

## **Barrio Test of Verbal Abilities (Form A)**

**ARNULFO L. OLIVEIRA**

**A**T NEARLY every meeting I attend, including my PTA, I hear comments about pupils' intelligence. These comments are sometimes sentences like, "That little King girl really is smart," or "That kind of teaching insults pupils' intelligence," or "Intelligence testing should be junked." Some comments go like, "Ugh," "(censored)!" or "Right on."

Recently, I heard about a new "intelligence" test. My investigation uncovered a copy of the instrument. I also learned that it was developed for use by teachers and administrators who are or will be working with Spanish-speaking pupils in the Texas Rio Grande valley. No statistics are available about its validity and reliability, although I have been assured that such figures could be manufactured. The effectiveness or impact of this "intelligence" test has been demonstrated many times.

The test's developer, Arnulfo L. Oliveira, graciously has consented to allow its publication at this time. He suggests that those taking the test understand several things: Their score will determine whether they go into a regular school class or must spend at least a year in readiness for school. They should, nevertheless, do the best they can. They should not write on the test booklet, even though they may not understand a sentence. The test administrator will only pronounce words unknown to the testee. And other standard instructions. . . . Following

scoring of the test, Dr. Oliveira hopes testers and testees will talk about their "intelligence" and even, hopefully, the pupils from the barrio whom they would teach.

Just a note about the test "developer": Dr. Oliveira is a native of Brownsville, Texas, where he has lived most of his life. He has taught mathematics, has been principal of the local high school (the largest in the state at the time), and now is president of Texas Southmost College, a junior college. He is a dynamic man working to improve the lot of all Americans, now particularly those who live within the confluence of Mexican and Anglo cultures in south Texas. Oh yes, he has provided a key for the "intelligence" test. —O. L. Davis, Jr.

### **Barrio Test of Primary Abilities (Form A)**

1. What is the maximum that can be legally charged by a small loan company for the money borrowed from them?

- 1% a month
- 1½% a month
- 3% a month
- 10% a month
- 20% a month

2. What does "la madrina de las arras" do at a Mexican wedding?

- Hold the horse's reins
- Hold the 13 coins for the couple
- Hold the cushion that the wedding rings

were on

- d. Hold the train of the wedding dress
- e. Distribute the rice to be thrown after the ceremony

3. A "frajo y trela" are
- a. A cigarette and a match
  - b. A cigarette and a lighter
  - c. A cigarette and a filter
  - d. A match and a match box
  - e. A firecracker and a punk

4. The term for mother is
- a. Jefe
  - b. Jefa
  - c. Ruco
  - d. Ruca
  - e. Pirruco

5. "El chante" is
- a. Hospital
  - b. Police station
  - c. Church
  - d. House
  - e. School

6. "Andar loco" is to be
- a. Crazy
  - b. Sick
  - c. Sad
  - d. High
  - e. Happy

7. "La huiza" is a
- a. Girl
  - b. Woman cop
  - c. Prostitute
  - d. Female teacher
  - e. Girl friend

8. "Tirar la miga" is to
- a. Vomit
  - b. Urinate
  - c. Sleep
  - d. Eat
  - e. Defecate

9. How long does it take to cook frijoles over a low flame?

- a. Five hours
- b. Overnight
- c. Three hours
- d. Two hours
- e. 30 minutes

10. "Oír la perica" means
- a. Hear mother calling
  - b. Listen to a conversation
  - c. Listen to TV

- d. Listen to the radio
- e. Listen to the parrot

11. "Aquitarse" is to
- a. Dislike someone
  - b. Take a bath
  - c. Drink water
  - d. Get discouraged
  - e. Sing badly

12. "Refinar" means
- a. To refine weed
  - b. To be refined
  - c. To eat
  - d. To play a musical instrument
  - e. A soothing puff

13. "Una vironga" is a
- a. Window
  - b. Mixed drink
  - c. Beer
  - d. Curse word
  - e. Virile man

14. "Ese se avienta" means that he
- a. Excels
  - b. Is a failure
  - c. Is stupid
  - d. Is a drunk
  - e. Jumps well

15. "Es puro escape" means that it is
- a. Very durable
  - b. Scrap metal
  - c. No good
  - d. Wears easily
  - e. Has intrinsic value

16. "Tirar a loco" means to
- a. Ignore him
  - b. Listen to him
  - c. Worship him
  - d. Be crazy
  - e. Kick crazy people

#### Key

1. e; 2. b; 3. a; 4. b;  
5. d; 6. d; 7. e; 8. a;  
9. c (although "c" is most popular, "a" is also acceptably argued for);  
10. d ("b" may also be accepted);  
11. d; 12. c; 13. c; 14. a;  
15. c; 16. a.

—ARNULFO L. OLIVEIRA, *President,*  
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