

Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT) Form 7 Parent Explanation

In the Wake County Public School System, the Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT) is administered to all students in third grade. The CogAT measures general thinking and problem-solving skills and indicates how well the student uses these skills to solve verbal, quantitative, and nonverbal problems. The skills and abilities measured by the CogAT develop gradually throughout a person's lifetime, but individuals vary in the rates at which they develop the skills. Because these abilities are closely related to an individual's success in school, test results may be used in planning effective instructional programs. In combination with other relevant information about a student, scores can be used to adapt instruction in ways that enhance the student's success in learning. The CogAT is one assessment of many that will assist school personnel in instructional planning.

The CogAT is comprised of three batteries: Verbal, Quantitative, and Nonverbal. Scores from these three batteries yield a partial composite and composite score. A brief description of each battery follows:

- **Verbal Battery:** The three subtests on the Verbal Battery appraise verbal inductive and deductive reasoning skills, as well as flexibility, fluency, and adaptability in working with verbal materials and solving verbal problems. This cluster of verbal reasoning abilities plays an important role in developing skills in reading comprehension, critical thinking, writing, and virtually all verbal learning tasks.
- **Quantitative Battery:** The three subtests on the Quantitative Battery appraise deductive and inductive reasoning skills as well as flexibility and fluency in working with quantitative symbols and concepts. Successful performance on these subtests requires that students have a variety of strategies for working with quantitative materials. The reasoning skills appraised by this battery are significantly related to high-level problem solving not only in mathematics but also in other disciplines.
- **Nonverbal Battery:** The three subtests on the Nonverbal Battery present the most novel problems to students. The items on these subtests use only geometric shapes and figures and require no reading and no outside fund of knowledge. All these items appraise general inductive reasoning skills as well as flexibility and fluency in using and adapting cognitive strategies.
- **Composite Score:** The composite score is total of the three subtest batteries and indicates the overall variety and strength of the student's cognitive resources for learning.

Your child's performance on this assessment is compared to that of other students in the same age group. The standard age scores represent your child's performance in each of the subtest batteries and in the composite.

Parents of third graders may request a conference for further interpretation of the CogAT scores for their child. Please feel free to contact your child's school. Additional information regarding your child's CogAT scores may be obtained by keying in your child's Ability Profile at:

Additional Information for Your Child's CogAT Scores (Go to the site below.)

<http://www.riversidepublishing.com/products/group/cogat6/input.jsp>