minimalist and took whatever money he didn't spend and invested it in rental property. But his simplistic and frugal lifestyle allowed him a freedom few other 35 year olds had. He could sample the finest scotches at the finest bars in Miami as his studio apartment was in an enviable neighborhood. He also, perhaps, sampled some of the finest ladies the town had to offer as he was devastatingly charming, incredibly witty, but also a master at meting it out at opportune moments.

He too, like Mike and Jeff, was his own man. Answered to no one. And was living the dream.

So why were they all miserable?

Mike, for all of his success and free time, seemed hell-bent to stay in his basement, wishing to do nothing more than watch BBC comedies. I could rarely get him to go out, but when I did he was nowhere near as animated as when I knew him in his youth. He was in his pajamas usually by 7PM, asking me if I wanted milk or tea.

And even though the sun had yet to set, when I inquired if he wanted to go out for dinner, coffee, or a run it was always too close to his bedtime to contemplate such “excitement.”

Jeff, with all the money (and girls) a man could want, was constantly inquiring if I could fly down and visit him in Vegas. I explained I’d love to, but time and financial constraints prevented me from doing so. “*No problem*” he said, “*you can stay in my other apartment the entire time free of charge! And you can use my other car for free too!*” Combine this with his frequent calls to chat, it became very apparent he could not find a social network in Vegas and it was actually easier for him to fly his friends down there.

And Tony? Yeah...Tony.

Hammered. All the time. Only allowing sobriety to interrupt him during work. Something was haunting him. Something so fierce and dark he could have two girls on his arms, both likely to go home with him, and would trade it in for another drink and the opportunity to talk philosophy with you. He had life by the tail and couldn’t care less if he let it go.

The simple answer to the mystery of my highly successful, yet miserable friends would have been one of coincidence or chance. So what? Three friends of mine are incredibly successful, but miserable? It happens, besides nobody’s life is perfect. And that would have been a satisfactory answer had my mind not made another observation. For it wasn’t just Mike, Jeff, and Tony who shared the three unique traits of being

highly interesting
successful, yet
miserable

but nearly all of my friends.

John. Successful jazz singer. Voice you’d kill for. Traveled the world. Constant state of depression.

Greg. Retired millionaire. Drives around North America with his dog in a van. Has no place to call home.

Alyssa. Incredibly talented and successful musician. Can’t find any equals, spends most nights alone and down because she can’t pursue her art as she’s so reliably employed.

Mark. Lives on a beach and a pension. Hotter than hell wife. So crippled by the fate of the country he can barely leave the house.

Phil. IT genius millionaire. Charges \$300 an hour. Does nothing but drink coffee and teach himself languages at home. Occasionally shows up at Perkins.

Amy. Also an IT genius. Bills the same hourly rate as Phil. Can't find a guy to stimulate her. Stays at home with her dog.

Steve. High level administrator at a government agency, plus ballroom dancer. Miserable with his wife and life.

Travis. Perpetually unemployed. Alcoholic. Best philosopher I know.

Eric. House bought and paid for. Wife, two kids. In a constant state of anger due to the state of the country.

Jessica. Rare female oil field worker. Makes great money. Company grooming her for management because of affirmative action/political/marketing. She just wants a family that she's never going to have.

Ryan. Senior pilot at a large airline. Business on the side. Nice house. No debt. Can't find a girl to save his life.

I could go on, but as I thought about it nearly every friend I had, as well as myself, was a highly successful, interesting, statistical freak leading great lives, with great friends, who ironically were on some level, miserable, even dysfunctional. And upon having that epiphany it soon dawned on me what the common variable might be.

"Mike! What's your IQ?" I asked.

"What do you mean, what's my IQ?" he asked.

I said, *"You're IQ! What is it!?"*

"127. Why?"

I called Jeff.

"Jeff! What's your IQ?"

"My IQ???"

"Yeah, your IQ? Ever have it tested?"

"Yeah, when I was a kid, I think it was 138 or something."

"Tony?"

“157.”

“John?”

“132”

Greg, 144.

Alyssa, 158.

Mark, 127.

Phil, 133.

Amy, 130.

Steve, 129.

Travis, 137

Eric, 140.

Jessica, 152

Ryan, 138

Me, 141.

I had figured it out. I had the common variable.

Yes, we were all very successful. And yes, we were all “eccentric” in one way or another. But while an argument can be made that this was selection bias, a mere preference to hang out with like-minded people, it was the freakishly high IQ’s that explained the misery component of my cabal of friends. For in taking inventory of my friends, the nature of their problems, and the sources of their misery, as well as combining it with my own experiences, observations, research, and theories, this correlation made it increasingly clear that:

1. Our problems were not unique, but shared and common among people with high IQ’s (depression, alcoholism, ennui, indifference, loneliness, boredom, etc.), and
2. It was being caused by abnormally high intelligences that unintentionally ostracized us from the rest of society.

Alas, if having a high IQ was wreaking similar problems on others across the world, not only did we know the cause, we also held the solution. And so instead of suffering in silence, thinking there was something specifically and uniquely wrong with us, it was imperative we brought this to the attention of those who are abnormally intelligent in the world. For if we’re right, millions of people are needlessly suffering the same, enduring lesser lives than they should. Worse, they likely have no idea why and are therefore unable to solve their problems. But it doesn’t have to be this way, and this essay intends to prove that. We can lift the curse of the high IQ.

The Truth

The truth is, just like any other trait or characteristic, having an abnormally high intelligence has both pros and cons. However, since being intelligent is largely viewed as a positive by society, we often erroneously attribute any problems caused by it to something else because,

“You’re intelligent. How can anything bad possibly come from that?”

This misdiagnosis (like all misdiagnoses) is bound to fail since it misidentifies the true source of our problems, treating the “wrong source.” It also makes the problem worse in that you never solve it resulting in hopelessness, futility, angst, despair, not to mention the insanity of being unable to know what’s wrong with you.

The key, however, is to acknowledge there are problems with having a high IQ and to identify them. And while this essay will delve into much greater detail about these problems, they all predominantly hail from one primary source - statistics and economies to scale.

Statistically speaking, we’re freaks. This is neither good nor bad, just merely different. However, in being a statistical oddity there comes an inherent lack of efficiency in that we cannot capitalize or benefit from the economies to scale that exist to serve the vast majority of the population which happens to be less intelligent than us.

For example if you’re average and wish to make friends and socialize you have a plethora of options available to you. You can go to a nightclub, you can go to the bars, you can “watch the game,” or join a fantasy football league. No doubt for some of you this sounds appetizing, but for the majority of high IQ people these are painful experiences as they lack the mental stimulation we need and thus, to us, are pointless.

Another example, night owls. People with high IQ’s tend not to be able to sleep well and do their best work at night. Unfortunately, the rest of the world doesn’t work that way and is on the traditional 9-5 schedule. This means you cannot avail yourself of the “economies to scale” and infrastructure that exists to serve the majority of the population during the day time. Restaurants are closed at 3AM so you are relegated to unhealthy gas station food (if they’re open). Home Depot is also closed so if you’re working on your latest great invention and need a tool, too bad for you. But while these minor inconveniences may seem petty and not really problems, worse is the lack of human interaction. Nobody is up at 3AM and so you are by yourself, in the dark, and in the quiet. Over time this WILL lead to psychological troubles, all because your intelligence prevents you from holding a normal sleep schedule.

We could go on, but the the larger point is there ARE problems that stem from having a high IQ. Many of which are minor. Many of which are serious. And like any other medical or psychological condition we need to be able to identify its root cause if we are ever to hope to solve it. But since society is largely geared around serving the “normal majority” and having a high IQ is seemed as a blessing, not a curse, the

problems caused by having a high IQ are ignored by society, even ourselves, forcing an unnecessary (and often misunderstood) misery into our lives.

The Solution

The purpose of this book is to identify, explain, and provide solutions to the problems that are inherent in having a high IQ. This ranges from addressing the obvious psychological and sociological problems smart people have, to the fact that many smart people believe themselves to be stupid simply because they fall asleep in class. But regardless of the problem, the overall aim is to help the average high IQ person understand what it means to have a high IQ, realize the disadvantages that come with it, be able to accurately diagnose any problems deriving from it, and therefore develop reality-based solutions that will be effective in solving them.

This isn't a promise that all the problems abnormally intelligent people suffer will go away. Matter of fact, many of these problems have no solution as they're just inherent to the nature of statistics and your only option is to suck it up and endure it. But at minimum we can provide an explanation as to why you're feeling down, why you drink, why you can't find friends, why you can't hold a job, etc. It may not result in happiness, sobriety, or an active social life, but it will at least provide an explanation and the precious sanity that comes with it.

CHAPTER 1 THE NEEDS OF THE MANY

Cold, Hard Math

As alluded to in the introduction, problems stemming from being abnormally intelligent are largely seeded in math. Specifically, there are so few people with high IQ's that by statistical necessity they are invariably going to suffer in one capacity or another. This does not mean there is anything inherently wrong in having a high (or low) IQ, but at times being so intelligent will be inefficient, or at least inconvenient when it comes to interacting with the rest of society.

To understand this, however, one needs to know just how intelligent they are compared to the rest of society. This will allow them to see just what a statistical outlier they are and how few equally-intelligent people exist in the world. But what is very interesting about abnormally intelligent people is they rarely look at their intelligence in this manner. Matter of fact, most high IQ people aren't even aware they're intelligent because they've never had their IQ tested, or worse, were never led to believe they were smart in the first place. It's not until you test your intelligence and measure it up against the rest of society do you realize the statistical consequences and hurdles you will face in being abnormally intelligent.

To do this we use the classical "bell distribution" model used in statistics. Depending on your age you may or may not be familiar with this tool, but it requires nothing more than 3rd grade math and is merely a way to calculate where you rank as a percentage of the population in terms of intelligence. To calculate your percent ranking or "percentile" you need a few variables:

1. Your IQ (which you can get by taking a professionally administered test or by taking any one number of IQ tests online which will give you a less accurate, though ball park number)
2. The average or "mean" score of the population's IQ
3. The "standard deviation" of the population's IQ, and
4. A "Z-Score" table

Thankfully, we have most of these variables as IQ tests and scores have been standardized over the years and we have been able to historically measure them.

The average IQ score is benchmarked to 100 by default.

The standard deviation for IQ has historically been around 15.

And Z-Score tables can be found on the internet (one conveniently linked here)

<http://www.utdallas.edu/dept/abp/zscoretable.pdf>

With these four variables (your IQ being the fourth) the math to calculate your percentile ranking is pretty straight forward.

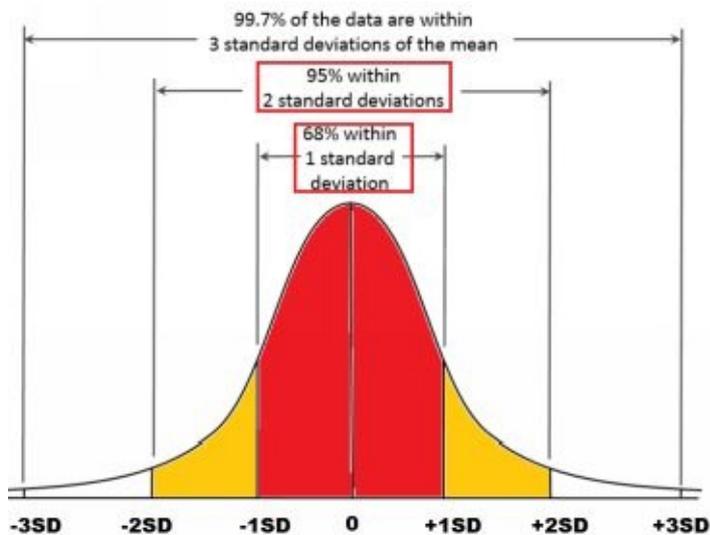
1. Take your IQ and subtract 100 from it (ensure to keep track if it is positive or negative)
2. Take that number and divide it by 15.
3. That number is your Z-Score
4. Look up your Z-Score on the Z-Score table. The corresponding number is your percentile rank and is the percent of the population that is BELOW you in terms of intelligence.

For example, let's use an IQ test score of 125.

1. $125 - 100 = 25$
2. 25 divided by 15 is 1.67
3. 1.67 is my Z-Score so I look that up on the Z-Score table
4. Showing that 95.25% of the population has an IQ less than 125 or translated another way, "you are in the top 4.75% of the population in terms of intelligence."

z	0.00	0.01	0.02	0.03	0.04	0.05	0.06	0.07	0.08	0.09
0.0	0.5000	0.5040	0.5080	0.5120	0.5160	0.5199	0.5239	0.5279	0.5319	0.5359
0.1	0.5398	0.5438	0.5478	0.5517	0.5557	0.5596	0.5636	0.5675	0.5714	0.5753
0.2	0.5793	0.5832	0.5871	0.5910	0.5948	0.5987	0.6026	0.6064	0.6103	0.6141
0.3	0.6179	0.6217	0.6255	0.6293	0.6331	0.6368	0.6406	0.6443	0.6480	0.6517
0.4	0.6554	0.6591	0.6628	0.6664	0.6700	0.6736	0.6772	0.6808	0.6844	0.6879
0.5	0.6915	0.6950	0.6985	0.7019	0.7054	0.7088	0.7123	0.7157	0.7190	0.7224
0.6	0.7257	0.7291	0.7324	0.7357	0.7389	0.7422	0.7454	0.7486	0.7517	0.7549
0.7	0.7580	0.7611	0.7642	0.7673	0.7704	0.7734	0.7764	0.7794	0.7823	0.7852
0.8	0.7881	0.7910	0.7939	0.7967	0.7995	0.8023	0.8051	0.8078	0.8106	0.8133
0.9	0.8159	0.8186	0.8212	0.8238	0.8264	0.8289	0.8315	0.8340	0.8365	0.8389
1.0	0.8413	0.8438	0.8461	0.8485	0.8508	0.8531	0.8554	0.8577	0.8599	0.8621
1.1	0.8643	0.8665	0.8686	0.8708	0.8729	0.8749	0.8770	0.8790	0.8810	0.8830
1.2	0.8849	0.8869	0.8888	0.8907	0.8925	0.8944	0.8962	0.8980	0.8997	0.9015
1.3	0.9032	0.9049	0.9066	0.9082	0.9099	0.9115	0.9131	0.9147	0.9162	0.9177
1.4	0.9192	0.9207	0.9222	0.9236	0.9251	0.9265	0.9279	0.9292	0.9306	0.9319
1.5	0.9332	0.9345	0.9357	0.9370	0.9382	0.9394	0.9406	0.9418	0.9429	0.9441
1.6	0.9452	0.9463	0.9474	0.9484	0.9495	0.9505	0.9515	0.9525	0.9535	0.9545
1.7	0.9554	0.9564	0.9573	0.9582	0.9591	0.9599	0.9608	0.9616	0.9625	0.9633

While this method does in fact give you a good estimate as to where you rank in society in terms of intelligence, the problem in using Z-Score tables is that they're a bit complicated and fail to visually convey just what a statistical outlier you are. To do this it helps graph your intelligence on a bell distribution chart since IQ (as are many things in life) is not linear. In other words the majority (68%) of the population falls within one standard deviation of the average score, and the vast majority of the population (95%) falls within two standard deviations of the average score.



Source: Dan Kernler

Therefore, the percent of the population decreases exponentially faster the smarter and smarter you get, resulting in increasingly fewer people. Thus, once you start scoring in the 130+ range of IQ you are already in the top 2% of society. High enough to be considered an official genius by MENSA, but also most certainly a statistical freak.

Of course the issue is not whether you meet the 2% requirement MENSA has to officially be considered a genius. You can “merely” have an IQ of 120 and still suffer the consequences of having a high IQ. The larger point is to realize that as you go to (either) extremes of the bell distribution curve the population rapidly declines. And while there still may be enough of a population at an IQ of 115 where you can function relatively normally, you become increasingly statistically ostracized the further down the right of the bell curve you go.

Of course, all of this is moot if you don’t first realize where you land in society in terms of intelligence. You, once again, will likely chalk your problems up to something that is NOT abnormal intelligence, misdiagnosing your problems, never being able to solve them. But if you can take the first step in finding out just what a statistical outlier you are, *especially visually*, it really puts the underlying problem of having a high IQ in perspective.

(To assist in being able to graphically visualize this there are many online bell distribution calculators. However, I prefer this one

http://mathcracker.com/normal_probability.php

The “population mean” is 100.

The “Population St. Dev.” is 15

Select “Right Tailed” and then plug your IQ into that box.

After you hit submit it should generate a bell distribution chart below showing you your rank and percentile).

“This World is Not Meant for You”

Once you know your percentile rank and can see just how rare it is for someone to have your intelligence, you’re going to quickly realize you are “special.” And while “special” may have a positive connotation to it today, the world, sadly, was not built for special people.

Take for example physically handicapped people. They account for roughly the same percentage of the population that abnormally intelligent people do, but face daily hurdles most of us don’t consider because we are not handicapped. Stairs, curbs, being unable to drive, things we take for granted simply on account we are not physically disabled. But it is not so much their physical disability that is the hurdle as much as it is this world was not designed with them in mind. This world was designed for normal people. This world was designed for the majority.

Of course, this may sound unfair at first, but it’s not because by mathematical necessity society *has to be* engineered around the majority. It cannot be designed for the minority on account that world would simply be too inefficient to work.

You can’t have the highway system designed for the minority of the population, you need it to serve the cities and dense population centers.

You can’t have an electric grid that first serves North Dakotan backwaters and then New York City.

And laws can’t be written with specific groups or minorities in mind, it must be written with the majority in mind.

This doesn’t mean we don’t make accommodations for those who are disabled or different, but it is to point out that the social, political, economic, romantic, educational, commercial and psychological infrastructure of this society, its entire make up and composition on all levels, is built and designed for people with IQ’s of around 100.

This guarantees you are going to have at least some problems when it comes to operating and living within this society. It can be as petty as the aforementioned problem of not being able to shop at Home Depot at 3AM because society typically operates on a 9-5 schedule. It could be the severe and real psychological problems that come from insomnia including depression, an impaired social life, poorer health, even suicide. But no matter the variety or severity of the problems it is the omnipresence of these problems that is the real challenge. In nearly every aspect of life your IQ is guaranteed to present at least some kind of problem.

That idiot in front of you at the gas station buying his cigarettes and lottery tickets with a check is not only delaying your day, but also likely driving up your blood

pressure and taxes.

Your boss lacking the intelligence to understand Microsoft Excel views your expertise in Excel NOT as a way to save the company millions, but a threat that undermines his authority.

Your congressman wants to get re-elected, so instead of balancing a budget, runs a deficit buying him votes from the ignorant masses...but undermining your economic future as well.

And good luck finding a girl or a guy to date whose interests go beyond “The Kardashians” or “The New England Patriots,” because their brains are not capable of enjoying any entertainment more intelligent than reality TV and “sportsball.”

In nearly every capacity, aspect, and function in life you can expect hurdles to be put in front of you.

But it gets worse.

For while we can focus on careers, education, dating, entertainment, etc., having a high IQ undermines the most fundamental and important thing in our lives – society. Specifically, other people.

Whether we like it or not, we will derive 100% of our value and happiness from other people. You can have the latest PS4 video game with a 60 inch screen TV, a Ferrari, and a small island in your name, but it does not change the fact that without family, friends, loved ones and a social life all the material items in the world mean nothing. Additionally, we also need to function in society *outside of our circle of loved ones*, not only because we need jobs and have to interact with people on the street, but for the simple truism that there is no other society to function in. It's the only one available to us. This in an “eagle surrounded by turkeys” sense limits our success and happiness in life in that we need to rely, interact with, and depend on other people less intelligent than us.

Alas, every important aspect of your life is going to be, at some level, limited because the people you need to work with are also limited. This is your family. Your church. Your social club. Your neighbors. Your boss. Your spouse. Your friends. Your leaders. Your everything. Of course, this doesn't mean it's completely hopeless or that you're completely powerless to control who and who you don't let into your life. Obviously, you will choose friends as smart as you. Marry somebody at your intelligence level. Preferably work for a boss that is intelligent as well. But since there are so few abnormally intelligent people out there it is (frankly) unlikely your spouse, boss, co-workers, friends, colleagues, teachers, and neighbors are all going to be geniuses. And certainly not the everyday people you will need to interact with to go about your day to day business.

Suck it Up, Buttercup

But for all the problems associated with having a high IQ they are not as bad as being mentally impaired, physically handicapped, terminally ill, or any one of a number of other more serious problems. Additionally, having a high IQ has statistically proven to be a net asset with better financial success, physical health, life expectancy, etc. So, again, even though there are problems with having a high IQ it is important to put this into perspective.

But to put things into even further perspective, even the ultimate perspective, it simply doesn't matter that "this world was not meant for us" simply because it's the only one we got. It's the one we were born into. It was the hand we were dealt.

We need to adapt because there simply is no other choice. The world is not going to "adapt to us" with the majority magically increasing their IQ's through rigorous studies and genetic treatments. And if we focus on how "unfair" things might be or mire in our problems, we will simply never solve them ensuring we wasted our one finite, short, and precious life on this planet. So in short it is we who need to adapt. It is we who need to know where we fit in this world. And it is we who have to take an emotionless, somber assessment of the world around us, acknowledge it and work within it to solve whatever problems ail us from having a high IQ.

CHAPTER 2 IDIOCRACY

How Many Beers are in a Case?

Understanding where we sit statistically in the context of societal intelligence we can move onto more specific problems abnormally intelligent people will face. Specifically, the mental costs associated with living in an Idiocracy.

It was my senior year in high school and it was mandated we attend a rally where the guest speaker was our local congressional representative. Based on people's faces it was obvious I was not the only one who didn't want to attend. So when our congressman started asking the audience questions...only to receive no or begrudged answers...I decided we'd all get out of there a lot sooner if I were to answer one of his questions to accelerate his speech.

He asked the audience, "*How many members of congress are there?*"

Noticing nobody was going to answer I said, "535."

Thinking I cumulatively saved the entire student body two hours of their lives, a sophomore behind me tapped me on my shoulder and said, "*Hey, Einstein, how many beers are in a case?*"

Not knowing, nor really caring I said, "*I don't know, 12?*"

In a very Beavis and Butthead manner he snorted, "*Heh heh, it's 16! Shows you how much you know!*"

I could only think to myself, "*Yeah kid, it actually does.*"

The truth is this young boy was retarded. And I don't mean that as an insult. I mean that because it's true. He was a mental retard. Not only did he think knowing how many beers are in a case was superior to knowing how many people are in our national legislature, he also had a ton of behavioral problems, suspensions, and...oh...yeah...thought it a good idea to tattoo a spider web around his eye. All of this before he could even get his driver's permit.

But the real reason he was a mental retard had nothing to do with

his underage drinking,
his idiocy in thinking it was "cool" to display his knowledge of beer trivia,
or his fine choice in ink.

No, the reason he was retarded is because it was in comparison to me.