



## **Outliers English Exercises**

### **Chapter 3: The Trouble with Geniuses, Part 1**

#### **Part A: Questions for Understanding**

Page 71

1. Did Langan pick things up easily?

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2. Do you think his treatment of his subjects could have effected their results? Why?

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3. According to Terman, what are the two most important individual traits?

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4. Is having a very, very high IQ an advantage?

Page 80

5. What is the most important factor in an IQ score if you are to be successful?

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6. Why does Schwartz suggest having two categories and randomly selecting students from the good enough category?

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7. Why were the researchers surprised at how minority students performed in the real world?



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8. What does the author think is more important for success after reaching the IQ threshold necessary, more IQ or out of the box thinking ability?

## Part B: Vocabulary

### Definitions

**To ace** – to do something nearly perfectly

**To skim** – to look through something quickly.

He could **skim** through the textbook and **ace** the test.

**Amid**– in the **middle** of.

Out strode Langan onto the stage **amid** wild applause.

**Specimen**- a sample/example used for science.

Saget looked at Langan oddly, as if he were some kind of laboratory **specimen**.

**Hindrance**- something that interferes or makes something harder to achieve.

Actually, I think it could be a **hindrance**.

**Found**- to conclude.

He glanced at the mob, the amusement in his eyes betraying just how ridiculous he **found** the proceedings.

**Poised**– to appear ready

Langan was **poised** and confident.

**Triviality** – something unimportant

Every question Saget threw at him he tossed aside, as if it were a **triviality**.

**The gifted** – People who are really smart or good at something.

In 1921, Terman decided to make the study of **the gifted** his life work.

**Track** – to follow and keep record

They were **tracked** and tested, measured and analyzed.



**Attainment** – something reached/achieved

**Tabulated** – to add (+) all of the individual parts.

Their educational attainments were noted, marriages followed, illnesses tabulated, psychological health charted, and every promotion and job change dutifully recorded.

**Subjects** – the thing/people being studied.

**Chronicling** – recording the history

As his subjects grew older, Terman issued updates on their progress, chronicling their extraordinary achievements.

carefully measure the **cognitive** abilities of prospective employees out of the same belief.

**Gifted**– to have an innate ability

He was **gifted** at learning languages.

**Giddily** – happy, carefree

Terman wrote **giddily**, when his charges were in high school.

**Cognitive (adj)**– related to thinking

High-tech companies like Gookgle or Microsoft

**Abstract**– theoretical

It's a measure of **abstract** reasoning skills.

**Threshold** – a minimum or maximum limit

Intelligence has a **threshold**.

**Concedes**– agrees with the opposition.

Schwartz **concedes** that his idea has virtually no chance of being accepted.

**Discrepancy**– a part of the data that doesn't agree with the rest.

There was no place we saw any serious **discrepancy**.

**Divergence** – to separate

This is an example of what's called a "divergence test"



**Converge** – to come together

As opposed to a test like the Raven's, which asks you to sort through a list of possibilities and converge on the right answer.

**Raids** – Quick attacks, often used to steal.

To use in smash and grab **raids**.

**Subversive** – to damage, destroy, or go against something (often subtly)

He's a little subversive.

**Flair** – an ability

He has a **flair** for the dramatic.

**Pinnacle** – the top

He fell in love with the fact that his Termites were at the absolute pinnacle of the intellectual scale.

**Prominent** – important

...one **prominent** state official.

**Prodigy** – a person with an exceptional amount of talent

Hudson tells us that Florence is a prodigy, with one of the highest IQs in his school.

### Fill in the blank with the correct vocabulary word

**Hinder**      **Prominent**      **Cognitive**      **Attain**      **Amid**      **Raided**      **Flair**

**Subjects**      **Poise**      **Gifted**      **Prodigy**      **Chronicling**      **Subversive**

The young \_\_\_\_\_ had a \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ events. He was a  
\_\_\_\_\_ psychologist who studied and worked with \_\_\_\_\_ people to help them  
\_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ necessary to present their ideas to the



\_\_\_\_\_politicians. This was not easy, especially \_\_\_\_\_the  
\_\_\_\_\_advisors that attempted to \_\_\_\_\_the gifted people any way they could.  
They even \_\_\_\_\_the office of the psychologist to steal his records of  
the\_\_\_\_\_.

**Concede**

**Converge**

**Discrepancy**

**Found**

**Tabulated**

**Tracked**

**Abstract**

**skimming**

The psychologist \_\_\_\_\_the successes and failures and \_\_\_\_\_the results. He  
had to \_\_\_\_\_that his method was not perfect. He \_\_\_\_\_that there was a  
\_\_\_\_\_between his \_\_\_\_\_ideas and the real world application. Somehow he  
needed to \_\_\_\_\_together the real world and theoretical viewpoints to create a new  
theory. He decided to start by \_\_\_\_\_through the available literature.

**Giddily**

**Trivial**

**Divergence**

**Specimen**

**Threshold**

**Ace**

**Pinnacle**

The young man had reached the \_\_\_\_\_of his training when he \_\_\_\_\_the  
tryout for the Olympics. This was no \_\_\_\_\_achievement. His \_\_\_\_\_from  
the normal athlete had started long ago when he trained daily at the age of 9. This



\_\_\_\_\_ of an athlete had a huge \_\_\_\_\_ for endurance. He  
\_\_\_\_\_ thought about the upcoming games.

### Part C: Phrasal Verbs, Idioms, and Useful Phrases

**Show up** – to casually arrive at a place.

“He would just show up for tests and there was nothing they could do about it.” Pg71

**Threw at him** – to challenge someone.

“Every question Saget threw at him, he tossed aside, as if it were a triviality.” Pg73

**Diamond in the rough** – something that doesn't look special to start, but is very special.

“How many other diamonds in the rough were there?”pg73

**Poised and confident** – prepared and ready

“Langan was poised and confident”pg72

**Double back** – to return to where you were

“He did not circle about topics, searching for the right phrase, or double back to restate a previous sentence.”pg72

**Kick out** – to make someone leave

“He found a young man who had been kicked out of law school because his professors did not believe that it was possible for a human being to precisely reproduce long passages of legal opinions from memory”pg74

**Dole out** – to give

“He doled out a constant stream of advice and counsel, all the time recording his findings in thick red volumes entitled *Genetic Studies of Genius*”pg75

**Dig deeper** – to go into more depth



“In this chapter, I want to try to dig deeper into why that’s the case by looking at the outlier in its purest and most distilled form.”pg76

**Real-world** –practical and real

“Once someone has reached an IQ of somewhere around 120, having additional IQ points doesn’t seem to translate into any measurable real-world advantage.”pg79

**That’s all** – A way of ending a point

“...at least as good as Notre Dame or the University of Illinois. That’s all.”pg83

**What \_\_\_\_\_ is saying is that...** – this is used to clarify a point

“What Lempert is saying is that by the only measure that a law school really ought to care about –how well its graduates do in the real world- minority students aren’t less qualified.”pg85

**Smash and grab** – a robbery where a robber breaks a window steals something a runs away.

“(Brick). To use in smash and grab raids.”pg87

**Leap from** – to go quickly from one thing to another

“His mind leaps from violent imagery to sex to people jumping out of burning skyscrapers to very practical issues...”pg87

**Fill in the blank with the correct Phrasal Verb or Idiom**  
(remember to put it in the correct form).

I want to find way to help. \_\_\_\_\_.

The speaker \_\_\_\_\_one topic to another.

The city is dangerous. There were several \_\_\_\_\_raids last week downtown.

Things haven’t been working well. \_\_\_\_\_we need a change.



The theory is good, but I can't think of a \_\_\_\_\_ example.

We don't have much data, we need to \_\_\_\_\_.

He \_\_\_\_\_ a lot of awards at the end of the year.

Mike was \_\_\_\_\_ of the meeting because he couldn't stop talking out of turn.

This approach isn't working very well. Let's \_\_\_\_\_ and try something else.

The candidate appeared \_\_\_\_\_ as he gave his speech

I'm glad you \_\_\_\_\_ early. I need your help.

James answered all the questions that were \_\_\_\_\_.

The new employee was really a \_\_\_\_\_. I never thought he would be so useful.

**Part D: Prefix / Suffix exercises** (fill in the blank with the correct preposition)

<b>-ance (x2)</b>	<b>In-</b>	<b>Un-</b>	<b>Re-</b>	<b>-istic</b>	<b>-ize</b>	<b>-sive</b>
Hinder	_____			(noun)		
variably	_____			(doesn't vary)		
schooled	_____			(To not have been schooled)		
state	_____			(to state again)		
real	_____			(a description)		
standard	_____			(to make standard)		
subvert	_____			(a description)		



divergent \_\_\_\_\_ (a noun)

**Part E: Preposition exercises** (fill in the blank with the correct preposition)

If you don't know the answer \_\_\_\_\_ that question, you're not smart enough \_\_\_\_\_ work  
\_\_\_\_\_ Microsoft (pg.76)

Here's a question, typical \_\_\_\_\_ the sort that is asked \_\_\_\_\_ the Raven's. (pg.77)

Nobel Prize winners \_\_\_\_\_ science must have the highest IQ scores imaginable. (pg.80)

Here, \_\_\_\_\_ example, are answers \_\_\_\_\_ the "uses of objects test collected \_\_\_\_\_ Liam Hudson  
\_\_\_\_\_ a student named Poole \_\_\_\_\_ a top British high school. (pg. 87)

**Part F: Word choice exercises** (Fill in the blank with the correct word choice. Not all of the words are used)

**Say told like so just that then**

You probably need to be \_\_\_\_\_ above that mark to be able to handle college.

When we \_\_\_\_\_ that people \_\_\_\_\_ Langan are really brilliant, what we mean is  
\_\_\_\_\_ they have the kind of mind that can figure out puzzles like that last question.