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Raven norms for the lower range of IQ

4/25/05

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## Abstract

Norms for the Raven Standard Progressive Matrices that go lower than the published manual's 3<sup>rd</sup> percentile are presented.

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## Raven norms for the lower range of IQ

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The Raven Standard Progressive Matrices (now referred to as Classic) are not intended to differentiate intelligence levels in the extremes (tails) of the normal curve. Instead, the Raven Coloured Matrices and the Raven Standard Progressive Matrices Plus should be used for the lower and upper ranges, respectively. Accordingly, the 2000 manual (Raven *et al.*, 2000; updated 2004) only presented adult norms down to the 3<sup>rd</sup> percentile for the Classic version.

However, the Raven Classic version has two advantages that has proven uniquely valuable in forensic evaluations. First, it is well-known for the relative lack of cultural bias, making it attractive for the evaluation of minorities in the US. Secondly, it has a within-test formula validated and cross-validated to detect malingering (Andrade *et al.*, 2001; Evans, 2000; Gudjonsson & Shackleton, 1986; R. K. McKinzey *et al.*, 1999; Wogar *et al.*, 1998).

A need for norms for the lower ranges became apparent after the U.S. Supreme Court decided that people with mental retardation were ineligible for the death penalty ("Atkins v Va." 2002). Suddenly, the difference between an IQ of 69 and 71 became a matter of life and death.<sup>1</sup> Psychologists doing such high-stakes evaluations may not know until after the test is scored whether the indicated intelligence level is above the 2<sup>nd</sup> percentile!

Accordingly, the Raven Classic's norms for the 1-2 percentiles are presented in Table SPM13 Extension, so named because it expands upon the norms published in Table SPM13 of the 2000 manual.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> For a review of the history and issues involved in Atkins cases, see McKinzey (R K McKinzey, 3/26/05, 9/20/03).

<sup>2</sup> Users of these lower percentile norms should remember that they are statistically derived from the 1993 US standardization, rather than from an extensive sample of people with intelligence in the lower ranges.



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