

Intelligent Quotient IQ Test

The value of IQ testing is most evident in educational or clinical settings. Children who seem to be experiencing learning difficulties or severe behavioral problems can be tested to ascertain whether the child's difficulties can be partly attributed to an IQ score that is significantly different from the mean for her age group. Without IQ testing—or another measure of intelligence—children and adults needing extra support might not be identified effectively.

IQ, short for *intelligence quotient*, is a measure of a person's reasoning ability. In short, it is supposed to gauge how well someone can use information and logic to answer questions or make predictions. IQ tests begin to assess this by measuring short- and long-term memory. They also measure how well people can solve puzzles and recall information they've heard — and how quickly.

Every student can learn, no matter how intelligent. But some students struggle in school because of a weakness in one specific area of intelligence. These students often benefit from *special education* programs. There, they get extra help in the areas where they're struggling. IQ tests can help teachers figure out which students would benefit from such extra help.

Description: Generally given to students who are being considered for special education, IQ tests help determine if the student's learning problems are connected with intellectual abilities or other difficulties such as learning disabilities or emotional disturbance.

Examples: Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children (WISC-IV), Stanford-Binet Intelligence Scale (4th ed.) and the Woodcock-Johnson III Tests of Cognitive Abilities (WJ III).