Cognitive Abilities Test

_CogAT_

Parent Overview
When is CogAT administered

- 2009-10
  - 3rd grade
  - 6th grade
- Proposed to begin spring 2010
  - 2nd grade
  - 5th grade
What does CogAT measure?

- *CogAT* measures learned reasoning and problem-solving skills in three different areas: verbal, quantitative, and nonverbal.

- Reasoning skills develop gradually throughout a person’s lifetime, and at different rates for different individuals.

- *CogAT* does not measure such factors as effort, attention, motivation, and work habits, which contribute to school achievement as well.
How do the three batteries of CogAT differ?

- The **Verbal Battery** measures a child’s ability to remember and transform sequences of English words, to understand them, and to make inferences and judgments about them.

- The **Quantitative Battery** tests the child's understanding of basic quantitative concepts and relationships that are essential for learning mathematics. Tasks measure both the understanding of relational concepts and the student’s ability to discover relationships and to figure out a rule or principle that explains them.

- The **Nonverbal Battery** measures reasoning using pictures and geometric shapes. This reduces the impact of language on the student's score. The Nonverbal Battery also appraises the student’s ability to use her/his cognitive resources in new situations.
Sample Verbal Battery Questions

Primary Level

Directions: Put your marker under the fish. Look at the pictures in this row. Kory's family has a cat named Tabby. When the family is away, Tabby waits for them. Somehow Tabby always sees them before they get to the front door. How does Tabby do this? Fill in the circle under the correct answer.

Intermediate Level

Directions: Find the word that makes the best sense in the sentence and mark the correct answer on your answer document.

On the way home from school, Lashanda jumped in the many _______ that the rain had left.

J rivers   K puddles   L flowers   M holes   N lakes
Sample Non-Verbal Battery Questions

Primary Level

Figure Classification

Directions: Put your marker under the whale. Think about how the first three pictures are alike. Now look at the rest of the pictures in the row. Which one goes with the first three pictures? Which one is like them? Fill in the circle under the picture that goes with the first three.

Intermediate Level

Figure Analogies

Directions: The first figure is changed into the second figure. The third figure is changed in the same way to make one of the answer choices. Choose the answer choice that goes with the third figure.
Sample Quantitative Battery Questions

Primary Level

Directions: Put your marker under the balloon. Look at the pictures in this row. Find the one that is turned upside down. Fill in the circle under the right answer.

Relational Concepts

Intermediate Level

Directions: Figure out the value of I and II. Then decide if I is greater than II, less than II, or equal to II.

Quantitative Relations

A. I has more flowers than II.
B. I has fewer flowers than II.
C. I has the same number of flowers as II.
How is CogAT data used?

- District 34 uses *CogAT* test results as part of the the screening step of the identification process for the gifted program and as part of the data used to help identify students for accelerated math.

- CogAT is only one of the data points used during these processes. District 34 does not make decisions about students based on a single data point.

- *CogAT* scores can be used by classroom teachers:
  - CogAT data provides a measure of each students’ level of cognitive development that captures important information not represented in school grades.
  - Growth data from assessments such as NWEA and CBM provide teachers with information about what students have learned that is useful in planning instruction.
Glossary of Scoring Terms

- **Standard Age Score (SAS)** is a normalized standard score, with a mean (average) of 100. Standard Age Scores of 89-111 are all within the average range.
  - A student with a SAS of 100 on the Verbal Battery has the rate and level of development of verbal reasoning skills that are typical for his age group.
  - A student with a SAS of 125 on the Verbal Battery has a faster rate and higher level of development of verbal reasoning skills than the typical student in his age group.

- **Percentile Rank** indicates the percentage of students in the same age or group whose scores fall below the score obtained by a particular student.
  - Percentile ranks of 24th through 76th are in the average range.

- **Stanine** is a normalized standard score scale consisting of nine broad levels (1-9). Stanines are broad groupings of percentile ranks.
Figure 1-1: Relationship of Stanines, Percentile Ranks, and Standard Age Scores
Interpreting Percentile Ranks and Standard Age Scores

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Standard Age Score</th>
<th>Percentile</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Very High</td>
<td>128-150</td>
<td>96th-99th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Above Average</td>
<td>112-127</td>
<td>77th-95th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average</td>
<td>89-111</td>
<td>24th-76th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Below Average</td>
<td>73-88</td>
<td>5th-23rd</td>
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</tbody>
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