

This paper deals with the problem of Pkeh intelligence. The authors have developed a new test of intelligence, called the MOTIS [based on the OTIS intelligence test which was developed in the US and Australia] and are optimistic that their findings will revolutionise the processes of intelligence testing and secondary school streaming in New Zealand... the outdated OTIS suffers from an unfortunate cultural bias. For example, Question twenty-six of Form C of the OTIS reads:

Which word makes the truest sentence? A youth is (?) wiser than his father.

1 never, 2 rarely, 3 much, 4 usually, 5 always.

The findings of our study are relatively dramatic and portentous... In brief, the MOTIS has demonstrated that the IQs of New Zealand students are not, in fact, what educators have thought them to be.

MORI SCORE HIGHER

Mori students scored higher on the MOTIS test of intelligence than did their Pkeh peers... Thus the mean IQ of the Mori students tested was 102.94. The mean IQ of the Pkeh students, however, was only 67.26. Pending further testing, these figures may be provisionally accepted as the average IQs of both population groups.

These findings are, of course, rather distressing. They show the Pkeh child to be farther behind his Mori classmate than even the authors had suspected. More important, the findings justify the immediate implementation of corrective programmes to assist the handicapped Pkeh child in catching up.

The authors feel that it is necessary to view the MOTIS results in an appropriate perspective. Of course, the low performance of the Pkeh child does not, necessarily, mean that he is innately inferior: it may well be - and the authors would like to believe - that the Pkeh child has the same chance at birth to be as highly intelligent as the Mori child. If the Pkeh child's intelligence is inferior, his inferiority may be said to be cultural. In other words, the Pkeh child may be thought of as "culturally disadvantaged". This means that the Pkeh child has simply not grown up in a home as rich in cultural opportunities as the home of a Mori child. Of course, the authors feel that it would be wrong to shame the Pkeh child by telling him that his parents haven't given him the advantages given a Mori child. After all, the Pkeh's inferior intelligence is simply not his fault.

From another perspective, the MOTIS results are not without grounds for cautious optimism. The mean Pkeh IQ of 67.26 leads us to believe that the Pkeh child is at least trainable and perhaps educable as well... On the basis of the MOTIS data, the authors feel that the Pkeh child may well be best suited for curricula which do not overtax his limited resources. Shopwork, machining, home science, and perhaps even commercial courses may well be within the reach of the Pkeh child; and with adequate training, the Pkeh child could even become a rather terrific bulldozer operator.

Of course, there are drawbacks. If students are streamed on the basis of their MOTIS results, it will create an unfortunate racial stratification in the high schools. That is, the higher intelligence Mori pupils will tend to populate the highest academic levels, and the under-achieving Pkeh child will tend to filter down into courses of low status. If this does occur, we must expect that the Pkeh child may come to think of himself as an inferior. He may think that Pkehs as a group, are not worth much in school, or elsewhere as well. He may not think much of himself, or expect much of himself, or aspire to achievement...

MOTIS Test

You have 1 minute to answer all 10 questions (any unanswered questions are automatically wrong). The first one is an example. Some questions have two correct answers - you must pick the best one. If you are not sure of the answer to any question, make a guess.

Ex Which of the following is not a fruit?

peach apple grass lemon

1 What is a waka?

bird horse storm canoe

2 The opposite of enemy is

manu hoa toru marae

3 When you leave a cemetery, what should you do first?

have a meal tell jokes sing a song

wash your hands

4 Which one of these four words is most unlike the others?

puha pipi tuna kina

5 Where would it be bad manners to take food?

store house dining hall meeting house

whare puni

6 A fantail flying around inside your house, is a sign of what?

good luck bad luck stormy weather fine weather

7 What does whakahā mean?

to laugh to cry to talk to skate

8 Which of the following is a name for the North Island:

Te Ika a Māui Waipounamu Maunganui Aotearoa

9 What is a haurangi?

speaker for his people man of great mana a drunk

farmer

10 What does this proverb mean? *Kia u, kia mau ki to Mōritanga*

Hold on to your Mōritanga

Mōritanga and the birds are of one wing

The Mōritanga of old is not new

Eating is the heart of Mōritanga

¹ Excerpts from article in *National Education*, July 1971, 53, No.577, pp 258-60, edited by Treaty Resource Centre. www.trc.org.nz
2019 TRC www.trc.org.nz

This work is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-Noncommercial-Share Alike 3.0 New Zealand License.

Please acknowledge the source if copying.

