



# PART I

## Introduction to the Raven Progressive Matrices Tests: Conceptual Basis, Measurement Model, and a Few Findings



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The first chapter in this Part of our book initially sets out to clarify what it is that Raven's *Progressive Matrices* (RPM) and *Vocabulary* (MHV) tests seek to assess and the theoretical and psychometric principles deployed in their development. Thereafter, it briefly summarizes research (discussed more fully in later chapters) dealing with such things as heritability, changes in scores over time, and the stability in norms across cultural groups. These data prompt a re-examination of research which has contributed to a number of serious myths and misunderstandings.

In the second chapter, by demonstrating that a series of Piagetian tasks behave as if they were widely spaced *Progressive Matrices* items, Irene Styles provides remarkable evidence confirming the "existence" of "general cognitive ability" and its measurability via a series of items of increasing complexity and conforming to the requirements of Item Response Theory.

