

HOW'S YOUR JQ?

A Jewish IQ test is, of course, a JQ test - and here are a few of the less intense questions that have been raised in recent public affairs discussions. See how you do.

1. In the late 1920s, when Nazism was on the rise, the Germans had laws to prohibit the wearing of the Nazi uniform. True or false?

2. Israel refuses to have Palestinian Arabs at a Geneva Conference. True or false?

3. Alan Bakke, of the "Bakke Case" (the university quota system) is Jewish. True or false?

4. Christian evangelist groups can use public school facilities for their meetings. True or false?

5. There are many more Jews in Israel today than ever before in the history of that area. True or false?

Here are the answers:

1. True. The Prussian Government had a law specifically banning the Nazi uniform and the swastika. It obviously didn't stop the Nazis. Indeed, they had fun with it for a while. They put on white shirts, wore beer bottle caps as insignia, and continued on their way.

As a matter of fact, there was, around that period, a German law on the books which banned the defamation of Jews. That obviously didn't work, either. These kinds of laws are known as "placebo laws."

2. False. It is astonishing that people will still make this statement after the "working paper" just agreed upon formally by Israel and the United States, which specifically says that Palestinian Arabs can participate in the Geneva Conference. They cannot, of course, be there as P.L.O. representatives.

Golda Meier has just attacked the Begin government as being too dovish, because it formally agreed to such Palestinian Arab presence. But the world, of course, will continue to call the government "inflexible."

3. False. Reading the papers, one would sometimes think that the whole case was created by Jewish organizations in order to get a Jewish boy into medical school. Actually, it wasn't created by Jewish organizations and Bakke is not Jewish. Incidentally, the brief for Bakke does not argue against affirmative action, or argue for the exclusive use of test scores in admissions to medical school. That is another myth.

4. True - if the religious group uses those facilities after school time, and if they pay for the facilities. Otherwise, they cannot.

5. False. There were almost two million Jews in Judah and Israel in 1000 B.C.E., and about two and a half million Jews in Palestine a millenium later, just before the fall of Jerusalem. That is about the same number that there are in Israel today.

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Even at that time, by the way - just before the fall of Jerusalem in 70 C.E. - there were many more Jews outside Palestine than in Palestine. There were about 8 million Jews in the world then, only about a third of them in Palestine. Today, about a fifth of the world's Jews are in Israel.

At the time of Jerusalem's fall, Jews made up almost 3 per cent of the world's population - just the percentage of Jews in the American population today. By the year 1820, Jews made up only about three tenths of one per cent of the world population. We are just a little more than that now.

One other population note of current interest: In 1948 there were 718 thousand Jews in Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Yemen, Egypt, Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia. Today, there are about 70 thousand Jews in those lands, 60 thousand of them in Morocco and Tunisia. If one wants to talk about refugees, let's also talk about these.