



PART III

Stability and Change in RPM Norms Across Time And Cultures

The first chapter in this Part of our book begins by summarising research into the stability and change in RPM norms across culture and time that had mainly been conducted prior to the year 2000. This leads to a fairly detailed discussion of the environmental factors that do, and do not, influence RPM scores.

In the next chapter, Francis van Dam reports the results of a *longitudinal* study of change and stability in Advanced Progressive Matrices scores from approximately 20 to 50 years of age. Contrary to many people's expectations, there is only a slight decline in average scores with increasing age. This confirms Flynn's hypothesis that the cross sectional data which had previously been thought to show a decline with age mainly reflects an intergenerational increase in scores with date of birth. But the most striking result of the study is the extent to which some people's scores had actually *increased*.

Other chapters report the results of norming studies recently conducted in Slovenia, Lithuania, Turkey, Kuwait, South Africa, and Tribal areas of India. These data, together with those in the chapter summarising the results of the Romanian study, extend the data base of cross-cultural norms summarised in the *General Introductory* chapter to this book and those in the initial chapter of this Part of it. Once again, while the similarity and differences between the norms for these different groups, and the variance within each of them, is striking, the explanation of the variance within and between groups proves as elusive as ever, particularly as it is yet again shown not to be due to variance in the scalability of the measure.

