ICENI

APT // ACADEMIC PROFILING TEST

ASSESSMENT INFORMATION PACK

APT ASSESSMENT

OUR TEST

The Academic Profiling Test (APT) has been created to provide a comprehensive assessment of a student's academic skills. It is a collaboration between experts in assessment, former headmasters and educationalists using the highest quality teacher-written test questions and adaptive technology provided by our technology partners, Atom Learning.

The APT can be used to demonstrate performance to future schools or monitor academic progress, or even as practice for other reasoning-type tests such as UKiset, ISEB Pretest or 11+ entrance exams.

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

The APT is taken at home on a computer or laptop, the test is accessed online. The whole assessment takes less than 2 hours.

There are 4 sections to the test:
- English
- Maths
- Verbal Reasoning
- Non-Verbal Reasoning

HOW DO I REGISTER?

Head to **www.icenimastermind.org** to learn more or contact **jon@icenimastermind.org** to register a candidate to take the assessment.

ASSESSMENT FEATURES

FULLY ADAPTIVE TESTS
Question difficulty adapts to the candidate's ability

STANDARDISED SCORES
Age-related results compare candidates with UK students

DELIVERED AT HOME
APT is taken on your own computer or laptop at a time that suits you

EXTENSIVE REPORTING
Clear and comprehensive results are provided within 24 hours of your test

UNDERSTANDING RESULTS

THE OVERALL SCORE

The Overall Score is an average of the candidate's English, Maths, Verbal and Non-Verbal Standard Age Scores. It is a broad indicator of their performance in the APT.

An average independent school student would score 100 in this assessment; the highest mark is 150, and the lowest is 50.

STANDARD AGE SCORES

The **Standard Age Score** (SAS) is the main measurement we derive from the APT. It is commonly used in standardised assessments to account for the candidate's age and the difficulty of the questions they have answered.

The SAS is calculated by taking the performance score, adjusting it for age and placing it on a scale that compares performance against a representative sample of candidates who have taken the same test.

An average score is 100. Most candidates score between 90 – 110, this is commonly referred to as the 'normal range'. Candidates scoring higher than 110 are statistically stronger than others of the same age; and those scoring less than 90 are weaker than their peers. The lowest score is 50, and the highest is 150.

The **Stanine (ST)** places the candidate's score on a scale of
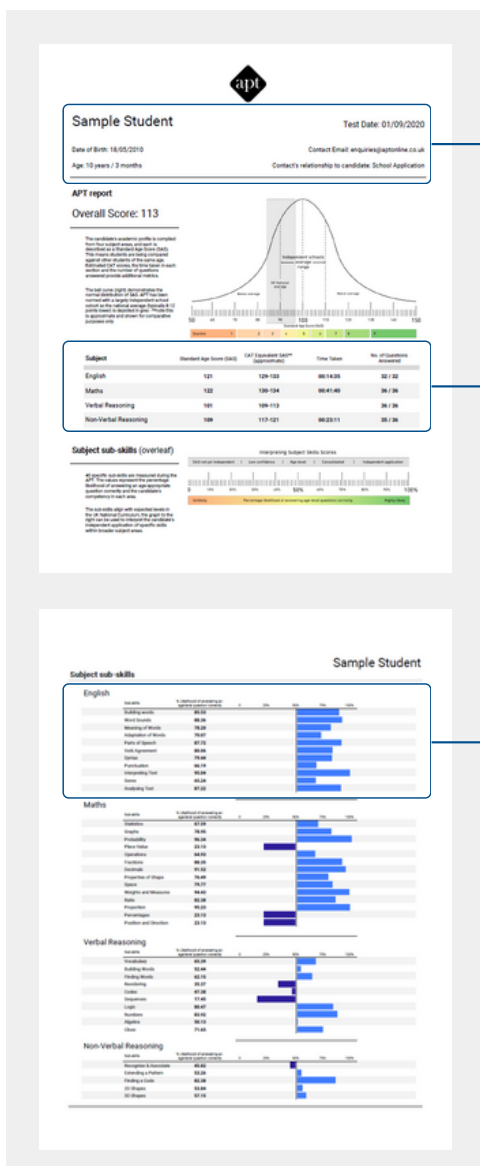1 (low) to 9 (high) and offers a broad overview of his or her performance.

CAT EQUIVALENT SCORES

The APT scores can be adjusted to provide an indicative score on UK national assessments such as GL Assessment's CAT (4th Ed.) and Cambridge Assessment's Centre for Evaluation and Monitoring (CEM).

Many UK schools use these assessments to monitor student progress and learning performance. An approximate score is provided as part of APT's report to help schools apply APT scores to their internal academic measures. CAT scores are also standardised like the APT, so a score of 100 in this column would indicate an average score in a nationally standardised assessment. A score in the range of 108-112 indicates a typical UK independent school score.

Note these scores on the APT are approximate and are provided for indicative purposes only

RESULTS REPORTS

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

Candidate's name, date of birth, the contact details of their consultant and age on the day of the test

SUBJECT PERFORMANCE

A full breakdown of scores for each subject (English, Maths, Verbal and Non-Verbal Reasoning) including time taken and number of questions answered

SKILLS PERFORMANCE

Each subject is broken down into specific sub-skills and performance indicators show the likelihood of the candidate getting an age-appropriate question correct

This can be used to identify key strengths or areas to work on within subject areas

SUBJECTS

LEARN MORE ABOUT APT SUBJECTS

The APT consists of four subjects; English, Maths, Verbal and Non-Verbal Reasoning. Each subject consists of a wide range of tasks and assesses multiple skills in that area.

ENGLISH

This section assesses command of the English language and tests comprehension, grammar, spelling and punctuation. Comprehension tasks will consist of questions on a short piece of fiction or non-fiction to assess how well the candidate understands the text.

Candidates need a good grasp of English and have a wide vocabulary, but equally important is their ability to read questions carefully, remain calm and work within the time limits.

Questions look into the meaning and use of words – and whether candidates can derive meaning from contextual clues by interpreting texts and analysing information.

Reading (and writing) in a variety of different styles and genres, and broadening the student's vocabulary – focusing on synonyms (similar words) and antonyms (opposites) - is particularly beneficial preparation for this section.

MATHS

The maths test is designed to see how well a candidate understands numbers and can solve mathematical problems.

The maths section is based on expected skills taught in the UK National Curriculum up to Year 11 (GCSEs). It will include questions that assess:

- Number - which will include decimals, percentages and fractions as well as the four basic operations (addition, subtraction, multiplication and division).
- Algebra - which will include equations and formulae.

- Shape and space (geometry) - which will include volume, area, co-ordinates and nets.
- Data handling - which will focus on statistics and probability, the idea of chance and averages.

Some maths skills are assessed as part of the verbal reasoning tests and include number sequencing, completing the sum and inferring how numbers are related. Maths is a fundamental academic skill that underpins many other subjects and specialisms; we also expect maths performance to affect other reasoning skills such as VR and NVR.

'Maths is a fundamental academic skill that underpins many other subjects and specialisms; we expect maths performance to affect other reasoning skills such as verbal and non-verbal reasoning'

VERBAL REASONING

The verbal reasoning (VR) section is intended to test a candidate's ability to understand and reason using words, and are a test of skill, rather than of learned knowledge. It involves thinking about text, solving word problems, following written instructions to come up with a solution, spotting letter sequences and cracking letter- and number-based codes.

Verbal reasoning is often seen as the underlying skill for critical thinking, problem-solving and ultimately, intelligence and often makes up a large proportion of an IQ test.

The majority of verbal reasoning questions are word-based but some are based on numbers.

For example, a question might ask to provide the next number in a sequence (1, 5, 9, 13...), or where you have to solve a sum where the numbers are represented by letters (so if A=1, B=2, C=3, D=4 and so on, C+A=4). Although these questions require maths, the main principle is to test the candidate's ability to solve problems based on written instructions.

NON-VERBAL REASONING

Non-verbal reasoning (NVR) is best described as problem-solving using pictures, diagrams and shapes (rather than words). Unlike verbal reasoning, these tasks are not reliant on the candidate's mastery of the English language; rather, the questions use drawings, shapes or codes, and the candidate is expected to work out sequences, similarities and differences between these images.

NVR tasks are designed to assess critical thinking and problem-solving using logic. They indicate the potential of a candidate's broader mathematical capabilities and their powers of deduction.

Candidates will benefit from a good understanding of mathematical concepts such as symmetry, rotation, direction and shape.

NVR skills are often seen in people with good spatial awareness, those who can easily orientate themselves in maps or follow visual diagrams.

Like Verbal Reasoning, NVR is used as an indicator of academic potential and intelligence rather than a measure of learned knowledge or facts.

FAQS

WHERE DOES OUR DATA COME FROM?

APT has exclusive access to Atom Learning's assessment bank of questions. This bank contains over 10,000 teacher-written (and reviewed) questions based on specific UK curriculum skills. Atom Learning has tested these questions with thousands of learners worldwide and scores are calculated by comparing a candidate's performance against this large cohort of previous test takers.

Therefore we are confident that the quality of our assessment is significantly better than tests derived of 50-100 fixed questions, based on the opinion of a few test designers. APT uses a fully adaptive system which enables the test to select harder or easier questions based on the candidate's answers. This means that if the questions are too hard, the system selects easier content to gain greater insight into the candidate's skill. Likewise, if they are too easy then harder and harder questions will occur. The assessment stops once it is confident it has an accurate measurement.

DO I NEED TO PREPARE FOR THE TEST?

No specific preparation is required before taking the APT, the test is a measure of generic academic skills rather than learned knowledge, so no short term preparation will significantly impact performance. However, it may be beneficial for candidates to familiarise themselves with the style of questions that are used in this kind of assessment to ensure they feel comfortable on their test day.

There are numerous sample papers available online for CAT-style assessments online; a quick internet search will find some free resources. **Atom Learning** provides practice questions and learning support resources for English, Verbal Reasoning, Maths and Non-Verbal Reasoning for students preparing for tests.

CAN TEST RESULTS CHANGE?

Yes, but improving scores on this kind of assessment is not always straightforward. APT results will indicate how a candidate compares against their peers. As time goes by and a candidate's skills improve, so too do their peers, so unless they are improving at a greater rate than other students in their year, their scores will appear largely the same.

One very useful aspect of the APT is the breakdown of specific sub-skills within subject areas. These indicate specific skills that can be worked on to improve performance in this kind of test. We recommend discussing APT results with an academic consultant and/or tutor to focus your time on the areas that need the most support.

HOW DO I REGISTER A CANDIDATE?

The APT is an exclusive assessment to accredited partners of APT like ICENI Mastermind. Contact **jon@icenimastermind.org** to register a candidate for the test.