

CogAT Parent Information

Frequently Asked Questions about the CogAT

What is the CogAT?

The CogAT is the Cognitive Abilities Test, which measures both general and specific cognitive abilities. The general reasoning abilities measured by the test show the cognitive process and strategies that help a student learn new tasks or solve problems. This test measures developed abilities, not innate abilities. The CogAT measures learned reasoning and problem-solving skills in three different areas: verbal, quantitative, and nonverbal. The verbal section has three subtests, which focus on reasoning skills, flexibility and fluency. The quantitative section tests the child's understanding of basic quantitative concepts and relationships that are essential for learning mathematics.

The non-verbal section uses geometric shapes and figures. This section helps us see how students look for shapes and patterns. A separate score is reported for each of these three areas. A composite, or total, abstract reasoning score is also reported. Reasoning abilities have substantial correlations with learning and problem solving, both in and out of school. This is a multiple-choice test.

Is the CogAT a measure of achievement?

No. It is a measure of reasoning ability in specific aptitude areas.

What does the Verbal CogAT measure?

It is a measure of verbal abilities. It includes sub tests on verbal classification, sentence completion and verbal analogies. We look at the verbal CogAT score when considering students for our Language Arts Gifted programs.

What does the Quantitative CogAT measure?

It is a measure of math abilities. It includes sub tests on quantitative relations, number series, and equation building. The equation-building test looks at a students' ability to organize, structure and give meaning to an unordered set of numerals and mathematical symbols. We look at the quantitative CogAT score when considering students for our Math Gifted programs.

What is an SAS?

SAS stands for Standard Age Score. The CogAT is scored based on the child's age (Not grade level). The SAS compares your child to other children based on age. The highest SAS that a child can score on the CogAT is 150. 100 is considered to be an average SAS.

Note: Most children who qualify for Explore, Advanced Plus or Quest programs score significantly above the mean, in addition to having a very strong MAP score when compared to students who are one grade level above. Teachers also have professional judgment forms that they fill out sharing that the child works at an abstract level.

Why do we use the CogAT as part of our Gifted Identification Process?

The high ceiling on CogAT, its ability to make reliable discriminations among the top ten percent of scores in all age groups, and its broad sampling of cognitive skills make this a great assessment to use for our Gifted Programs.

Is there a sample test that students can take?

Yes. We give students a sample test before they take the actual CogAT test so they are familiar with the types of questions that will be asked and with the format of the test.

Will I get the results of this test?

Yes. The results will be mailed home to you with an explanation sheet of how to understand the scores.

Verbal CogAT Sample Questions:

Verbal Classification:

white yellow red

- a) marker b) crayon c) black d) book e) color

The correct answer is c because it shares a color like the other ones listed.

Sentence Completion:

The farmer went to the _____ to enter his prize pig.

- a) fair b) zoo c) supermarket d) mall e) barn

The correct answer is a because the farmer is entering his pig in a contest and you can only do that at the fair.

Verbal Analogies:

In is to out as up is to:

- a) On b) over c) top d) down e) side

The correct answer is down. Up is the opposite of down like in is the opposite of out.