



Queen Anne's County Public Schools

Preparing World-Class Students Through Everyday Excellence

CogAT **Cognitive Abilities Test** **Report to Parents**

Recently Queen Anne's County Public Schools Grades 3 & 5 took the *Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT)*. This letter reports the test results and can help you understand his/her scores.

What does CogAT measure?

CogAT measures learned reasoning and problem-solving skills in three different areas; verbal, quantitative, and nonverbal. Reasoning skills develop gradually throughout a person's lifetime and at different rates for different individuals. Reasoning abilities are good predictors of success in school and are important outcomes of good schooling. *CogAT* does not measure such factors as effort, attention, motivation, and work habits, which also contribute importantly to school achievement.

Why was CogAT administered?

- Teachers use *CogAT* scores to help students learn more effectively. For example, if a student's score profile shows an uneven pattern of relative strength and weakness, the teacher can provide challenging opportunities for the student to do the kind of thinking he/she does best (building on the student's strength). The teacher can also support aspects of new tasks that rely on a student's relative weakness. When the student has established a foothold in an area, the teacher can guide her/him to develop the relatively weaker reasoning skill by applying this skill to be familiar task (strengthening the student's weakness).
- The school district will also use the *CogAT* test results to help identify academically gifted students.

How do the three batteries of CogAT differ?

- The **Verbal Battery** measures flexibility, fluency, and adaptability in reasoning with verbal materials and in solving verbal problems. These reasoning abilities play an important role in reading comprehension, critical thinking, writing, and virtually all verbal learning tasks.
- The **Quantitative Battery** measures quantitative reasoning skills; flexibility and fluency in working with quantitative symbols and concepts; and the ability to organize, structure, and give meaning to an unordered set of numerals and mathematical symbols. These reasoning skills are significantly related to problem solving in mathematics and other disciplines.
- The **Nonverbal Battery** measures reasoning using geometric shapes and figures. To perform successfully, students must invent strategies for solving novel problems. They must be flexible in using these strategies and accurate in implementing them.

What is this student's relative standing on each battery and the composite?

Because *CogAT* is nationally normed, an individual's test performance can be compared with the test performance of other students throughout the nation who are the same age.



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Understanding the Score Profile:

Since CogAT's inception, the authors have encouraged teachers to focus on the student's scores on the three separate CogAT batteries rather than on the student's Composite score. The scores on the three batteries make up a student's score profile. CogAT score profiles identify both the level of the student's scores and the pattern of scores across the batteries.



Abilities	Age Scores			APR Graph				
	Standard Age Score	Age Stanine	Age Percentile Rank	1	25	50	75	99
Verbal	106	6	65					
Quantitative	112	7	77					
Nonverbal	94	4	35					
Composite (VGN)	104	6	60					

Stanine scores range from a low of 1 to a high of 9. Stanines are groupings of percentile ranks. A higher stanine equates with a higher level of cognitive abilities development. A comparison of Stanines and Percentile Ranks are summarized in the table below:

Stanine	Percentile Rank	Description
9	96-99	Very High
8	89-95	Above Average
7	77-88	Above Average
6	60-76	Average
5	40-59	Average
4	23-39	Average
3	11-22	Below Average
2	4-10	Below Average
1	1-3	Very Low

In the short paragraph at the bottom of the page, you'll see an "Ability Profile." You can use this profile code at the website www.cogat.com to receive more information about the CogAT test and your child's scores.