AIMS OF THIS EXPERIMENT

1) To test adults with high-functioning autism (HFA)/Asperger syndrome (AS) on the revised eyes test to see if the deficits on the original test were still seen.

2) To see if there is a negative correlation between autism spectrum quotient (AQ) and eyes test scores

3) To see if females score higher on the eyes test than males.

THEORY OF MIND

Theory of mind refers to the ability to determine the mental state of another person or ourselves, otherwise known as ‘mentalising’. It refers to a person’s ability to put oneself in the position of someone else. We use this knowledge to explain and predict the behaviour of other people.

Although Some people with autism have trouble with something called "theory of mind." It has two parts: Figuring out how someone feels inside (like happy or sad). Understanding why they feel that way (like being happy because they saw their sibling).

SOCIAL SENSITIVITY

Social sensitivity means being good at knowing how other people feel and what they think when you talk to them. If someone is really socially sensitive, they can tell how someone else is feeling and talk to them in the right way. But if someone isn't very socially sensitive, they might not notice how the other person feels and might interrupt them when they're talking instead of letting them speak.

READING THE MIND IN THE EYES TEST

Baron-Cohen and colleagues devised their first test of adult social sensitivity called the ‘Reading the Mind in the Eyes’ test

Participants were presented with 25 photographs showing the eyes of actors and actresses and were asked to select one of two words which best fit what that person was feeling.

The eyes test aimed to determine how sensitive a person was to another’s mental state, otherwise known as ‘theory of mind’.

It assessed the first stage of theory of mind: determining a mental state from a fragment of a facial expression – a photograph of a person’s eyes.

On the eye test, males did a bit worse than females, and adults with high-functioning autism or Asperger's did much worse than people of the same gender who didn't have these conditions.

AUTISM AND ASPERGER SYNDROME

Autism, or autism spectrum disorder, refers to a range of conditions characterised by challenges with social interactions and communication, as well as repetitive or inflexible patterns of behaviour.

Asperger syndrome has previously been used as a diagnosis for individuals with autism who have no problem in speaking in front of a audience and had no intellectual disabilities.

MEASURING COGNITIVE DYSFUNCTION

It is challenging to develop tests in psychology which are sensitive enough to detect subtle cognitive dysfunction, particularly in adults with typical intelligence who may struggle with social understanding.

Most psychological tests for social cognitive functioning have been developed for children.

Grown-ups who have conditions like Asperger's or autism may have learned special ways to deal with their challenges over time. So, when we test them, the tests need to be good at noticing even small differences between how they work and how most people do.

CONCLUSION

The new eye test is better at measuring how well adults understand social things than the old one. People without autism did well, but not perfectly, on the new test, so it can show small differences between people. Adults with autism did worse on the test, but they could still tell the gender of the eyes. This shows that the test can help find social differences in people with normal intelligence and tell them apart from those without autism.

By **Zmodak27**
cheatography.com/zmodak27/

Published 24th September, 2023.
Last updated 24th September, 2023.

Sponsored by **CrosswordCheats.com**
Learn to solve cryptic crosswords!
http://crosswordcheats.com