



What is "Intelligence" Testing?



Understanding the types of assessments and evaluations that are used to measure your child's learning, aptitude, and cognitive ability will help you make the best decisions for their future. Intelligence testing is one type of test used.

What is an "Intelligence" Test?

An intelligence test is an individually administered test used to determine a person's level of intelligence by measuring their ability to solve problems, form concepts, reason, acquire detail, and perform other intellectual tasks.

It comprises mental, verbal, and performance tasks of graded difficulty that have been standardized by use on a representative sample of the population. Examples of intelligence tests include the Stanford-Binet Intelligence Scale and the Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale. An intelligence test can also be called an intelligence scale.



But what does IQ mean?

"IQ" stands for intelligence quotient: a standard measure of an individual's intelligence level based on psychological tests. In the early years of intelligence testing, IQ was calculated by dividing the mental age by the chronological age and multiplying by 100 to produce a ratio IQ. This concept has now mostly been replaced by the deviation IQ, which is found in the difference of an individual score from the average score.

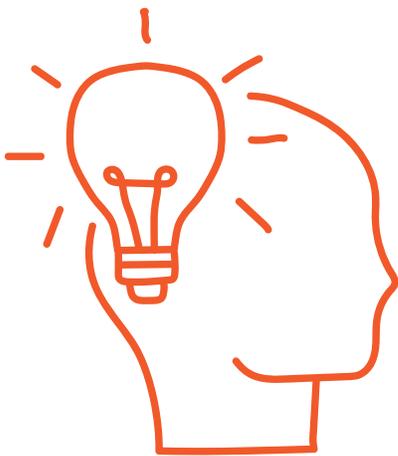
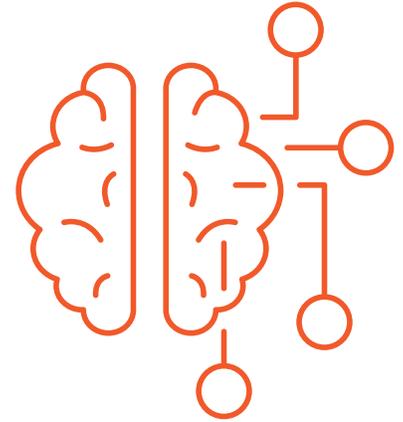


The average IQ is typically 100, with slightly more than two-thirds of all scores falling within plus or minus 15 points of the average. More than 95% of all scores fall between 70 (30 pts below the average) and 130 (30 pts above the average).



But what does IQ mean? (cont.)

Some tests yield more specific IQ scores, such as a verbal IQ, which measures verbal intelligence, and a performance IQ, which measures nonverbal intelligence. Differences between the two can be used diagnostically to detect learning disabilities or specific cognitive challenges. Additional data are often derived from IQ tests, such as performance speed, freedom from distractibility, verbal comprehension, and perceptual organization ability.



What are some concerns with IQ and other intelligence scales?

There are critics who consider the concept of IQ (and other intelligence scales) to be flawed. They point out that the IQ test is more a measure of previously learned skills and knowledge than of native ability and that many participants are simply not accustomed to sitting still and following orders (conditions that such tests require), although they function well in the real world. These tests can also lack cultural responsiveness and assume dominant culture traits in the test takers. Still, this data can be beneficial to help develop a holistic picture of your child's abilities.