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Cognitive Ability Test Comparisions

Ability or aptitude tests attempt to measure one's cognitive reasoning abilities. They help you know "how" information is learned, (while and achievement test tells how much someone has learned).   A cognitive ability or aptitude test measures how well a student can process information and solve problems, and demonstrates capability for learning and predicts future academic success.

The ability tests we offer are the Cognitive Abilities Test™ (CogAT®) and the Otis-Lennon School Ability Test® 8 (OLSAT® 8). The CogAT is a companion product to the Iowa achievement test. The OLSAT 8 is a companion to the Stanford 10 achievement test.

The CogAT (paper version) can be administered for grades 2 (must be at least 81 months old) through 12. The CogAT (online version) can be administered for grades K-12. The test consists of three parts: a verbal battery, a non-verbal battery, and a quantitative battery. The levels for the CogAT (paper) are as follows:

- Level A: grades 2 and 3
- Level B: grade 4
- Level C: grade 5
- Level D: grade 6
- Level E: grade 7
- Level F: grades 8 and 9
- Level G: grades 10 and 11
- Level H: grade 12

The OLSAT can also be administered beginning in second grade and through 12th grade, and consists of two sections, a verbal and a non-verbal section. The levels for the OLSAT are:

- Level C: grade 2
- Level D: grade 3
- Level E: grades 4 and 5
- Level F: grades 6 – 8
- Level G: grades 9 – 12

Test Format: Paper or Online and Time Available:

- Paper: CogAT year round, Gr 2 -12
- Online: CogAT year round, Gr K-12
- Paper: OLSAT: March – June, Gr 2-12
- Online: OLSAT: year round for Grade 3 Spring-12

Test Length:

- OLSAT - exactly 40 minutes of working time. (The total testing time with instructions and a break is approximated at around 60 minutes.)
- The CogAT mandates 90 minutes of working time, and estimates the total time at around 145 minutes.

Test Administration Requirements:

- For the paper version of the CogAT and OLSAT, a Test Administrator form is needed once and a School Verification form is need annually.
- The paper version of the CogAT and OLSAT require the Test Administrator to have a Bachelor's degree in order to administer.
- The CogAT online and OLSAT online, whether administered in our testing center or in your home, does not require a Bachelor's degree since our staff is administering the assessment.

Quickest Results:

- CogAT and OLSAT Online: Immediately or within 48 hours.
- CogAT hand scoring option, for an additional fee: results in 1 week.
- CogAT machine scoring: a couple of weeks.

Group Testing:

- CogAT: all levels may test together.
- OLSAT: Levels E through G (Gr 4 – 12) may test together.

Embargoes:

- Sometimes a test publisher restricts the use of a test in a certain area. You cannot purchase the test if it is embargoed.
- CogAT is not available for NJ (Level F), NY (Level F), and Dallas ISD (areas subject to change).