

# Haverford Freshmen Win Mental Crown In Test With Youths of 77 Other Colleges

**Psychological Quiz Results in Easy Victory for Quaker Lads, With Other First-Year Men Far Behind in Final Averages**

**TRICKY QUESTIONNAIRE GAVE CHANCE FOR NIMBLE MINDS TO MAKE HIGH MARK**

**Boy Educated Abroad Got Highest Total and All Five of "Team" Were Away Up When Judges Made Decision**

CONSIDER the freshman. The dictionary calls him a novice; convention makes him an inferior being; the world looks upon him with amused toleration. But he is not without his vengeance. Give him but the opportunity to display his mental capacity, and the trick is done. Subject him to a psychological test and he will demonstrate conclusively that he is twice as bright as his late traducers.

This turning of the worm has been effected with unmistakable emphasis at Haverford College, where the freshmen, hitherto despised creatures of tradition, have set a record mark in competition with the first-year classes of seventy-seven other colleges and universities.

Not only did they far outdistance all the other institutions in the results obtained, but most of them also got marks which might readily inspire a glow of pardonable pride in the breasts of the majority of adults.

And four of them, whose respective countenances are reproduced herewith, headed the class with grades which are at once the admiration and despair of all beholders.

The test whereby the freshmen scored this signal triumph consisted of 168 questions, all of which were to be answered within thirty minutes. To obtain a perfect score would have required an almost superhuman rapidity and accuracy of thought. The nearest approach to 168, the ideal mark, was the 160 registered by Wayne G. Jackson, of Paris, France.

Not, be it understood, that he is a Frenchman. To the everlasting credit of this country it is recorded that the high scorer is of good old American stock. His preparatory education, however, was had for the most part in French and Swiss schools—of which more later. The other four in the order of their standing are Francis Jay Nock, 158; Willard E. Mead, 159; Frederick Roedelheim, 152, and I. Lloyd Hibbert with 152.

The psychological test in question, while designed for college freshmen, is just about as exacting a document as any ordinary mortal would care to attack. The scope of its questions is comprehensive, aiming at a varied probe of the student's ability to think fast and diversely.

But one need not be a prodigy to figure creditably in it. As a matter of fact, none of the high scorers in the freshman class at Haverford is a prodigy. What is required is a certain agility of brain, combined with a capacity for concentration. And all five of these boys are perfectly normal, healthy young fellows with all the interests and qualities which are the heritage of their age.

Jackson, for instance, is seventeen years old, the son of William B. and Alice R. Jackson, who have lived abroad ever since his birth. While his boyhood was passed on the Continent and in England, he has lived in this country since 1910, attending the Stone School for four years and the Episcopal High School at Alexandria, Va., for three years. Immediately before entering Haverford College he passed a year at the Institut Carnal of Rolle, Switzerland, where he received several prizes and medals for scholarship.

**Normal American Boy Despite Varied Career**

In spite of this varied career, he is just as much like any other American boy as one pea resembles its fellow, being fond of sports and a candidate for the football team.

Nock, who is also seventeen years old, is the son of a writer and attended Hasbrouck Heights High School, New Jersey. The record of his stay there includes virtually all the honors which that institution has to give, he having been, at one time or another, valedictorian, editor, president of student bodies, actor and recipient of a number of prizes for scholarship. He has started off his college career by making the second team in football, although he weighs only 137 pounds. Mead first saw the light, or rather the half-light, of day beneath the cooling smoke wreaths of Pittsburgh on November 17, 1903. He was graduated from the Peabody High School of that city with an imposing array of honors and made a score almost as high as his present one when he took a psychological

examination in his last year of preparatory school.

Hibbert, who is eighteen years old, hails from the Far West, being a native of San Francisco. He is an accomplished musician, having a more than passable command of both the violin and piano. In the course of his career he has attended the John C. Fremont High School at



Wayne G. Jackson, of Paris, who registered 160 out of 168 questions.



Francis Jay Nock, who was second with a score of 158

Oakland, Calif.; the Mount Tamalpais Military Academy, at San Rafael, and the New Mexico Military Institute, where he was literary editor of the monthly magazine and active in musical and literary circles.

The one point of variance is, to indulge in a Chestertonian figure of speech, that mentally the youths are exceptionally fast on their feet.

There are others in the class who are only a whit less able in this respect. When it is considered that the freshmen as a body had a composite average score of 116.5 it is easy to understand that the five leaders have no monopoly of the class brains. Indeed, most of them were close upon the heels of the vanguard. If it was their conscious purpose, as some of the upperclassmen darkly intimate, to show how darned smart they are, they were eminently successful.

**Questions Strike Blow at Social Degradation**

From a purely local point of view, Prof. Thurstone, distinguished psychologist of the Carnegie Institute of Technology, has unwittingly become the



Barclay Hall, Haverford College



I. Lloyd Hibbert tied with Roedelheim with a score of 152



Frederick Roedelheim, who ran up a total of 152 correct answers



Willard E. Mead, who scored 159

same relation as locomotive and train, station horse hub baggage buggy.

(2) Make a perfect sentence. One word to a blank.  
The boy will ..... his hand if ..... plays with fire.

(3) If the following conclusion is true underline true; if it is false, underline false.  
Brown is shorter than Smith. Therefore Jones is shorter than Brown. True false

(4) Tall oaks from little acorns grow. Check two of the following statements with the same meaning as the above proverb.  
No grass grows on a beaten road.  
Large streams from little fountain flow.  
The exception proves the rule.  
Great ends from little beginnings.

(5) Write the two numbers that should come next:  
2 7 3 7 —

(6) Underline two words with the same relation as door and house, hinges gates yard swing window.

(7) Make a perfect sentence. One word on a blank.  
It is a ..... task to be kind to every beggar ..... for money.

(8) William has a brother George, who has a son Henry. Therefore Henry is William's uncle. True false underline one.

(9) Underline the correct answer.  
Yale University is at Annapolis, Annapolis Ithaca Cambridge New Haven.

(10) Underline two words with the same relation as foot and man, hoof leather shoe cow leg

(11) There was a painter because a citizen said to him: "You have done well for before, the faults of your work were seen, but now they are unseen."—Bacon.  
Check two of the following statements with the same meaning as the above quotation:  
The citizen indicates that long training is necessary to appreciate true art.  
He implies that science is more exacting than art.  
He means to make sport of the medical profession.  
He implies that doctors may make mistakes which remain undetected.

(12) Write the two numbers that should come next:  
22 29 38 20 24 —

(13) Make a perfect sentence. One word on a blank.  
It is very ..... to become ..... acquainted ..... persons who ..... each other.

(14) Since all metals are elements the most rare of all the metals must be the most rare of all the elements. true false underline one.

(15) Write the two numbers that should come next:  
2 3 5 8 12 17 —

(16) Underline two words with the same relation as parents and command, order child shall obey must

(17) John has two sons, Henry and George. George has a son James. Therefore Henry is James' uncle. true false underline one.

(18) Underline the correct answer.  
Dioxigen is a disintegrant, food product, latent medicine, tooth paste.

(19) Underline two words with the same relation as straw and hat, scold leather knife soft shoe

(20) All the members of the Civic Club are members of the University Club; Smith is not a member of the University Club; therefore he is not a member of the Civic Club. true or false underline one.

(21) Make a perfect sentence. One word on a blank:  
Brothers and sisters ..... always ..... to help ..... other and ..... quarrel.

(22) A book is valued either for the usefulness of its contents or for the excellence of its style. This book has useful content. Therefore its style must be excellent. true false underline one.

(23) Write the two numbers that should come next:  
19 14 18 17 16 —

(24) Make a perfect sentence. One word on a blank.  
It is ..... that a full-grown man should ..... a ghost ..... he is .....

**Speed in Thinking Rather Than Much Knowledge Was the Thing Required**

**ANSWER 168 QUESTIONS IN A HALF-HOUR**

**Upper Classmen See 'Smart' Plot in Eclipse of Their Own Mark**

(25) Write the two numbers that should come next:  
19 21 23 18 20 22

(26) Make a perfect sentence. One word on a blank.  
The knowledge of ..... important things known by ..... but unknown ..... animals.

(27) Among the various characteristics of the age in which we live not yet very experienced world, one of the most notable appears to me to be the just and wholesome contempt in which we hold poverty.—Ruskin.

Check two of the following statements with the same meaning as the above quotation:  
Our attitude toward poverty should be one of pity and toleration.  
The old philosophical and religious justification of poverty is no longer prevalent.  
The age in which we live gives too great honor to wealth.  
Poverty is rightly looked upon as not at all to be honored.

(28) Underline the correct answer:  
An eight-sided figure is called a trapezium, a scalium, a parallelogram, octagon.

**Haverford Leads All Colleges in Results**

A person who adheres strictly to the letter of this examination and plays fair with himself will find at the end of five minutes that he has had his hands full. It can readily be understood also that it would be more difficult to maintain this intellectual tension for one-half hour at a stretch instead of five minutes. This element of brain fatigue, in fact, is one of the most important in the test.

The Haverford freshmen, with the exception of one man, passed this test above 70. Only eight were below 100 and nine of them were above 140. Five were above 150 and one reached 160. The lowest man of all was 50.

It is interesting in this connection to note the results reported from other colleges which took the same test.

The freshmen of the Cornell Engineering School turned in an average of 111 as against 116.5 of the Haverford students.

The University of Pennsylvania made an average of 96.5.

Reports from Swarthmore and Lafayette show grades of 80 and 88.5 respectively, while Muhlenberg and Dickinson each turned in 90, with Penn State and the University of Pittsburgh just behind with 87 and 87.7.

Washington University, St. Louis, and St. Joseph's College, by scoring 102 and 107 were well up with the leader. St. Francis reported 88.5, Villanova, 82; Susquehanna University, 80; and Temple University 75.7. The results obtained at other colleges and universities, omitting those given above, are as follows:

University of Akron	82.6
University of Alabama	79.4
University of Arkansas	83.5
University of California	95
Carnegie Institute of Technology	86.2
Case School of Applied Science	82.5
Columbia University	95.5
Drexel Institute	94.5
Iowa State College	91.4
State University of Iowa	80.4
Johns Hopkins University	93
Kansas State Agricultural College	82.1
University of Kansas	80
University of Maine	80.5
Maryland University	87
Michigan Agricultural College	94
University of Michigan	89
University of Missouri Mines	86.5
Engineering	83
New Mexico College of Mines	83
Normal Arts	79.2
New York University	79
University of Nevada	81.5
Ohio State University	85.5
Oklahoma Agricultural College	83
University of Oklahoma	88
Purdue University	82
Reynolds Polytechnic Institute	101
Rhode Island State College	87.4
Ross Polytechnic Institute	81
Syracuse University	87
University of Texas	85.4
Utah College of Technology	94.1
Tufts College	87.8
Vanderbilt University	91
University of Vermont	90.4
University of Virginia	91.6
University of Washington, Seattle	85
University of Wisconsin	79
Worcester Polytechnic Institute	89.6
Albright College	78.6
Alfred College	93.3
Central College	83
Coker College	61.9
Earham	86
Grinnell	91.1
Hanover College	82.4
Juniata College	74
Lehigh University	91.3
Linden University	61.6
Michigan State University	97.2
Northeastern University	80.1
Pennsylvania College	86.3
Pennsylvania College for Women	86.2
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute	88.3
Westminster College	84.8
Westminster College	84.8
Wilson College	84.5
Western College for Women	82

It has been said that the freshmen, having been given their opportunity, seized it so well that they showed themselves brighter than their late traducers. Just how much brighter they are is indicated by giving the scores made by more mature students at a number of universities. For instance, the University of Michigan Medical students averaged 107, as did the seniors at Oberlin College. The Reed College sophomores made 89, the juniors 115, and the seniors 112.

None of which marks compare very favorably with 116.5 made by the present freshman class at Haverford College.

**Try This List on Yourself as Test**

It must be remembered that each question must be absolutely correct when answered, otherwise it is regarded as absolutely wrong and counts zero. This ruling naturally to the advantage of the test. The following twenty-eight questions were selected at random from the examination which these freshmen took, the only consideration being that each department of the test should be represented. For the purpose of privacy, the following brief instructions will govern the actions of the student: Do not glance at the questions until told to do so. Do not ask any questions. Solve the problems in the order given.

(1) Underline two words that bare the