

THE

NATURE GENETICS
NURTURE ENVIRONMENT

EXPERIMENT

A SCOTT & SCOTT CREATION

THE BACKGROUND

*The phrase **nature and nurture** relates to the relative importance of an individual's innate qualities ("nature" in the sense of nativism or innatism) as compared to an individual's personal experiences ("nurture" in the sense of empiricism or behaviorism) in causing individual differences, especially in behavioral traits.*

Of the many debatable issues in sport (or in life, for that matter), few are as “unanswerable” as the issue of nature vs. nurture, the notion that people are either born, genetically suited to becoming champions, or made into champions against the odds through hours (and years) of hard work in the correct environment.

THE EXPERIMENT

In this experiment we examine whether participants are able to correctly place the genetic profile's (or NATURE profile) of 7 real-life athletes to their correct sport, based solely on their nature profile.

If participants correctly place the athletes to their sports, might it further support the theory that certain genetic makeups are more suited to particular sports? Might it indicate an underlying belief that the genetic makeup alone is enough to determine the most suitable sporting destination and potential success in the chosen sport?

Conversely, what might it mean if participants fail to match the correct sport to genetic profile? Might it suggest that other, not genetic factors might have affected the pathway of the athlete?

The objectives of this experiment are three fold, to;

- (1) examine whether a natural generalisation exists between desirable or suitable physical characteristics within sport.
- (2) examine the common belief that there is a pre-requisite physical requirement to excel in certain sports disciplines
- (3) examine the extent to which the environment (nurture profile) has an impact on the outcome of (1) and (2)

THE EXPERIMENT: PHASE 1

In phase 1, participants will be provided with 7 nature profiles and a list of 15 sporting disciplines. Using the information provided participants must attempt to identify a maximum of three sports disciplines that the athlete competes in. Sports can be used more than once throughout the experiment.

The nature profiles included in this experiment are real-life athletes, each generally considered **elite** within their chosen profession..

Participants should be prepared to give a brief outline of their chosen sports throughout the workshop, using academic references to back up their decision making process.

THE EXPERIMENT: PHASE 2

During the workshop, Scott and Dan will provide participants with the environmental profile (or nurture profile) of the same 6 athletes.

Participants will be offered the option of sticking or changing the sport based on the new information provided..