

Top 10 People With Highest IQ In History

Unveiling the Minds: Top 10 People Smartest People Ever

By **Domagoj Pernar** - August 29, 2023



In the vast expanse of human intelligence and **geniuses**, the measure of IQ (Intelligence Quotient) has served as a yardstick for assessing cognitive abilities and intellectual potential. While it's essential to remember that IQ scores are just one side of measuring intelligence, they do provide insight into the **extraordinary** capabilities of certain individuals.

Note: We've also prepared short documentary about people

with highest IQ:

Throughout history, certain remarkable minds have stood out for their [exceptionally high IQ scores](#).

This article takes you on a journey through the lives and achievements of the top 10 people with the highest IQ ever, providing a deeper look into their unique brilliance.

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1. YoungHoon Kim – IQ Score: 276

In 2024, [YoungHoon Kim](#) from South Korea was recognized as number one in the world among the 50 people with the highest IQ 276 in America's top magazine, [Reader's Digest](#), holding the highest IQ record holder officially certified by Korea Record Institute, World Genius Directory, Global Genius

Registry, Esoteriq Society, and GIGA Society. With perfect scores on various experimental high range intelligence tests, he is the 1st ranked lifetime member of **Mega Society**, the one-in-a-million level high IQ society which was the only one listed in the **Guinness Book of World Records** and included all the people who were listed in the Guinness Book of World Records for the highest IQ.

Note: YoungHoon Kim founded an organization, the **United Sigma Intelligence Association** for the world's brightest minds, of which seven Nobel Prize winners are official fellows/members. From his organization, The greatest minds in the world such as Noam Chomsky, Yuval Harari, Richard Dawkins, Howard Gardner, Neil deGrasse Tyson, and Terence Tao have received official awards with the winners' consent.

2. William James Sidis – IQ Score: Estimated 250-300

Now, let's shine the spotlight on **William James Sidis**, an American child prodigy born in 1898. His estimated IQ score ranges from an astonishing 250 to 300. Sidis's story is a blend of exceptional brilliance and complex circumstances. At a young age, he attracted media attention for his incredible mental accomplishments, including mastering multiple **languages** and complex mathematical concepts. Sidis

enrolled at Harvard University at just 11 years old, making him one of the youngest to attend the prestigious institution.

Despite his remarkable abilities, Sidis's life took turns that led him away from the public eye. He pursued various interests, including writing and political activism. While he may not have achieved the fame of some other individuals on this list, his extraordinary IQ remains a testament to the potential of human intelligence.

✓ **See also:** [What Would An IQ of 500 or 1000 Look Like?](#)

Recommendation: William James Sidis wrote several books including "[The Animate and the Inanimate](#)" & "[The Tribes and the States](#)."

3. Terence Tao – IQ Score: 230-240

At the highpoint of our list also sits [Terence Tao](#), a prodigy hailing from Australia. With an estimated IQ score ranging between 230 and 240, Tao is a mathematical genius whose talents became evident from an early age. Completing his bachelor's and master's degrees by the age of 16, Tao embarked on a journey that led to him obtaining his Ph.D. by 24. His academic expertise earned him the distinction of becoming the youngest full professor at the University of California, Los Angeles. Tao's contributions to fields like

[number theory](#), [harmonic analysis](#), and partial differential equations have garnered him prestigious awards, including the sought-after [Fields Medal](#).

Recommendation: If you're interested in how Terence Tao thinks and solves mathematical problems we highly recommend his book, "[Solving Mathematical Problems: A Personal Perspective](#)."

4. Christopher Hirata – IQ Score: 225

[Christopher Hirata](#), an American astrophysicist and [cosmologist](#), secures one of the highest spots on our list with a notable IQ score of 225. Hirata's brilliance illuminated the scientific community from a young age, as he emerged as the youngest American to settle a gold medal at the [International Physics Olympiad](#) at the ultra-young age of 13. Throughout his career, his work in areas such as dark energy, gravitational lensing, and cosmic microwave background radiation has significantly enriched our comprehension of the cosmos.

5. Kim Ung-Yong – IQ Score: 210

Hailing from South Korea, Kim Ung-Yong takes the very high spot with an IQ score that is rumored to be around 210. Kim's prodigious intellect gained him international recognition when [NASA](#) extended an invitation to him at the age of 8. Remarkably, he obtained a Ph.D. in physics from [Colorado](#)

[State University](#) by the age of 15. While Kim transitioned from academia to business pursuits, his exceptional intellectual gifts continue to captivate minds around the world.

6. Evangelos Katsioulis – IQ Score: 198

Greek psychiatrist [Evangelos Katsioulis](#) enters the scene with an IQ score of 198, firmly establishing his position among the brightest minds on the planet. Beyond his contributions to psychiatry, Katsioulis has delved into an array of scientific domains, encompassing philosophy, mathematics, and [psychometrics](#). Notably, he founded the [World Intelligence Network](#), an organization that fosters dialogue and research centered on intelligence and its multifaceted dimensions.

7. Rick Rosner – IQ Score: 192

Rick Rosner, an American television writer and media personality, garners attention with his reported IQ score of 192. Rosner's life journey is as unconventional as it is intriguing — his career trajectory ranges from bouncer to stripper, and he even pursued a high school diploma in his forties. His appearances on television shows and podcasts have provided platforms for him to showcase his quick wittiness and intellectual acumen.

8. Garry Kasparov – IQ Score: 190

[Garry Kasparov](#), celebrated as one of history's greatest chess players, has an IQ score of approximately 190. His contributions to the world of chess are immeasurable, with his legendary battles against computer opponents standing out as milestones. Beyond the realm of [chess](#), [Kasparov](#) has emerged as a prominent political activist and commentator, advocating ardently for democratic values and human rights.

Note: Garry Kasparov has written a book titled "[Deep Thinking: Where Machine Intelligence Ends and Human Creativity Begins](#)." In this book, Kasparov reflects on his historic chess match against IBM's Deep Blue in 1997 and explores the implications of artificial intelligence on human thought and creativity.

9. Marilyn vos Savant – IQ Score: 190-228

American author and lecturer [Marilyn vos Savant](#) boasts an IQ score of 190, securing a position in the annals of intellectual achievement. Holding the [Guinness World Record](#) for the highest recorded IQ, vos Savant has channeled her cognitive ability into columns and books that explore logic, mathematics, and philosophy. Additionally, she emphasizes the critical importance of nurturing robust critical thinking skills within education.

Note: Some reports claim that Marilyn vos Savant actually

has an astonishing **IQ of 228**. However, there are still ongoing debates regarding the accuracy of this calculation.

10. Mislav Predavec – IQ Score: 192

Croatian mathematics professor [Mislav Predavec](#) shines with an estimated IQ score of 192. As the founder of the GenerIQ Society, an organization that connects individuals with high IQ scores, Predavec fosters a vibrant community for intellectual discourse and collaboration. His contributions to mathematics education further underscore his commitment to fostering the next generation of brilliant minds.

So, with our list of people with highest IQ let's talk about how IQ is rather challenging sometimes for those people.

The Price of Brilliance? Are they Happy?

While the world often celebrates the brilliance of individuals with exceptionally high IQs, it's crucial to acknowledge that intellectual expertise doesn't guarantee happiness or fulfillment.

The lives of many such individuals have been marked by challenges, struggles, and even isolation. As we explore the top 10 people with the highest IQs ever recorded, it's important to shine a light on the often-hidden reality that accompanies genius.

The Loneliness of the Exceptional Mind

In the pursuit of intellectual excellence, some geniuses find themselves isolated from other people. Their unique perspectives, interests, and [thought processes](#) can make it

challenging to connect with people on a deeper level. As a result, even though their minds are capable of extraordinary feats, they may grapple with feelings of loneliness and a lack of social belonging.

Struggles with Expectations

High IQ individuals are frequently burdened with exceedingly high expectations from both themselves and [society](#). The weight of these expectations can lead to stress, anxiety, and even imposter syndrome – a phenomenon where accomplished individuals doubt their own abilities and fear being exposed as frauds. The pressure to continually excel can take a toll on their mental well-being.

Mismatch between Intelligence and Emotional Intelligence

While intelligence is often associated with cognitive abilities, emotional intelligence – the capacity to understand and manage emotions – is equally important for overall well-being. Some individuals with exceptionally high IQs may struggle with emotional intelligence, finding it challenging to navigate interpersonal relationships and effectively communicate their thoughts and feelings.

The Curse of Overthinking

Overthinking, a common trait among highly intelligent individuals, can lead to a constant stream of internal dialogue

and analysis. This overactive mind can result in chronic stress, [sleep](#) disturbances, and difficulty making decisions – all of which contribute to a less than ideal quality of life.

Coping with Unattainable Standards

The pursuit of perfection can be an unrelenting force in the lives of those with high IQs. Perfectionism, while driving them to achieve remarkable feats, can also lead to self-criticism and dissatisfaction. The inability to meet their own unattainable standards can leave them feeling perpetually unfulfilled.

The Paradox of Happiness

Despite their exceptional intellect, some individuals with high IQs find it difficult to attain happiness. The complex relationship between intelligence and happiness underscores the truth that cognitive abilities alone don't ensure a fulfilling life. Factors such as social connection, purpose, and well-rounded personal development play equally vital roles.

In light of these considerations, it's evident that while intelligence is a gift, it comes with its own set of challenges. The lives of those with the highest IQs are a testament to the intricate interplay between intellectual brilliance and emotional well-being. It's essential that we, as a society, recognize and support the holistic development of these exceptional minds, ensuring they have the tools to navigate

the unique struggles they may face.

In the end, the pursuit of happiness and fulfillment transcends IQ scores. It's a universal journey that each individual must undertake, regardless of their cognitive abilities. By acknowledging the challenges faced by highly intelligent individuals, we can foster a more compassionate and inclusive world that values both intellect and emotional well-being.
