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How to Choose an Achievement Test

by Debbie Thompson

Below are reasons people often choose a particular achievement test.

We hope this will help you make the best decision for your student.

Triangle Education Assessments (www.TriangleEd.com) carries all of the tests mentioned below, (unless otherwise noted), and they all meet NC (and most other states') yearly testing requirements for a nationally standardized achievement test.

If you want a test NOT ALIGNED to the Common Core:

- BASI Online (Gr 3-12) – in our testing office – computer
- Iowa A (Gr K-12) – paper (Iowa A)
- Stanford-10 Tests (Gr K-12) – paper
- Stanford-10 Online (Gr 3 Spring-12) in your home or our testing center – computer
- TerraNova2 Tests Complete Plus (Gr K-12) or Survey Plus (Gr 2-12) – paper
- Woodcock-Johnson, III - paper (preschool-adult) – paper and oral

If you want a test ALIGNED or SOMEWHAT ALIGNED to the Common Core:

- ACT (only sold though www.act.org)
- Iowa E (Gr K-12) (only partially aligned) – paper (Iowa E)
- Iowa E Online (Gr K-12) (only partially aligned) – in your home or our testing center – computer
- Iowa Tests – Form C (we do not sell this test)
- Brigance – for children developmentally 7 years or younger. (Though it is aligned, it is used as a life skills checklist.)

If you want to choose an UNTIMED test:

- Stanford-10 (Gr K-12) – paper
- Stanford-10 Online (Gr 3 Spring-12) - computer
- Woodcock-Johnson, III (is mostly untimed – all grades) – paper and oral

If you want to test in a GROUP or with MULTIPLE GRADES TOGETHER here are grade groupings per test:

- Iowa A or Iowa E (Gr 3-8, 9-12) – paper
- Iowa E Online (Gr 3 Spring-12) – computer
- Stanford-10 (paper version: Gr 3-4, Gr 5-8, Gr 9-12) –paper
- Stanford-10 Online (Gr 3 Spring-12) - computer
- TerraNova2 Complete Plus (Gr 4-5, Gr 6-8, Gr 9-12) – paper
- TerraNova2 Survey Plus (Gr 6-8, Gr 9-12) – paper
- WJ – some tests can be given simultaneously but not all – paper and oral

If you want QUICK results:

- BASI (Gr 3-12) – immediate computerized (in a testing center)
- Iowa A and Iowa E (Gr K-12) - hand scored – in 1 week
- Iowa E Online (Gr 3-12) immediate computerized (in our office – computer). NOTE: You do not have to have a BA degree because the testing center is proctoring the online test.
- Stanford-10 Online (Gr 3Spring-12) - (in your home or in a testing center). NOTE: You do not have to have a BA degree or training because the testing center is proctoring the online test.
- TerraNova2 Complete Plus or Survey Plus (Gr K-12) – hand scored – in 1 week

If YOU DON'T HAVE A BA degree and you want to give a test at home:

- Iowa E Online (Gr 3-12)
- Stanford-10 Online (Gr 3Spring-12) – immediate results
- TerraNova2 Complete Plus or Survey Plus (Gr K-12) – paper
- Brigance – for developmentally 7 years or younger

If you want the SHORTEST complete achievement test:

- Woodcock-Johnson, III (all ages and grades) - usually ~75 minutes for the basic 9 tests which would give a TOTAL Achievement score, done by one of our trained WJ providers.
- TerraNova2 Survey Plus (Gr 2-12) 215 – 235 minutes
- Gr K - TerraNova2 Complete Plus – 95 minutes
- Gr 1 - Iowa E (Level 5/6) – 163 minutes
- Gr 2 - Iowa E (Level 7 or 8) – 250 minutes
- Gr 3 - Iowa E (Level 8) – 250 minutes, or Iowa E (Level 9) – 295 minutes
- Gr 4 - Iowa E (Level 10) – 295 minutes
- Gr 5 - Iowa E (Level 11) – 295 minutes
- Gr 6 - Iowa E (Level 12) – 295 minutes
- Gr 7 - Iowa E (Level 13) – 295 minutes
- Gr 8 - Iowa E (Level 14) – 295 minutes
- Gr 9 - Iowa E (Level 15) – 235 minutes
- Gr 10 - Iowa E (Level 16) – 235 minutes
- Gr 11/12 - Iowa E (Level 17/18) – 235 minutes or Stanford-10 (Gr 9-12) – 230 minutes (but it can be administered untimed)
- BASI (Gr 3-12) - 2 hours (online in our testing center, these have no science or social studies components)

If you want the LEAST EXPENSIVE achievement test:

- Iowa A, Iowa E, or Stanford-10 paper K-12 (Plus groups get discounts.)

If you want achievement scores for National Honor Society:

- Iowa A or Iowa E (Gr K-12) – paper (machine or handscored)
- Iowa E Online (Gr 3-12) – computer
- Iowa E Online (Gr K-12) - computer
- Stanford-10 (Gr K-12) – paper
- Stanford-10 Online (Gr 3 Spring -12) – computer
- ACT (www.act.org only)

If you want the achievement test we have which is MOST OFTEN USED IN NC PUBLIC SCHOOLS:

- Iowa E (Gr K-12) – paper

If you want an achievement test we have which is MOST OFTEN USED IN NC PRIVATE SCHOOLS:

- Stanford-10 (Gr K-12) – paper
- Stanford-10 Online (Gr 3 Spring-12) – computer

If you want an achievement PAPER TEST YOU CAN GIVE AT HOME: (must meet publisher's and your state's requirements)

- Iowa A or Iowa E (Gr K-12)
- Stanford-10 (Gr K-12)
- TerraNova2 Complete Plus (Gr K-12) or Survey Plus (Gr 2-12)

If you want an achievement COMPUTERIZED TEST YOU CAN GIVE AT HOME with an IMMEDIATE REPORT:

- Stanford-10 Online (Gr 3 Spring-12)
- Iowa E Online (Gr 3-12)

If you want a one-on-one test which is partly oral, listening, and writing; is NOT FILL-IN-THE-BUBBLE; allows the child to test as low as they need to but also as high as they can in various subjects; is mostly UNTIMED; with IMMEDIATE REPORT; comes with a CONSULTATION; gives a little purer Grade Equivalencies; can come with an instructional strategies report if a child is working below average in an area, or one that is used to help determine giftedness or learning glitches:

- Woodcock-Johnson (all ages and grades)

If you want an achievement test for a SPECIAL NEEDS child:

- Brigance for children developmentally 7 years or younger
- Woodcock-Johnson – paper (preschool-adult)
- Or choose the paper version of the lowest level available:
 - TerraNova2 – Kindergarten level
 - Iowa A or Iowa E – Kindergarten level
 - Stanford – Kindergarten level

If you want to give an achievement test in the FALL:

- BASI – online in our testing center (Gr 3-12)
- Brigance for children developmentally 7 years or younger
- Iowa A or Iowa E – paper (Gr K-12)
- Iowa E Online (Gr 3-12) in your home or our testing center – computer
- Stanford-10 Tests Online (Gr 3 Spring-12) in your home or our testing center – computer
- TerraNova2 Complete Plus or Survey Plus Tests – paper (Gr K-12) (Additional hand score fee if done in the Fall.)
- Woodcock-Johnson – paper (preschool-adult)

If you want to give an achievement test in the SPRING:

- BASI – online in our testing center (Gr 3-12)
- Brigance for children developmentally 7 years or younger
- Iowa A or Iowa E – paper (Gr K-12)
- Iowa E Online (Gr 3-12) in your home or our testing center – computer
- Stanford-10 Tests – paper (Gr K-12) and online (Gr 3 Spring-12) in your home or our testing center
- TerraNova2 Complete Plus or Survey Plus Tests – paper (Gr K-12)
- Woodcock-Johnson - paper (preschool-adult)

Year Normed

- BASI – online in our testing center (Gr 3-12) - 2003
- Brigance for children developmentally 7 years or younger - 2010
- Iowa A – paper (Gr K-12) – 2005
- Iowa E – paper (Gr K-12) and online (Gr K-12) in our testing center - 2011
- Stanford-10 Tests – paper (Gr K-12) and online (Gr 3 Spring-12) in your home or our testing center -2007
- TerraNova2 Complete Plus (Gr K-12) or Survey Plus Tests (Gr 2 -12) – paper - 2005
- Woodcock-Johnson, III - paper (preschool-adult) – 2007
- Woodcock-Johnson, IV - paper (preschool-adult) – Copywrite 2014

Special REQUIREMENTS TO ORDER OR ADMINISTER the Tests (Required forms are on our website.)

- BASI – administered in our testing center
- Brigance – must be ordered for homeschool use only
- Iowa A and Iowa E - Test Administrator needs a BA degree. (We need Test Administrator form once.) We need Homeschool verification form completed each year.
- Iowa E Online – in your home or our testing center – No BA degree or training is required since we are administering it. We need a Homeschool verification form completed each year.
- Stanford-10 Tests – Test Administrator needs a BA degree and some training. We have a free 8 minute training video on our website under “Testing Resources”. (We need Test Administrator form once.) We need a Homeschool verification form completed each year.
- Stanford-10 Online Tests –in your home or our testing center – No BA degree or training is required since we are administering it. We need a Homeschool verification form completed each year.
- TerraNova2 Complete Plus or Survey Plus Tests – none
- Woodcock-Johnson III or IV - paper (preschool-adult) – administered by our trained testers

If you want us to give any of the above tests, we can help you either in your home, support group, or in our office. Our travel dates are limited but feel free to call us. Groups get discounts.

If you have other needs or questions, please email us at info@triangleed.com or call us toll-free at 877-843-8837.

Debbie Thompson (www.TriangleEd.com) is Director at Triangle Education Assessments in Apex, NC, which helps thousands of homeschoolers each year with their achievement, cognitive, career, and practice testing needs.

EMBARGOES: All of the above tests can be rented to private and homeschools in NC. We rent NO tests outside of the US. If you are out of state check www.triangleed.com for the latest embargoes and restrictions as they are subject to change.