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Anytime Trump wants to take that IQ test, Mensa is ready to help

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Mensa's offer came after President Trump made headlines for suggesting he's smarter than Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, saying in an interview with Forbes magazine published Tuesday that if Tillerson did call him a moron, as reported, the two should "compare IQ tests."

By [Matt Rocheleau](#)

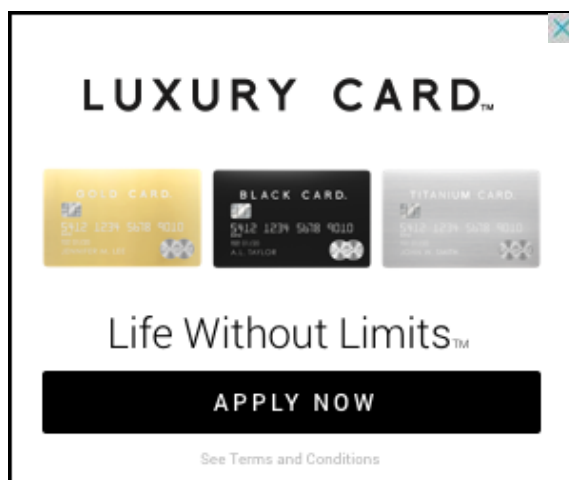
GLOBE STAFF OCTOBER 10, 2017

President Trump challenged his secretary of state to an IQ test on Tuesday, and the big brains at Mensa are ready to help.

The high-IQ society says it would be happy to administer its test to Trump and Secretary of State Rex Tillerson.

Mensa's offer came after Trump [made headlines](#) for suggesting he's smarter than Tillerson, saying in an interview with [Forbes](#) magazine published Tuesday that if Tillerson did call him a moron, as reported, the two should "compare IQ tests."

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"And I can tell you who is going to win," Trump told the publication.

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[Mensa](#) spokesman Charles Brown told the Globe on Tuesday that the organization would be willing to

administer its IQ tests to Trump and Tillerson.



Trump suggests he's smarter than Rex Tillerson

In an interview published Tuesday, President Trump said that if Secretary of State Rex Tillerson did call him a moron, as reported, the two should “compare IQ tests.”

Do you qualify for American Mensa membership?

“We’re happy to offer our test to anybody really who’s interested in joining our society,” Brown said by phone.

The organization also issued a [press release](#) Tuesday with the headline: “Mensa IQ Tests Abound in October — Politicians Welcome.”

“American Mensa members come from all walks of life: ground-breaking researchers, smart actors who play dumb on TV, championship-bound (eventually) football coaches — even politicians,” the release said. “Their beliefs and jobs are trumped by their IQ scores. At Mensa, all brilliance is welcome.”

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Brown said Tuesday that neither Trump nor Tillerson were members of the organization.

Mensa said there are upwards of 200 intelligence tests that may qualify a person for admission to the group. The primary one is the official Mensa Admissions Test battery — the only IQ test that Mensa administers, the organization said.

“To qualify for membership into American Mensa, one must achieve scores in the top 2 percent on an accepted, standardized intelligence test,” according to the organization, which says it has more than 50,000 members in the United States and more than 130,000 globally.

October, the month Mensa was founded, tends to be the busiest month in terms of the number of test sessions the organization offers, Brown said.

The political news website The Hill [reported](#) earlier Tuesday about Mensa’s offer.

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Attempts have been made to estimate the IQs of public figures, including presidents, even without actual test results.

A 2006 [study](#) by Dean Keith Simonton, who was then a professor at the University of California, Davis, estimated “tentative” and “approximate” IQ scores for each US president up through George W. Bush.

In an e-mail to the Globe on Tuesday the professor, who is now retired, said he has not calculated scores for Trump or former president Barack Obama and does not plan to do so.

“I’m enjoying my retirement! Getting hate mail spoils my day!”

The professor also said that in his research he has found that IQ scores may not be the best predictor of success for a commander-in-chief.

Instead, another measurement, called “Intellectual Brilliance,” was “by far the strongest correlate of presidential performance,” the professor wrote in the e-mail.

The professor’s e-mail said that intellectual brilliance “is defined by the adjectives ‘intelligent,’ ‘wise,’ ‘inventive,’ ‘interests wide,’ ‘artistic,’ ‘curious,’ ‘sophisticated,’ ‘complicated,’ and ‘insightful’ (but not ‘dull’ or ‘commonplace’). In your own judgment, which ones do you think are applicable to the current incumbent?”

Material from the Associated Press was used in this report. Matt Rocheleau can be reached at matthew.rocheleau@globe.com. Follow him on Twitter [@mrochele](https://twitter.com/mrochele)

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