

IQ classification is the practice by IQ test publishers of labeling IQ score ranges with category names such as “superior” or “average”.

There are several publishers of tests of cognitive abilities. No two publishers use exactly the same classification labels, which have changed from time to time since the beginning of intelligence testing in the early twentieth century.

IQ scores have been derived by two different methods since the advent of cognitive ability tests. The first method historically was the “ratio IQ”, based on estimating a “mental age” of the test-taker (rounded to a specified number of years and months), which was then divided by the test-taker's “chronological age” (rounded to a specified number of years and months). For example, a mental age score of thirteen years and zero months for a test-taker with the chronological age ten years and zero months results in a quotient of 1.3 after doing the division. The division result was then multiplied by 100 so that scores could be reported without decimal points. Thus the score in the example would be reported as IQ 130.

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Last update: **2024/06/07 02:52**

