



Pre-Admissions Testing for Independent Elementary Schools

The Wechsler Preschool and Primary Scale of Intelligence (WPPSI-IV) is the instrument most frequently used to explore a child's educational needs and intellectual ability in preparation for admission to an Independent/Private school.

The WPPSI-IV is an intelligence test designed for children ages 2 years 6 months to 7 years 7 months developed by David Wechsler in 1967. The current revision, WPPSI-IV, provides subtest and composite scores that represent intellectual functioning in verbal and performance cognitive domains, as well as providing a composite score that represents a child's general intellectual ability (i.e., Full Scale).

The WPPSI-IV provides Verbal and Performance IQ scores as well as the Full Scale IQ. Quotient and Composite scores have a mean of 100 and a standard deviation of 15. Subtest scaled scores have a mean of 10 and a standard deviation of 3. For Quotient and Composite scores, below 70 is Extremely Low, 70-79 is Borderline, 80-89 is Low Average, 90-109 is Average, 110-119 is High Average, 120-129 is Superior, 130 and above is Very Superior. This is true for all Wechsler Scales.

The WPPSI-IV is composed of 13 subtests. Often certain subtests are omitted for pre-admissions testing as their function is beyond the scope necessary for school admission decisions. The subtests that are typically included in the pre-admissions battery are as follows:

- *Block Design* - While viewing a constructed model or a picture in a Stimulus Book, the child uses one- or two-color blocks to re-create the design within a specified time limit.
- *Information* - For Picture Items, the child responds to a question by choosing a picture from four response options. For Verbal Items, the child answers questions that address a broad range of general knowledge topics.
- *Matrix Reasoning* - The child looks at an incomplete matrix and selects the missing portion from 4 or 5 response options.
- *Similarities* - The child is read an incomplete sentence containing two concepts that share a common characteristic and asked to complete the sentence by providing a response that reflects the shared characteristic.
- *Picture Memory* - The child views a stimulus page of one or more pictures for a specified time and then selects the pictures from options on a response page.
- *Bug Search* - The child scans a search group and stamps the bug that matches the target bug in each row.
- *Picture Concepts* - The child is presented with two or three rows of pictures and chooses one picture from each row to form a group with a common characteristic.
- *Cancellation* - The child scans structured and unstructured arrangements of pictures and marks target pictures in each arrangement.
- *Zoo Locations* - The child views one or more animal cards placed on a zoo layout for a specified time and then places each card in the previously viewed location
- *Object Assembly* - The child is presented with the pieces of a puzzle in a standard arrangement and fits the pieces together to form a meaningful whole within 90 seconds.