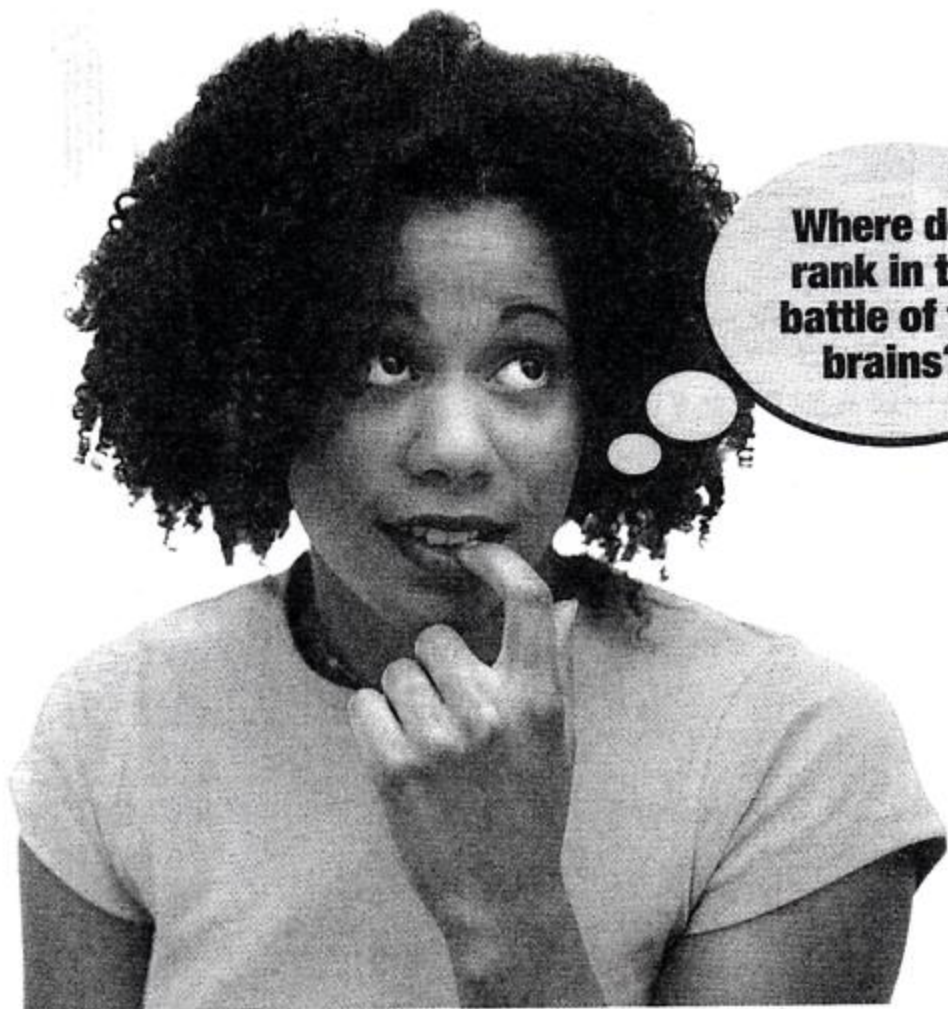


● REALLY BIG SHOW

# Test the Nation

## A national IQ test? Well, duh



Where do I rank in the battle of the brains?

By MICHAEL GILTZ

**W**E've all shouted answers out to the TV during "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire" and booed contestants who can't solve the puzzle on "Wheel of Fortune."

Now a live, two-hour special called "Test the Nation" capitalizes on the desire to outshine others with a national IQ test that measures innate intelligence rather than knowledge of trivia.

"We all want to know where we stand," says Leeza Gibbons, who hosts the show live (with comic Mark L. Walberg) Monday night on Fox.

The idea of a televised, national IQ test was a huge smash in Britain earlier this year — and has already been exported to a number of other countries.

On the air will be a series of staged, IQ

showdown pitting, for instance, blondes vs. brunettes and construction workers vs. bankers.

At home, viewers can test their own IQs online (at [www.testonfox.com](http://www.testonfox.com)). Viewers' scores will be included in the results given at the end of the show as part of the averages for different cities, states and regions. (Relax, individual scores won't be revealed.)

Gibbons is convinced our natural need to compete will make everyone watch.

"I have zero idea what my IQ is," Gibbons says. "But my husband is actually a Mensa member, which is very intimidating."

"I may have to break down and take the test along with everybody else when we do the show."

"If I don't test well [on the show]," she says, "I'm just going to say I was under too much pressure. I can't be held to the

validity of my score given the duress I will obviously be under."

"My daughter in seventh grade took the SAT and did as well as I did as a senior ... I really only took this show so [my family] would think I was bright enough to host it," the mother of three quips.

The show promises to dent at least some of our long-held beliefs about intelligence and who's got it.

"People who can roll their tongues are supposed to be smarter than people who can't," laughs Gibbons.

"And left-handers are supposed to be smarter than right-handers. Or maybe it's the opposite. I don't know!"

"No, I can't roll my tongue," she says. "And, yes, my husband can. He actually doesn't go to his Mensa meetings or otherwise I'd have to leave him."

**TEST THE NATION**  
Monday, 8 p.m. FOX