

Rebecca Sweeney

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## **Formal Assessment Paper**

### **Introduction**

The *Wide Range Achievement Test: Fourth Edition* or WRAT4 is a test that according to the booklet is “a norm-referenced test that measures the basic academic skills of word reading, sentence comprehension, spelling, and math computation” (Robertson & Wilkinson, 2006). This test is a test that is standardized as a way to compare scores attained by individuals against the larger group of individuals that had taken it as well. This test has four subtests that are given: word reading, sentence comprehension, spelling, and math computation as a way to assess the basic intellectual categories that have been taught to people in schools.

The instructional manual gives quite a few uses as to how this test’s results can be utilized and what information can be drawn from the results. A few uses mentioned in the book are:

- “Collecting initial data for psychological, educational, and vocational assessments;
- Contributing to research projects needing assessment of basic academic skills for pretesting and posttesting purposes;
- Assess specific academic skills as part of a more comprehensive study of psychological and neuropsychological functioning;
- Determine a minimal level of proficiency needed to perform in certain educational and/or vocational settings;” (Robertson & Wilkinson, 2006)

These uses are helpful in the sense of understanding where a person is at in their academic skills along with understanding their cognitive functioning.

## **Demographic**

This assessment since it is norm-referenced and considered a standardized test, has a broad population that they use to compare the results of individuals taking the assessment. The manual states “It was standardized on a representative national sample of over 3,000 individuals ranging in age from 5 to 94 years.” (Robertson & Wilkinson, 2006). The assessment is designed to be taken by both male and females along with using race/ethnicity, educational attainment, geographic region, grade (if it applies to school-aged children), and any possible educational disabilities. This assessment assesses a wide variety of people which gives a mixture of results from people from all different backgrounds within the United States.

## **Assessment Administration & Scoring**

This assessment is administered with the previously mentioned subtests which are pre-organized due to the standardized format of this assessment. According to the manual, “The length of the test will vary with the Participant’s age, skill level, and response style.” (Robertson & Wilkinson, 2006). Within the four subtests, there is a “5/7/10 Rule” that is put in place where the basal for the number of questions answered correct consecutively in order to waive a set of 15 preliminary items that have been set, the ceiling level for incorrect answers is 7 consecutive incorrect answers, and administration is then discontinued on the word reading or spelling subtest is 10 consecutive errors.

For the word reading and sentence comprehension subtests, it has to be administered individually whereas the spelling and math computation subtests can be administered to small groups as long as there are 5 or less participants to a group. Each subtest comes with a script as to what is expected to be stated to participants before and after each subtest.

For scoring the subtests, the instruction manual for this assessment gives specific instructions when it comes to scoring specific subtests. The manual warns to make sure there is special attention given to the pronunciation guide along with how participants are supposed to be scored. The subtest comes with specific instructions as to how to score the test and how to calculate the raw score. For the sentence comprehension subtest, instructions for scoring include determining the starting point, marking correct and incorrect responses, and finding the total raw score (specific instructions for participants ages 5 and younger are included as well). The spelling subtest also comes with specific scoring instructions which require the person scoring to pay attention to scoring the letter writing section and the spelling section when determining and finding the raw score. And for the math computation subtest, the manual talks about how it is important to use the scoring keys along with which notation system is used to score the subtest. The assessment also includes a score summary sheet where all information and data is summarized along with the students information.

### **Classroom Application**

For this assessment, there is quite a bit in regards to academics that can be discovered about the participant. This assessment can tell a student's teachers, parents, and IEP team where they rank academically within the percentile rank that is provided due to the assessment being a norm-referenced test. This assessment can show if the student is ahead, behind, or average based on the score the student receives which can then help the student's teacher and IEP team determine where further academic support is needed or if the student does not need as much support in a specific category.

The results from this assessment can tell me information about the students academically and how they measure up or fall short from the national average. This can provide information

about where my students are ranking in the form of test scores and how they did on the test compared to the larger group but this test cannot tell me how the student learns best, where their actual strengths lie, and who the student is as a person. I feel that there are some advantages to this assessment because of how it can provide insight as to how the student does with the basic academic areas that are developed throughout the student's entire time in school. A disadvantage this assessment has is only being numerically based and only covering 4 skill areas. Overall, this assessment was very interesting to read about and it gave me an idea how this would be done if I were the one administering and scoring the assessment.

## References

Robertson, G. J., & Wilkinson, G. S. (2006). *WRAT4: Wide Range Achievement Test Professional Manual*. Lutz: Psychological Assessment Resources Inc.