What is Intelligence?

**Aim**

To get students to think more subjectively about what knowledge is, and how we might benefit certain people and disadvantage others with ‘scientific’ tests such as IQ tests or schooling.

**Notes**

The session asks students to complete two tests, one from Western cultures and one from the culture of the Kuuk Thayorre, an aboriginal community in Australia. Students should be divided into teams of around 4-5.

**Equipment**

Intelligence tests

One cultural brief for the kuuk thaayorre IQ test, to be given to one team

A prize for the winning team (optional)

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| Time | Activities | Details |
|  | Introduction | To take a look at different IQ tests and start to think about what intelligence is |
| 5 mins | Brainstorm | What is intelligence? Is it innate? Can it be measured?  Show the definitions on PowerPoint and discuss. |
| 10 mins | First test | 10mins to complete the test |
| 5 mins | Answers | Mark tests. |
| 10 mins | Second Test | 10mins to complete the test – one team is given the test and cultural brief, other teams are given just the test.  Tally scores and give a prize/round of applause to the winning team. |
| 5 mins | Answers | Talk through the kinds of cultural knowledge the test assumes you have.  Is knowing the answers to these questions ‘intelligence’?  Looking back at the first test, was there any cultural assumptions there? |
| 10 mins | Discussion | • What kinds of cultural assumptions go into the first test?  • Is knowing the answers to these questions ‘intelligence’?  • Who might the test disadvantage in a real life context? In a university context?  • As international or home students, can we identify with this?  • Why are we talking about intelligence in an intercultural workshop?  • Is it a bad thing that cultural assumptions are built into our understanding of intelligence?  • Is it a good idea to have concepts such as ‘intelligence’?  • How could we address cultural bias in IQ tests? |