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ABSTRACT

To date hardly anything is known about the personality characteristics of gifted adults and their relationship to well-being. The present study therefore examined the personality characteristics (those derived from the Five-Factor Model of personality and, in addition, sensitivity and emotional intelligence) of 196 adult members of the Mensa society. The relations between these characteristics and well-being were compared to findings in a sample derived from the general community. Results showed that gifted individuals, compared to others, showed lower levels of conscientiousness, agreeableness, extraversion, and emotional intelligence. In addition, among the gifted, conscientiousness was positively related to well-being, whereas in the comparison group, extraversion was positively related to well-being. Theoretical and practical implications of the present study are discussed.

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