



Royal Honours for Mensa Belgium p05

The Governor of the Province of Antwerp, Cathy Berx, hands the Royal Proclamation to Chairman of Mensa Belgium, Wim Proost.

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from the editor...



Hello, All,

A message from our Executive Director, Michael Feenan, is on p03, while news of a new young member and Mensa Brazil's Brilliant Youth Program is on p04.

As many of you know by now, Mensa Belgium has received a wonderful Royal Honour from the presiding King. More news on the Proclamation on p05.

On p06, British member, Michael Shrimpton raises a very controversial argument against the scientific rationale of Global Warming. Please feel free to enter the debate and submit your point of view for inclusion in the MWJ.

A Canadian member explains the concept of Workplace Mobbing on p07, and our regular contributors, Hal Swindall, John Blinke, and Therese Moodie-Bloom are all here this month!

Happy reading!

Kate

Cover photo:

Proclamation Ceremony
photo courtesy Laure Proost

from the Excomm

Honorary International Positions Open for Nomination

Nominations are being accepted for the positions of Honorary President and Honorary Vice-President of Mensa International. There may be more than one Honorary Vice-President.

The holders of these positions are considered honorary members of the International Board of Directors, and the Honorary President has a small budget for expenses. There is no formal job description or requirement for either of these roles other than that the person must be a current member of Mensa. The term length is three years and can be renewed.

Nominations may be submitted by any Mensa member and should be no longer than 300 words. There is no form to fill out, just send in a narrative saying why you think this person is deserving of being an Honorary President or Honorary Vice President of Mensa International.

Nominations for the above positions must be received by August 20, 2019 and must be sent to the International Office at mensainternational@mensa.org, copied to the Director of Administration at admin-mil@mensa.org.

ageing gracefully...

University of Alberta neuroscientists have identified different factors for maintaining healthy memory and for avoiding memory decline in those over age 55, according to a new study. The results have implications for the prevention of Alzheimer's disease through targeted early intervention efforts.

Memory decline is one of the first signs of cognitive and neurodegenerative diseases, such as Alzheimer's disease. Understanding and designing interventions for memory decline is critical for efforts toward preventing or delaying these illnesses.

The study found that adults with healthy memory were more likely to be female, educated, and engage in more social activities, such as hosting a dinner party, and novel cognitive activities, such as using a computer or learning a second language. For adults age 55 to 75, healthy memory was associated with lower heart rate, higher body mass index, more self-maintenance activities, and living companions. Adults over 75 had faster gait and fewer depressive symptoms.

Extracted from: www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2019/04/190410090333.htm

from the executive director



Michael Feenan

Well, here we are again! Once every two years – when there is an International Election and the ExComm column is delegated to me – I have to decide what I should write about. Of course, as the Executive Director, it would be inappropriate for me to comment on matters that could be thought of as policy or controversial. So, I will start with a short story.

In 1986, when British Mensa offered its members the chance to buy a hardback copy of the current membership list as a way of marking the 40th Anniversary, I did so. The book listed the membership by local groups, which meant searching through the many lists to find if friends or perhaps even celebrities were members. Completely by chance I stumbled upon a name I knew very well - my mother! I immediately called her on the phone and challenged her.

“Mother, you never told me you were in Mensa!”, I said. I had always known that she was undoubtedly highly educated and something of a polymath, attributes which she never hid, but she apparently had chosen to keep her membership secret from me. Her response was typical of her. “You never asked”, she replied. Then there was a dramatic pause, before she continued, “But I hope you never doubted for a

second that I could have been a member!” That was certainly true.

I knew that she had gone to university at the age of 16 at a time when fewer than 10,000 degrees were awarded in the whole of the UK each year and only a quarter of those were to women. In her adult life, she was successful in the largely male world of business; she wrote poetry and articles for magazines, as well as writing and directing plays in a popular amateur dramatic society. Her span of knowledge was intimidating, which made my frequent teenage arguments with her particularly frustrating. I eventually discovered her one weakness, though, which was that she really had no understanding of how electricity worked, and I exploited that ruthlessly thereafter!

I was reminded of the relationship between parents and children when I was visiting a Mensa group recently and had the opportunity to meet many of the members there, as well as parents of some of the younger members. The memorable feature of those meetings was that almost every parent spoke of the significant challenge of coping with a gifted child and wanted to know how they could best assist the child develop its full potential. In that country, there is currently no special provision made

in the education system for gifted children, and this is unfortunately true in very many places. However, the minister of education was interested in discussing how to address the situation with Mensa, which was encouraging. There are a number of national Mensas around the world which are in the privileged situation of being invited to advise the ministry of education on the particular needs of gifted children, and one hopes that number will increase in the future.

In frequent discussions on the topic around the world, I always offer the view that policy-makers should not concentrate resources only on disadvantaged or under-performing children and assume that the children at the higher end of the intellectual scale will somehow be OK without help. It is surely the duty of educators to ensure that all children reach their full potential, and Mensa can certainly assist that process. As well as the many initiatives in national Mensas, the new international website will make a contribution to that in a new section in the public pages, where there is advice on how to recognize that one’s child may be gifted, as well as directing visitors to available resources.

Michael Feenan

what's on...



MENSA POLAND AG
| 20 - 23 JUNE

AMERICAN MENSA AG
PHOENIX, ARIZONA
| 03 - 07 JULY

EMAG IN GHENT
BELGIUM
| 07 - 11 AUGUST

MENSA SOUTH AFRICA
AG (STANFORD)
SOUTH AFRICA
| 09 - 11 August

MENSA AT CAM-
BRIDGE UK
| 05 - 08 SEPTEMBER

MENSA INDIA AGM
INDIA
| 08 SEPTEMBER

new member profile

Aaron Zhou is twelve years old and joined Australian Mensa in October last year. He has a younger sister and lives in Sydney, NSW.

His Mum heard about Mensa through a friend, and suggested that Aaron sit for the test so that he could have extra activities to expand his thinking processes.

Aaron is in Year 7 at Nth Sydney Boys' High School, one of a few selective schools in Sydney.

Aaron likes Technology Mandatory, because, "I don't have to think or put much effort into thinking; the process of making the jobs is fun because I'm always thinking what the finished product would look like, and, the lessons are always practical, and any practical lesson would be for fun for me."

Aaron wants to be a doctor because of the thought everyone has when they are young, "I want to be a doctor and



help people, and it's grown into me so I decided it might as well be what I aim for."

The main hobbies Aaron has are playing video games, reading comic books, learning and trying to solve challenging math questions and trying to make the weekend seem as long as he can achieve it, "in order to maximize the amount of time I have before school starts again!"

Mensa Brazil's Brilliant Youth Program

The program is initially aimed at young people aged between 13 and 17, and its participants can interact in a virtual environment.

Admission to the program is restricted to young people aged between 13 and 17, who should seek a psychologist registered with the Regional Council of Psychology in order to be submitted to one of the following tests, dependent on availability and age group. Following the test, the youths should send the psychologist's expert opinion to Mensa

via the website <https://mensa.org.br/submeta-um-teste-anterior-2>

Valid tests are:

- WISC, for youths aged up to 16
- WASI, for youths of any age
- WAIS, for youths aged 16 or 17

If you have any questions, please contact jovenbrilhantes@mensa.org.br

Congratulations Mensa Brazil; this is a great initiative!

Royal Honours for Mensa Belgium

Recently, Mensa Belgium was bestowed the great honour of receiving Royal Society status from King Philippe of Belgium. Mensa Belgium Chairman, Wim Proost tells us more below.

“As of March 20th, Mensa Belgium is a *Royal Society*. The title “Royal” can only be awarded by the King to Belgian associations that have, among other criteria, been in existence for a minimum of 50 years. Other criteria also taken into consideration include good management, the non-profit-making objective pursued by the association, the vitality and robustness of the association, and, the social value our organisation brings. The awarding of the title ‘Royal’ is a favour, so it is always subject to the judgment of His Majesty.

“The honorary title is granted after a favorable opinion has been obtained

from the appropriate minister and the Provincial Governor, and is generally sealed with a ceremony held by the governor of the province where the association has its seat.

It gives the association the right to bear the title of *Royal Society* and to include a Belgian crown in the logo.

“A few years ago we had our 50th anniversary and the idea to apply for the title “Royal” was suggested to the board. The board asked the Annual Gathering for permission to pursue this title. Under guidance of our Vice- chair, Professor Johannes Thuy, who is most knowledgeable about



*Palais de Bruxelles,
6 februari 2019*

Mijnheer de Voorzitter,

*Ik heb de eer U te berichten dat Zijne
Majesteit de Koning, gevolgd door de Provinciale
Gouverneur, heeft ingestemd met uw aanvraag,*

de v.z.w. « Mensa Be »

*machtigt, vanaf heden, de titel van « Koninklijk » te
voeren.*

*Gelieve, Mijnheer de Voorzitter, de
betuiging van mijn hoogachting te aanvaarden.*

*Chantal COOREMAN
Directeur van de Dienst Verzoekschriften en Sociale Zaken
van het Huis van Zijne Majesteit de Koning*



(l-r) Mensa Belgium Chairman Wim Proost, Provincial Governor of Antwerp Cathy Berx (Doctor of Laws), Prof. Johannes Thuy, Mensa Belgium Vice-Chairman at the Proclamation Ceremony.

such things, we compiled a dossier about our association. We had to prove our 50 years of existence, mention our objectives, show an activity report for the past five years, elaborate on future projects, show our publications of the past five years, the federations or organisms of which the grouping is part of or to which it is affiliated, and so on. This dossier was then sent to the Chief of Cabinet of the King, who sought information through the competent minister and the Provincial Governor about our association. After a favorable recommendation, the Chief of Cabinet recommended us to the King, to grant us the favor of the title “Royal”.

Congratulations from all of us to you, Wim, and to all Mensa Belgium members!

the global warming hoax

- a member's rationale

There has been lively debate in British Mensa's magazine about AGWH, sometimes referred to as 'Global Warming' or 'Climate Change'. A number of scientists and campaigners, have theorised that the world is warming, that sea levels are rising and that the burning of fossil fuels is contributing to the temperature increase by increasing atmospheric levels of the trace gas CO₂. In the article below, British Member *Michael Shrimpton* explains the case against the hypothesis in rational terms. His idea is to stimulate debate and prompt supporters of AGWH to explain how human generation of comparatively small amounts of CO₂ (about 3.3% of annual output) could affect the climate, given that CO₂ is only a minor greenhouse gas.

In the late 19th century a Swedish chemist and 'racial hygienist' named Svante Arrhenius came up with the Anthropogenic Global Warming Hypothesis, the theory that human emissions of CO₂ were contributing to the Greenhouse Effect and causing global warming. With every respect, Arrhenius was no genius.

His hypothesis however attracted the attention of the chief scientific adviser to the Imperial German Secret Service, a chap of whom many Mensans will have heard, by the name of Albert Ein-

stein. The IGSS and in turn the Abwehr adopted the hypothesis.

As mean planetary surface temperatures rose in the 1920s and 1930s they seemed to be tracking the increase in CO₂ levels. In other words it looked to the Abwehr as though Arrhenius was right. This in turn led the Oberkommando der Wehrmacht to conclude that 'General Winter' no longer protected Russia and that it would safe to invade without packing winter woollies. The upshot was arguably the worst single strategic mistake in human history, Operation Barbarossa, the German invasion of the USSR in June 1941.

Our community partner Adolf Hitler decided to enter into a competition with Pharaoh Ramses II to be the silliest military leader of all time and lost. The climate had turned, of course. Outside Moscow in December 1941 German soldiers encountered temperatures as low as - 60° C. Inevitably, without their winter woollies, bits started dropping off.

As the failure of Operation Barbarossa demonstrated, the climate is cyclical. That is because solar output is cyclical (see for example the Hale Magnetic Solar Cycle) and the Sun is the biggest influence on our planet's climate. As I explain in my book *Spyhunter: The Secret History of German Intelligence* (June Press, 2014) CO₂ is a trace gas, which is why we measure it in parts per million. It's responsible for about 5% of Greenhouse Effect, water, in both

gaseous and droplet form, being far more important. Human contribution to CO₂ output varies. Typically it is only about 3.3%. A single volcanic eruption can wipe out an entire year's savings in human CO₂ emissions.

The oceans are the largest source of CO₂. The huge store of CO₂ in the oceans explains the lag between temperature rises and CO₂ emissions, about 750 years. Increases in atmospheric CO₂ follow temperature increases, not the other way around. In other words, poor old Arrhenius put the cart before the horse.

So we're responsible for about a thirtieth of the annual output of a minor atmospheric gas which in turn is responsible for about a twentieth of the Greenhouse Effect. Our impact on the climate is scarcely measureable. Unsurprisingly, the climate having turned around the beginning of this century, we have global cooling whilst CO₂ continues to rise. Broadly speaking atmospheric CO₂ is reflecting what was happening in the late 13th century, when SUVs were scarcely abundant. The fact that the planet is in a cooling phase is so inconvenient to campaigners and the UN that they have to 'adjust' (in other words, fiddle) the figures. This is wholly unscientific. If the data disproves your hypothesis you change your hypothesis, not the data.

Much of the raw data is suspect anyway. Sea levels are measured in parts of

continued. on p08

the brain's inner workings

Like instruments in an orchestra, different parts of the human brain work together to help us perform the functions of daily life, ranging from breathing and sleeping to reading, walking and learning.

But which areas of the brain work in harmony to accomplish certain types of tasks? And how does this coordination vary from person to person? A new study published on April 3 in *Science Advances* explores these questions.

The research focuses on brain activity associated with nine cognitive systems within the brain, each consisting of a network of brain regions linked to certain functions. The auditory system, for example, helps us process sound, whereas the ventral temporal association system is thought to help us recognize objects, faces, colors and more.

"We're using computational modeling to investigate the inner workings of the brain," says Sarah Muldoon, PhD, University at Buffalo, assistant professor of mathematics. "When one region of the brain is stimulated, what other regions become active, and how do these patterns of synchronization get distributed across cognitive systems?"

Muldoon led the collaborative study with Kanika Bansal, PhD, who completed the work as a joint postdoctoral mathematics researcher at UB and the U.S. Army Research Laboratory (ARL). Bansal is now a postdoctoral researcher with ARL and Columbia

University.

To complete the study, researchers mapped how different regions of the brain were connected to one another in 30 different people via tracts of tissue called white matter. (The specific connectivity pattern linking different brain regions varies between individuals.)

Next, the scientists converted these maps into computational models of each subject's brain, and used computers to simulate what would happen when a single region of a person's brain was stimulated. The researchers then used a mathematical framework, which they developed, to measure how brain activity became synchronized across various cognitive systems in the simulations.

The study had two broad findings:

Large-scale patterns in brain activity may vary widely from person to person when certain cognitive systems are activated. In contrast, activation of other cognitive systems may result in repeatable patterns across individuals. Stimulating one brain region in these systems typically resulted in similar patterns of brain activity in different people in the simulations, with a similar set of cognitive systems becoming active.

For other cognitive systems, such as the ventral temporal association and frontoparietal systems, patterns of brain activity upon stimulation varied a lot between people in computer simulations. Stimulating two different brain regions in the same cognitive system may result in distinct patterns of large-

scale brain activity in the same person - but only for some cognitive systems (such as the auditory system).

For other cognitive systems, similar patterns of brain activity may emerge regardless of which brain region you stimulate in that system. This applies to the attention and subcortical systems, for example.

"The brain is very dynamic," Bansal says. "Connections between different regions of the brain can change with learning or deteriorate with age or neurological disease. Connectivity also varies between people. Our research helps us understand this variability and assess how small changes in organization of the brain can affect large-scale patterns of brain activity related to various cognitive systems."

The study points to computational modeling as a powerful tool in cognitive science.

"Computational modeling enables us to do experiments that wouldn't otherwise be possible," says Muldoon, who is a faculty member in UB's Computational and Data-Enabled Science and Engineering and Neuroscience programs in addition to her position in the UB Department of Mathematics. "It is simply not feasible to do these kinds of tests on real people so computer simulations allow us to perform virtual experiments instead."

Extracted from www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2019/04/190403155446.htm

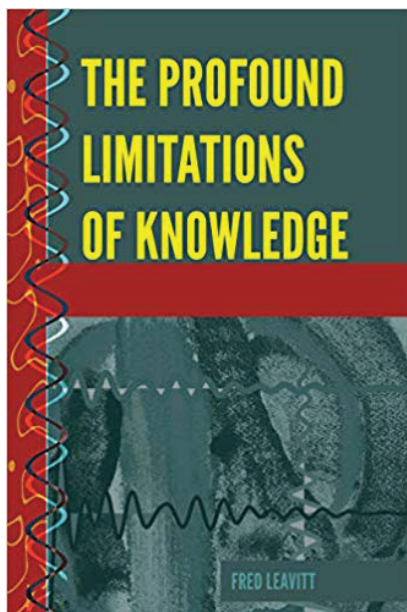
books...

by hal swindall

Fred Leavitt. *The Profound Limitations of Knowledge. History and Philosophy of Science Book 7.* Bern, Switzerland: Peter Lang, 2018. 215 pp. US\$53.29 hardback, \$23.95 Kindle. ASIN: B07LGD-WR8Z

Mensans have a reputation for questioning established knowledge, or what passes for it, and this volume is a prime example. Fred Leavitt trained as a psychopharmacologist, and has produced several previous studies on the corruption of the pharma industry, as well as how to evaluate scientific research in relation to human existence. This work is, so to speak, what his previous training and writing have led up to. As he explains in his introduction, his psychopharma education left him more, not less, certain about scientific methods, not to mention epistemology generally. Well, he knew that many or most published scientific papers are unsound methodologically or otherwise, or wrongly reasoned, or even plain fraudulent.

Beginning in the tradition of Socrates from knowing nothing and admitting it, Leavitt proceeds, chapter by chapter, to take down the foundations of logic, empirical methods, and other ways of “knowing” what are deemed to be “facts.” His second point of



departure is Immanuel Kant, in some ways a curious choice for a book whose conclusion is that radical skepticism is most probably the “correct” philosophy - or is it even possible to be correct, let alone know you are, if even accepted scientific methods cannot prove anything?! This is a deep exploration of whether and how we can know reality.

All books reviewed in this column are by Mensan authors. Send your book for review to Hal Swindall at mwjreviews@gmail.com. You must be a member in good standing; please include your membership number and national Mensa in all correspondence.

Writing for the MWJ

The Mensa World Journal is your magazine and it would be wonderful if you were to share your thoughts with the rest of the Mensa world. By and large, most of the articles are written by Mensans - for Mensans - and the opportunity is there for you to be one of these authors.

Topics can cover reports of Mensa events you've attended, your achievements, unusual hobbies and interests, or your successes.

You can also write about recent research into intelligence or any other topic that would be of general interest to our members.

Please limit your article length to 600 words and send it to the Editor, Kate Nacard: mwjeditor@mensa.org. Please also include your National Mensa and your membership number.

(continued from p06)

the world where landmasses are falling. Temperatures are measured in weather stations which have become surrounded by urban development, in other words they are measuring increasing urbanisation, not an underlying increase in temperatures.

The idea that we in the West should reduce our consumption of fossil fuels in order to 'save the planet' is risible nonsense. Decarbonising our economies makes as much sense as decarbonising ourselves.

Mensans should lead the debate!

Log into the International website www.mensa.org for the calendar of national events

workplace mobbing

“Small is the number of them that see with their own eyes and feel with their own hearts.”

Albert Einstein

The term ‘workplace mobbing’ was created in the 1980s by research pioneer Dr. Heinz Leymann. Canadian social worker Richard Schwindt wrote a book entitled *Emotional Recovery From Workplace Mobbing*. I interviewed Richard and asked him to first of all explain the difference between ‘bullying’ and ‘workplace mobbing.’

“Bullies are common,” said Richard, “but the single bully paradigm is limiting. When it comes to workplace mobbing, the scope is much broader.”

With mobbing, workers collectively scapegoat a peer by means of goading, ostracization and the circulation of lies. Mobbing can be initiated by one, or a few individuals of ill intent. Shills are groomed. They are made privy, on an individual basis, to ‘hush-hush’ info about a ‘problem’ with the targeted individual and are easily recruited. Why easily? Because much of human behaviour is driven by the ‘persecutory unconscious of groups.’

Loyalty is welded in place by bestowing favouritism and secret perks. Before long, even one-time close friends become convinced the target is a threat.

Takedown tactics can include withholding information essential to one’s job performance; skewing of productivity stats; and exclusion from collaborative tasks and social functions.

Richard related a case where the target was falsely rumoured to be having an affair with a co-worker who had refused to participate in his persecution. As per Richard, “The more outrageous the lie, the more it will be believed, as we tend to believe what we least expect to hear.”

A prototypical goading technique: everyone at your office leaves personal items on their desk. On your desk is roughly the same amount of personal items as anyone else. But you alone are issued a reprimand for keeping too much stuff on your desk. The next day, and every day thereafter, you’re chastised regarding some new, senseless issue.

According to Richard, this is something different from petty office nastiness. “You’re not dealing with a boss who’s tough but fair; you’re dealing with a boss who’s a bully. Your composure is being tested on a daily basis.”

If a target is earning good money, it can be hard to leave, but his/her well-being suffers. “If you talk to lots of people who have been mobbed,” attested Richard, “they have suffered extreme stress and something has appeared to impair their physical health.”

The victim becomes withdrawn, unable to sleep and naturally feels an impulse to fight back. If she loses her cool, the mob rejoices. ‘See, she’s mentally unstable. She’s the bully.’ Based on Richard’s experience with clients,



many Human Resource departments will believe just that. Most targets feel abandoned by HR and by their union.

Most HR departments see individuals rather than the systemic problem. “There are two questions to ask when attempting to ascertain who’s really being targeted,” Richard elucidated. “1) Who’s hurting? 2) Who’s isolated?”

Who gets targeted? Anybody. A target can be perceived as extremely beautiful, the most intelligent, the least intelligent, the most ethical or from the wrong culture. But all targets are seen as being different. “The system is losing many of its best people.” commented Richard.

Richard has counselled clients who were forced to rely on their partners to literally spoon-feed them during the initial months of recovery from mobbing. Most victims do recover. Some partially recover. Some end up dead.

Swiss anthropologist Noa Davenport, has estimated that 5 to 10% of the workforce will be mobbed. That’s a lot of cruelty.

Surely we can do better.

Cindy Hunter, Mensa Canada

This article is an encapsulated version previously published in Humanist Perspectives - KN

supplementally...

by john blinke



On the Ice.

Ice cores can be correlated with tree rings, sediment cores, volcanic eruptions, and anything else scientists think up to create a picture of the past. Hundreds of researchers in different countries are pursuing this work to understand Earth's history.

Certain markers can be seen widely: the establishment of the Clean Air Act shows up as a change from dirty ice to clean ice. The advent of atmospheric nuclear testing is seen in a radioactive layer. Large or local volcanic eruptions leave ash layers that can be chemically matched to their sources and then can be dated. An occasional insect or tree leaf can add carbon dates to the mix. But the great prize for climate scientists is gas trapped within the ice. The bubbles are actual samples of ancient air. Although they have caused some controversy because they rise into other ice layers over time - making it seem as though climate warming precedes increased CO₂.

Ice cores provide a library of climate

history. They are threatened records, however, because ice caps are melting away everywhere. Professor Lonnie Thompson from Ohio State University has been drilling cores from many of the remaining ice caps before they disappear. His work is described in the book "Thin Ice," by Mark Bowen.

According to a Youtube lecture by Dr. Dan Britt - "Orbits and Ice Ages: The History of Climate," (<https://tinyurl.com/hvjxy9q>) ice ages have only been happening on Earth for about the past half billion years. Prior to that, there was so much carbon dioxide in the air that Earth had a tropical climate from pole to pole. When the Himalayas rose, the massive expanse of bare rock sucked CO₂ out of the air. This left the global climate in a delicate balance where tiny differences in solar heating could tip the planet into ice ages. Those tiny, regular differences come from changes in the distance between the Earth and the sun caused by the Earth's elliptical orbit. This pattern is complicated by the tilt of the Earth that causes

our seasons, the precession of Earth's axis, and a gradual change in the shape of Earth's orbital path. Yes, these are the famous Milankovitch Cycles. Dan Britt's explanation is clear and entertaining.

Lonnie Thompson: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lonnie_Thompson
Mark Bowen: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mark_Bowen_\(writer\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mark_Bowen_(writer))
Orbits and Ice Ages - Dan Britt: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xgNxvF2HIN3w>

Rowdy Sun

Science News, March 11, 2019. "One Of The Strongest Known Solar Storms Blasted Earth In 660 B.C." (Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.) <https://bit.ly/2Jn46Cv>

The sun occasionally has conniptions, flinging vast clouds of charged particles at the Earth. To get an idea of how serious they might be in the future, we would like to know how bad and how frequent they have been in the past. Scientists only have several decades of instrument recordings, so they resort to subtler means, such as ice cores and tree rings. Traces of beryllium-10 and chlorine-36 indicate severe solar activity. So does carbon-14. All of these were found in ice cores and sediment cores from 660 BCE and 774 CE. They indicate solar events ten times worse than anything recorded by modern instruments in the 70 years of existing data.

Pole Dance

“The North Pole is Mysteriously Moving, and the U.S. Government Finally Caught Up.” Washington Post, February 5, 2019.

The magnetic North Pole has been living quietly in Canada for a long time, but it is now fleeing to Russia. Although the pole has been staggering around drunkenly for all the time we have known about it, it now is moving faster than ever toward Russian territory. The thing we call the magnetic North Pole is actually the point on the Earth where a free swinging magnetic needle would point straight down. That, in turn, is a vector sum of at least two strong magnetic regions deep within the Earth. As one of those regions strengthens and the other becomes weaker, the pole moves across Earth’s surface. Nobody knows exactly what kind of motions in

the Earth’s iron core are responsible for the north and south magnetic poles. But the fast pole motion might mean deep currents are changing. We can’t say what this means for volcanic activity at the surface.

Welcome to the Jungle

Scientific American, August 28, 2008. “Ancient Amazon Actually Highly Urbanized.” <https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/lost-amazon-cities/> We like to think of the Amazon forest as untouched wilderness. It is no such thing. Parts of the forest are full of the remains of cities, pyramids, plazas and wide streets. But the inhabitants built with packed earth instead of stone. Such construction requires intense maintenance in the rain forest. So, when the population crashed, maintenance ceased, and the jungle moved in quickly.

Scientists from the University of Florida found enough deserted towns to have housed 50,000 people in an area of 7,700 square miles.

Shingles

Science News, March 2, 2019. “Shingles Sneak Attack.” You don’t want to get shingles. It’s a nasty painful rash. But you are at risk if you have ever had chicken pox and especially if you are more than 50 years old. The chicken pox virus retreats to hide in nerve cells after a victim recovers from the disease. It can emerge later in life to cause painful rashes and sometimes lasting nerve damage. Two shingles vaccines are available: Zostavax, which is 50% effective, and Shingrix, which is 90% effective but has more side effects.

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MENSA MINI IQ CHALLENGE

If you would like to discuss answers directly with MENSA, you can email therese@mensa.org.au

1. Read forwards, I mean CREATED. Read backwards, I am a TYPE OF CHEESE. What word am I?

2. What Channel 2 show is depicted below?



3. Which word meaning a TYPE of MUSICAL INSTRUMENT also means a part of a COMPUTER?

4. Find a word for each pair of words below, which can be added to the end of the first word, and also to the beginning of the second word, to make two new words.

REST		STAY
QUICKS		ANITE
ARE		LIVE
THROUGH		WARD

Now read down the centre boxes to find a long-running TV show. (You will need to join two of the words together, as the show has only three words in its title.)

5. Which letter should come next to continue the pattern?

O	L	M	J	K	H	I	F	?
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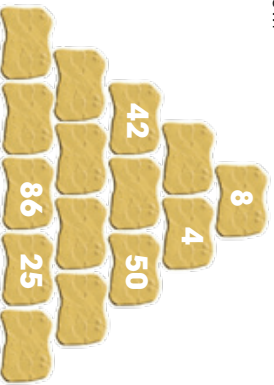
6.

1	3	7	11
5	2	1	8
3	4	6	13
5	9	?	17

7. Two words in each group of three can be joined together and have their letters rearranged to form a word that can mean the remaining word. Eg CALM - DIN - OUR makes CLAMOUR, a synonym for DIN. The words are in no particular order.

- a) TEN - BALL - GAME
- b) LOAFER - SPORTSMAN - BLOT
- c) FROLIC - BOG - LAM
- d) ARTIST - INTER - PA
- e) PRACTICE - SHARE - REAL

8. The number on each stone represents the difference between the numbers in the two stones on which it sits. Can you work out the five two-digit numbers on the bottom stones? Each of the digits 0-9 is used once only in the bottom row.

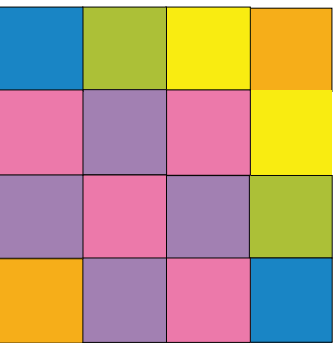


9. Unscramble the following words / phrases to find the odd one out:

SSSMPIITE POSTIMT PEPPPOORRATY CINCY

10. Which actress's name can be spell by using the letters in GERWANNY no more than once each?

11. Each colour represents a different letter. Use the clues below to fill in the blanks to form a wordsquare. The square will have four proper words reading across and the same four words down.



- Vowels
- Roman Numerals
- Musical notes
- Consecutive letters of the alphabet
- 19th letter of the alphabet

12. Brad's father had seven sons, called Boy1, Boy2, Boy3, Boy4, Boy5, Boy6. What was the seventh son called?

13. Which three-letter word can be put in front of each of the following to make four new words?

BLED MING HORSE LORD

14. All of the letters of the alphabet are in the grid below, except for Q. What is the longest word you can spell by moving from square to touching square, either up, down, sideways or diagonally? Each square may be entered once only.

N	R	F	D	J
V	I	K	M	P
A	Z	G	E	Z
S	O	X	H	W
B	U	L	C	T

15. What number comes next?

13	13	14	16	19	23	28	?
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SCORECARD: SCORE 1 POINT FOR EACH CORRECT ANSWER

YOUR SCORE

- 14 - 15 Genius material
- 11 - 13 Excellent lateral thinker
- 7 - 10 Very good
- 4 - 6 Good
- 0 - 3 Bad hair day

(9 + 82) 34 51 (single) (10) single digit
 1. Jr. W. B. 3. 1. D. 12. 1. M. 12. 1. M. 12. 1. M.
 2. 1. D. 12. 1. M. 12. 1. M. 12. 1. M.
 3. 1. D. 12. 1. M. 12. 1. M. 12. 1. M.
 4. 1. D. 12. 1. M. 12. 1. M. 12. 1. M.
 5. 1. D. 12. 1. M. 12. 1. M. 12. 1. M.
 6. 1. D. 12. 1. M. 12. 1. M. 12. 1. M.
 7. 1. D. 12. 1. M. 12. 1. M. 12. 1. M.
 8. 1. D. 12. 1. M. 12. 1. M. 12. 1. M.
 9. 1. D. 12. 1. M. 12. 1. M. 12. 1. M.
 10. 1. D. 12. 1. M. 12. 1. M. 12. 1. M.
 11. 1. D. 12. 1. M. 12. 1. M. 12. 1. M.
 12. 1. D. 12. 1. M. 12. 1. M. 12. 1. M.
 13. 1. D. 12. 1. M. 12. 1. M. 12. 1. M.
 14. 1. D. 12. 1. M. 12. 1. M. 12. 1. M.
 15. 1. D. 12. 1. M. 12. 1. M. 12. 1. M.

THERESE'S TEASERS