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DESCRIPTION OF TESTS

Scholarship and entrance exams are comprised of **Ability tests and Achievement tests**:

The Ability tests

Ability tests are designed to measure a child's ability to think, reason and solve problems, without necessarily relying on prior knowledge. Ability generally predicts how quickly a child will be able to learn and the level of complexity they can comfortably deal with.

1. **Verbal Reasoning**: measures the ability to think and reason using words and language. This includes vocabulary, word relationships, classification and deduction. (30 minutes in length)
2. **Numerical Reasoning**: measures the ability to think and reason using numbers. This includes series, matrices, arithmetical reasoning and deduction. (30 minutes in length)

The Achievement tests

Achievement tests are designed to measure actual achievement or performance in some key academic areas. Achievement scores are influenced by a child's ability, as well as the application and practice of knowledge that has been learned.

3. **Reading Comprehension**: measures the capacity to read and interpret meaning from written passages, as well as correct, complete and punctuate sentences. (30 minutes in length)
4. **Mathematics**: measures year-level appropriate mathematical knowledge, including items tapping numbers, measurement, algebra, space and data. (30 minutes in length)
5. **Written Expression**: this test assesses the ability to convey ideas clearly in written form. Punctuation, creativity, construction, grammar, spelling and relevance to the task are assessed. (15 minutes in length)

It must be remembered that scholarship and entrance exams are quite demanding and are designed to discriminate students at the top end.

It is important to understand that when sitting a scholarship or entrance test, most children will only get half of the questions correct. Whilst we are unable to provide you with a "score" that is typical, it is quite normal for children to get only half correct. In fact, on some occasions children who get less than half correct may still receive a relatively good score. It is also very important to explain this to your child, ensuring they too have realistic expectations prior to sitting the tests. In addition, most scholarship/entrance tests are designed in such a way that many children may not finish every question, so you and your child should not panic if this is the case. Once all tests have been scored, schools often provide you with a parent report that goes into a lot more detail about your child's score in comparison to the normal population.

Each test is 30 minutes in length and the students do not get any additional reading time. Additional reading time is usually introduced into exams when students are required to provide an essay type response or where they have the choice to answer one question from a list (in which case the extra reading time allows them to decide which question they wish to answer). Therefore with regard to a multiple-choice test, extra reading time is not necessary. However, prior to commencing each of our tests the administrator will go through three practice examples with the group, ensuring they have an understanding of what to expect.