

**MODULE 64 GROUP DIFFERENCES AND THE QUESTION OF BIAS****GROUP DIFFERENCES IN INTELLIGENCE TEST SCORES**

- So far as g factor is concerned, male and female are the same species. Confounding variables hinder the ability to know whether intelligence is different or not (social expectations and divergent opportunities).
- Looks can deceive. Genetics research reveals that under the skin, the races are remarkably alike. Race is not a neatly defined biological category. Schools and culture matter when it comes to intelligence.

**THE QUESTION BIAS**

- The debate over race differences in intelligence divides into three camps: genetics, socially influenced, and race differences.
- **STEREOTYPE THREAT** is a self-confirming concern that one will be evaluated based on a negative stereotype. Claude Steele concludes that telling students they probably won't succeed functions as a stereotype that can erode performance.
- Aptitude tests are indeed biased in one sense – sensitivity to performance differences caused by cultural experience. But they are not biased in the scientific sense of failing to make valid statistical predictions for different groups.
- First, we should realize the benefits of Alfred Binet foresaw – to enable schools to recognize who might profit most from early intervention. Second, we must remain alert to Binet's fear that intelligence test scores may be misinterpreted as literal measures of a person's worth and potential. Third, we must remember that the competence that general intelligence tests sample is important; it helps enable success in some life paths.

**BE ABLE TO ANSWER:** What is the difference between a test that is biased culturally, and a test that is biased in terms of its validity?

**PRACTICE FRQ:** Robert and Maya are having an argument about whether intelligence tests are biased. Robert thinks they are but Maya insists they are not. How can they both be right?