

How Cognitive Skills Relate to Arkansas Comprehensive Testing, Assessment and Accountability Program Questions



Reading:

Cognitive Skill	Application to ACTAAP Questions	BrainWare Safari Exercises Developing the Skill
<p>Sustained Attention – the ability to stay on task for a sustained period of time.</p>	<p>Reading a passage for comprehension requires sustained attention. If attention is not sustained, parts of the passage may not be processed or understood.</p>	<p>Most BrainWare Safari exercises work on sustained attention, including <i>Iguana Lookout, Jungle Labyrinth, Rhythm Ribbet, and Slithering Symbols.</i></p>
<p>Visual Sequential Memory – the ability to recall a sequence of bits of information in the same order as originally received.</p>	<p>Given a series of events from a story passage, a question which asks students which event happened first would test visual sequential memory.</p>	<p><i>Arrow Point Bridge, Bear Shuffle, Rhythm Ribbet and Slithering Symbols</i> are exercises that work on visual sequential memory.</p>
<p>Conceptual Thinking – the ability to recognize a collection of features that go together to create an idea or category of ideas.</p>	<p>After reading a short passage, a question which asks, “Which of these is the main conflict in the passage?”</p>	<p><i>Ancient Logic and Reasoning and Llama Logic</i> help develop conceptual thinking skills.</p>

There are many cognitive skills involved in learning as well as being tested on what one has learned. This document provides examples of how the ACTAAP places demands on cognitive skills. This is not meant to provide a complete perspective on cognitive skills or a thorough analysis of the ACTAAP. These are simply examples for illustration. BrainWare Safari is a product of Learning Enhancement Corporation. It is a comprehensive program that develops 41 cognitive skills in a fun and entertaining video game format. For more information, contact Learning Enhancement Corporation at www.BrainWareforYou.com or 877-BRAIN-10 (877-272-4610). Examples taken from ACTAAP released items grade 4 and Science Standards K-8 materials.

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Mathematics:

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<p>Visualization – the ability to recall an image of what has been seen and to mentally manipulate and change aspects of that image in the mind.</p>	<p>Given a picture of two identical circles and a long rectangle, “Mr. Joyner asked his students to construct 3-D shapes using construction paper and tape. Which of the following shapes could Marlene make from the three shapes above?”</p>	<p>Most BrainWare Safari exercises develop visualization skills. Such exercises include Cave Comparisons, Piranha Pass, Web Weaving, and Whispering Waterfall.</p>
<p>Oculomotor – the ability to use the eyes efficiently to read and gather information from the environment.</p>	<p>Shown one shaded figure and one partially shaded figure, “Stanley’s mom made 2 sandwiches for his lunch. She cut each into 4 pieces. Stanley ate only the shaded portions. What fraction of the sandwiches did he eat?”</p>	<p>Iguana Lookout, Jungle Labyrinth, Piranha Pass, Sky Scanning and Turtle Recall address oculomotor skills.</p>
<p>Working Memory – the ability to hold information in the mind while performing a mental operation on it.</p>	<p>“Larissa needs to bake 120 cookies. If there are 30 cookies in a batch, how many batches does she need to bake?”</p>	<p>Bear Shuffle, Cave Comparisons, Memory Mountain and Tree Tic-Tac-Toe are among the exercises that improve working memory skills.</p>

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Science:

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<p>Visual Discrimination – the ability to distinguish differences.</p>	<p>A question in which students “compare and contrast characteristics of unicellular organisms and multi-cellular organisms” from images or pictures.</p>	<p>BrainWare Safari exercises that develop visual discrimination include Cave Comparisons, Jumping Jaguar Flash, Sky Scanning and Volcanic Patterns.</p>
<p>Reasoning – the ability to form concepts and solve problems using unfamiliar information.</p>	<p>A question in which students must “investigate how global patterns of water currents influence local weather.”</p>	<p>Ancient Logic and Reasoning and Piranha Pass are two of the exercises that develop reasoning skills.</p>
<p>Logic – the ability to reason and think rationally and analytically.</p>	<p>A question in which students must “suggest solutions to real world problems by analyzing scientific data.”</p>	<p>Llama Logic and Tree Tic-Tac-Toe are two of the exercises that develop logic skills.</p>

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