

A

What do we mean by being 'talented' or 'gifted'? The most obvious way is (1) **looking / to look** at the work someone does and, if they are capable of significant success, (2) **label / labelling** them as talented. The purely quantitative route - 'percentage definition' - looks not at individuals, but at simple percentages, such as the top five per cent of the population, and labels them - by definition - as gifted. This definition has fallen (3) **into/ from** favour, (4) **eclipsed** by the advent of IQ tests, favoured by (5) **luminaries** such as Professor Hans Eysenck, (6) **where / which** a series of written or verbal tests of general intelligence leads to a score of intelligence. The IQ test has been eclipsed in turn. Most people studying intelligence and creativity in the new millennium now prefer a broader definition, using a multifaceted approach where talents in many areas are recognised (7) ---- purely concentrating on academic achievement. If we are therefore assuming that talented, creative or gifted individuals may need to be assessed (8) **by / across** a range of abilities, does this mean intelligence can run (9) **in / on** families as a genetic or inherited tendency? Mental dysfunction - such as schizophrenia - can, (10) ---- is an efficient mental capacity passed on from parent to child?

4. "**eclipsed**" is closest in meaning to ----.

- A) finalized B) proven
C) overshadowed D) refuted
E) reinforced

5. "**luminaries**" is closest in meaning to ----.

- A) exhibits B) celebrities
C) recruits D) controversies
E) cases

7. Choose the best option to fill in the blank.

- A) rather than B) as well as
C) in terms of D) for the sake of
E) unlike

10. Choose the best option to fill in the blank.

- A) as B) so
C) unless D) when
E) whereas

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B

Is an efficient mental capacity passed on from parent to child? Animal experiments throw some light on this question, and on the whole area of (1) ---- it is genetics, the environment ---- a combination of the two that *allows for* intelligence and creative ability. Different *strains* of rats show great differences in intelligence or 'rat reasoning'. If these are *brought up* in normal conditions and then put in a maze (2) **reaching / to reach** a food goal, the 'bright' strain make far fewer wrong turns than the 'dull' ones. But if the environment is made dull and boring the number of errors becomes equal. Return the rats to an exciting maze and the (3) ---- returns *as before* - but is much smaller. In other words, a dull rat in a stimulating environment *will almost do* as well as a bright rat which is bored in a normal one. This principle applies (4) ---- humans too - someone may be born with innate intelligence, but their environment probably has the final say ---- whether they become creative or even a genius.

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1. Choose the best option to fill in the blank.

- A) either / or B) both / and
C) so / that D) whether / or
E) neither / nor

3. Choose the best option to fill in the blank.

- A) contender B) assignment
C) attentiveness D) anticipation
E) discrepancy

4. Choose the best option to fill in the blank.

- A) for / in B) in / on
C) to / over D) by / about
E) among / of

C

Evidence now exists that most young children, (1) ---- given enough opportunities and encouragement, are able to achieve significant and sustainable levels of academic or sporting proWess. Bright or creative children are often physically very active at the same time, and so may receive more parental attention as a result - almost (2) ---- - in order to ensure their safety. They may also talk earlier, and this, in turn, (3) ---- parental interest. This can sometimes cause problems with other siblings who may feel jealous even though they themselves may be bright. Their creative talents may be undervalued and so never come to (4) ----.

1. Choose the best option to fill in the blank.

- A) if B) unless
C) though D) as
E) until

2. Choose the best option to fill in the blank.

- A) by chance B) by default
C) in a nutshell D) with intent
E) in vain

3. Choose the best option to fill in the blank.

- A) hinders B) discovers
C) releases D) pledges
E) breeds

4. Choose the best option to fill in the blank.

- A) execution B) fruition
C) interruption D) satisfaction
E) inclination

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C

Some themes seem to run through famously creative families as a result. The first is that the parents are able to identify the talents of each child, and nurture and encourage these (5) ---- but in an even-handed manner. Individual differences are encouraged, and friendly sibling rivalry is not seen as a particular problem. If the father is, say, a famous actor, there is no (6) ---- pressure for his children to follow him onto the boards, but instead their chosen (7) ---- are encouraged. There need not even be any obvious talent in such a family since there always needs to be someone who sets the family career in motion, (8) ---- the case of the Sheen acting dynasty. Martin Sheen's sons - Emilio Estevez, Ramon Estevez and Charlie Sheen - have followed him into the profession as a consequence of (9) **inspiring / being inspired**, to a great extent, by his motivation and enthusiasm.

5. Choose the best option to fill in the blank.

- A) subsequently B) accordingly
C) hesitantly D) radically
E) severely

6. Choose the best option to fill in the blank.

- A) imminent B) gentle
C) undue D) competitive
E) commercial

7. Choose the best option to fill in the blank.

- A) matters B) restraints
C) applicants D) interests
E) flaws

8. Choose the best option to fill in the blank.

- A) as of B) as from
C) as to D) as in
E) as yet

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D / 17 – 21: For these questions, choose the best word or expression to fill the spaces in the passage.

A stream seems to run through creative families. Such children are not necessarily smothered with love by their parents. They feel loved and wanted, and are secure in their home, but are often more surrounded by an atmosphere of work and where following a profession appears to be important. They may see from their parents that it takes time and dedication to master a craft, **(17)** ---- are in less of a hurry to achieve for themselves once they start to work. The generation of creativity is complex: it is a mixture of genetics, the environment, parental teaching and luck that **(18)** ---- how successful or talented family members are. This last point - luck - is often not mentioned where talent is concerned but plays an undoubted part. Mozart, considered by many to be the finest composer of all time, was lucky **(19)** ---- in an age that encouraged the writing of music. He was brought up surrounded by it, his father was a musician who encouraged him to the point of giving up his job to promote his child genius, and he learnt musical composition with frightening speed - the speed of a genius. Mozart himself simply wanted to create the finest music ever written **(20)** ---- he did not necessarily view himself as a genius - he could write sublime music **(21)** ---- will, and so often preferred to lead a hedonistic lifestyle that he found more exciting than writing music to order.

17.

- A) hence
C) similarly
E) besides
- B) conversely
D) though

18.

- A) constitutes
C) elicits
E) promotes
- B) facilitates
D) determines

19.

- A) to be lived
C) to be living
E) to have been living
- B) lived
D) living

20.

- A) unless
C) so
E) but
- B) as
D) in case

21.

- A) on
C) at
E) to
- B) from
D) of

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E

A stream seems to run through creative families. Such children are not necessarily (1) **smothered** with love by their parents Albert Einstein and Bill Gates are two more examples of people whose talents have blossomed (2) ----the times they were living in. Einstein was a solitary, somewhat slow child who had affection at home but whose (3) **phenomenal** intelligence emerged without any obvious parental input. This may have been partly due to the fact that at the start of the 20th Century a lot of the Newtonian laws of physics (4) ----, leaving a fertile ground for ideas such as his to be developed. Bill Gates may have had the creative vision to develop Microsoft, but without the new computer age dawning at the same time he (5) ---- the position on the world stage he now occupies.

1. " **smothered** " is closest in meaning to ----.

- A) demonstrated B) overwhelmed
C) engaged D) overlooked
E) deprived

2. Choose the best option to fill in the blank.

- A) for the sake of B) subsequent to
C) by virtue of D) with a view to
E) prior to

3. " **phenomenal** " is closest in meaning to ----.

- A) representative B) notorious
C) prodigious D) contentious
E) abundant

4. Choose the best option to fill in the blank.

- A) questioned
B) had questioned
C) have been questioned
D) are questioned
E) were being questioned

5. Choose the best option to fill in the blank.

- A) should not have achieved
B) would have achieved
C) needn't have achieved
D) must have achieved
E) could not have achieved

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Nurturing talent within family

Paragraph A KEY

1. to look
2. label
3. from
4. C
5. B
6. where
7. A
8. across
9. in
10. B

Nurturing talent within family

Paragraph B KEY

1. D
2. to reach
3. E
4. C

Nurturing talent within family

Paragraph C KEY

1. A
2. B
3. E
4. B
5. B
6. C
7. D
8. D
9. being inspired

Nurturing talent within family

Paragraph D KEY

17. A
18. D
19. C
20. E
21. C

Nurturing talent within family

Paragraph E KEY

1. B
2. C
3. C
4. E
5. E

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Animal experiments throw some light on this question, and on the whole area of whether it is genetics, the environment or a combination of the two that allows for intelligence and creative ability. Different strains of rats show great differences in intelligence or 'rat reasoning'. If these are brought up in normal conditions and then put in a maze to reach a food goal, the 'bright' strain make far fewer wrong turns than the 'dull' ones. But if the environment is made dull and boring the number of errors becomes equal. Return the rats to an exciting maze and the discrepancy returns as before - but is much smaller. In other words, a dull rat in a stimulating environment will almost do as well as a bright rat who is bored in a normal one. This principle applies to humans too - someone may be born with innate intelligence, but their environment probably has the final say over whether they become creative or even a genius.

Evidence now exists that most young children, if given enough opportunities and encouragement, are able to achieve significant and sustainable levels of academic or sporting prowess. Bright or creative children are often physically very active at the same time, and so may receive more parental attention as a result - almost by default - in order to ensure their safety. They may also talk earlier, and this, in turn, breeds parental interest. This can sometimes cause problems with other siblings who may feel jealous even though they themselves may be bright. Their creative talents may be undervalued and so never come to fruition. Two themes seem to run through famously creative families as a result. The first is that the parents were able to identify the talents of each child, and nurture and encourage these accordingly but in an even-handed manner. Individual differences were encouraged, and friendly sibling rivalry was not seen as a particular problem. If the father is, say, a famous actor, there is no undue pressure for his children to follow him onto the boards, but instead their chosen interests are encouraged. There need not even be any obvious talent in such a family since there always needs to be someone who sets the family career in motion, as in the case of the Sheen acting dynasty.

Martin Sheen was the seventh of ten children born to a Spanish immigrant father and an Irish mother. Despite intense parental disapproval he turned his back on entrance exams to university and borrowed cash from a local priest to start a fledgling acting career. His acting successes in films such as *Badlands* and *Apocalypse Now* made him one of the most highly-regarded actors of the 1970s. Three sons - Emilio Estevez, Ramon Estevez and Charlie Sheen - have followed him into the profession as a consequence of being inspired by his motivation and enthusiasm.

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The generation of creativity is complex: it is a mixture of genetics, the environment, parental teaching and luck that determines how successful or talented family members are. This last point - luck - is often not mentioned where talent is concerned but plays an undoubted part. Mozart, considered by many to be the finest composer of all time, was lucky to be living in an age that encouraged the writing of music. He was brought up surrounded by it, his father was a musician who encouraged him to the point of giving up his job to promote his child genius, and he learnt musical composition with frightening speed - the speed of a genius. Mozart himself simply wanted to create the finest music ever written but did not necessarily view himself as a genius - he could write sublime music at will, and so often preferred to lead a hedonistic lifestyle that he found more exciting than writing music to order.

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