

How Cognitive Skills Relate to **South Carolina** Palmetto Achievement Challenge Test Questions



Reading:

Cognitive Skill	Application to PACT Questions	BrainWare Safari Exercises Developing the Skill
<p><i>Sustained Attention</i> – 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><i>Visual Sequential Memory</i> – the ability to recall a sequence of bits of information in the same order as originally received.</p>	<p>A question which asks students “to tell and retell stories and events in logical order,” such as asking which event happened first in a passage.</p>	<p><i>Arrow Point Bridge, Bear Shuffle, Rhythm Ribbet and Slithering Symbols</i> are exercises that work on visual sequential memory.</p>
<p><i>Conceptual Thinking</i> – the ability to recognize a collection of features that go together to create an idea or category of ideas.</p>	<p>After reading a passage, “What is the main purpose the author had for writing this article?”</p>	<p><i>Ancient Logic and Reasoning</i> and <i>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 PACT places demands on cognitive skills. This is not meant to provide a complete perspective on cognitive skills or a thorough analysis of the PACT. 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 grade 1-8 released PACT items and curriculum standards 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>A question in which students must “predict the results of geometric motion of shapes including combinations of translations (slides), reflections (flips), and rotations (turns).”</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>A question which asks students to “choose appropriate models of two- and three-dimensional shapes from descriptions of attributes.”</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>“Ms. Foster’s class wants to go on a field trip to Atlanta, Georgia. The 520-mile round trip will take 11 hours. The class must pay for the bus driver and the mileage. If the bus driver earns \$8.50 per hour and the cost of the bus is \$0.93 per mile, how much will the trip cost the class?”</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>“Three friends counted how many airplanes they saw in the sky. The table shows the number of airplanes they counted. How many more airplanes did Mae count than Tyrone?”</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>“Donna is investigating solutions made by mixing Liquid M with other liquids. The table shows the results of her investigation. Which is the best conclusion based on Donna’s results?”</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>“Kevin watches his mother make bread. He observes that she dissolves the yeast in warm water. He wonders if the temperature of the water affects how high the dough will rise. Based on his observations, which hypothesis would be best for Kevin to investigate?”</p>	<p>Llama Logic and Tree Tic-Tac-Toe are two of the exercises that develop logic skills.</p>

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