

How Cognitive Skills Relate to West Virginia Educational Standards Test Questions



Reading:

Cognitive Skill	Application to WESTEST 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>After reading a short passage, “Fill in the chart below with two problems Sarah had while making the bird feeder. Then show how she solved each problem.”</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 short passage, “What is the most likely reason Lafitte buried his treasure in different places?”</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 WESTEST places demands on cognitive skills. This is not meant to provide a complete perspective on cognitive skills or a thorough analysis of the WESTEST. 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 WESTEST released constructive response items grade 5 (Math, Reading) and grades 5-6 (Science).

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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>“The picture below shows the number of squares needed to make different numbers of steps in a staircase. If this pattern continues, how many squares will be in a 7–step staircase?”</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 a series of different triangles, “Hal drew a triangle that has two sides with equal lengths, and one angle that measures more than 90°. Which two of these triangles could be Hal's triangle?”</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>“Maria left her home at 8:15 A.M. She arrived at work at 8:40 A.M. Maria left work at 5:10 P.M. It took Maria 10 minutes longer to get home than it took her to get to work. What time did Maria get home?”</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 are asked to read a chart or graph would test visual discrimination.</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>Shown a picture of Stonehenge, “This stone structure below was probably used by the ancient Britons as a simple calendar and tool to predict the seasons. Describe two reasons why the ancient Britons needed to predict the seasons.”</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>Shown a food-chain diagram, “How would each of the other three populations of organisms be affected if the stray cat was taken to an animal shelter?”</p>	<p>Llama Logic and Tree Tic-Tac-Toe are two of the exercises that develop logic skills.</p>

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