

CogAT Overview

CogAT appraises the cognitive development of students from kindergarten through grade 12. The test measures students' **learned reasoning abilities**. Although grounded in biological processes, these abilities are developed through in-school and out-of-school experiences.

The questions on CogAT require students to demonstrate their reasoning abilities in each of the three symbol systems most closely related to success in school: verbal reasoning, quantitative reasoning, and nonverbal reasoning.

- The **Verbal Battery** assesses students' abilities to use search, retrieval, and comparison processes that are essential for verbal reasoning. Noted below are the different sections included in the Verbal Battery:
 - Verbal Analogies: First students examine a pair of words and think of ways in which they are related. Then they apply this relationship to a third word to generate a new pair of words related to each other in the same way as the first pair.
 - Sentence Completion: Students read an incomplete sentence and then select the answer choice that best completes the sentence.
 - Verbal Classification: Students examine three words and think of ways in which they are alike. Then they select the answer choice that belongs in the same group.
- The **Quantitative Battery** assesses students' abilities to reason about patterns and relations using concepts that are essential in quantitative thinking. Noted below are the different sections included in the Quantitative Battery:
 - Number Analogies: Students examine two pairs of numbers and figure out the rule both pairs follow. Then they apply the rule to a given number and choose the answer that generates a third pair of numbers that follows the same rule. All questions require the same processes as the Verbal Analogies test, but use quantitative concepts rather than verbal concepts.
 - Number Puzzles: Each question presents an equation in which at least one number is missing. If one element is missing, students must select the missing number from the available answer choices. If two or three elements are missing, students must substitute numbers that are provided for the missing elements and then solve the equation.
 - Number Series: Some questions in this test show several strings of beads with the number of beads shown beneath each string. The numbers make a pattern. Students must discover the pattern and then select the string of beads that comes next in the sequence. Other questions show only the series of numbers and require the same processes.
- The **Nonverbal Battery** assesses students' abilities to reason with somewhat more novel questions that use spatial and figural content. Noted below are the different sections included in the Nonverbal Battery:
 - Figure Matrices: Each item presents a 2 by 2 matrix with one empty cell. Students examine the two pictures in the top row to determine how they are related. Then they apply this relationship to the picture in the bottom row and choose the answer that generates a second pair of pictures related to each other in the same way as the first pair.
 - Paper Folding: Students look at pictures of a piece of paper being folded and holes being punched in the folded paper. Then they select the picture that shows how the paper looks when it is unfolded.
 - Figure Classification: For each question, students must determine how three figures are similar and then select the answer choice that is most like the first three figures.

Question and Answer Format

Questions are in multiple-choice format. Students read the questions and answer choices and then mark their answers on their answer sheet or folder.

Sample Questions

Each test begins with one or more sample questions to give students practice with the content and format of the test.

Test Descriptions

Noted below are descriptions of each test:

How does Libertyville District 70 use the CogAT test results?

The Cognitive Abilities Test is group-administered each February. CogAT scores are reviewed to determine which students qualify for additional testing for gifted services and to inform teaching and learning. Parents and teachers will receive information about how they can review online ability profiles that provide additional information such as characteristics and instructional suggestions for students with specific CogAT profiles.