

MODULE 62 THE DYNAMICS OF INTELLIGENCE**STABILITY OR CHANGE?**

- Through the WAIS, David Wechsler was noticing that answers were consistently found wrong compared to various ages and that older adults give fewer correct answers than do younger adults, according to a cross-sectional study. Wechsler believed that this was due to the decline of mental ability with age that affected the general aging process of the organism as a whole.
- **COHORT** is the same group of people over a period of years. When cross-sectional studies compared 70 year olds and 30 year olds and the myth that intelligence sharply declines with age was laid to rest.
- Intelligence test that assess speed of thinking may place older adults at a disadvantage because of their slower neural processing.
- There are two types of intelligences. **CRYSTALLIZED INTELLIGENCE** is our accumulated knowledge and verbal skills; tends to increase with age. **FLUID INTELLIGENCE** is our ability to reason speedily and abstractly; tends to decrease during late adulthood.
- The more intelligent you are the higher the correlation of your ability to live longer.

EXTREMES OF INTELLIGENCE

- **INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY** is a condition of limited mental ability, indicated by an intelligence score of 70 or below and difficulty in adapting to the demands of life. **DOWN SYNDROME** is a condition of mild to severe intellectual disability and associated physical disorders caused by an extra copy of chromosome 21.

BE ABLE TO ANSWER: The Smiths have enrolled their 2-year-old son in a special program that promises to assess his IQ and, if he places in the top 5% of test-takers, to create a plan that will guarantee his admission to a top university at age 18. Why is this endeavor of questionable value?

PRACTICE FRQ: Name and describe the two main types of evidence used to determine whether there is an intellectual decline as people age.