Russell Brand versus Stephen Hawking?

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Abstract. Apparently comedian Russell Brand claims that he is more intelligent than Stephen Hawking (or claimed that he was). Why? In this brief paper, I consider some solutions to this puzzle.

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Comedian Russell Brand apparently once said he was more intelligent than Stephen Hawking. But why? This is a puzzling matter. I can only think of three solutions.

One is that he thinks he would come across as having more intelligent things to say when addressing such matters of general interest as the nature of religion, football hooliganism, etc. A second is that he studies a lot of comedy and knows a lot of esoteric humour, including physics: he understands physics jokes even Hawking cannot, or could not. (Which specialist humour does he find hardest to understand?)

A third is that he is satirizing someone who thinks that or would think that. Whom though?

Reference

Forrester, K. and Leyfield, J. 2015. Russell Brand brags he could ‘KNOCK Stephen Hawking out of his wheelchair’ as he claims he is MORE intelligent. Mirror 10th April 2015.

https://www.mirror.co.uk/3am/celebrity-news/russell-brand-brags-could-knock-5491348