

# Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT) Information

The Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT) is a test of critical thinking, reasoning, and problem solving. It measures the level and pattern of cognitive development of a student compared to age mates and grade mates. These general reasoning abilities, which start developing at birth and continue through early adulthood, are influenced by experiences gained both in and out of school.

The CogAT measures three different cognitive abilities.

- The **verbal section** measures a child's ability to remember and transform sequences of English words, to understand them and to make inferences and judgements about them.
- The **quantitative section** measures a child's understanding of basic numerical concepts and relationships.
- The **nonverbal section** measures reasoning using pictures and geometric shapes. This section reduces the impact of language on the student's score.

When the CogAT is scored, students receive a percentile rank for each section. A percentile rank is a score on a scale of 100 that indicates the percent of scores at or below that point. A student's score at the 82nd percentile is regarded as being equal or above that of 82 percent of the students in the group being tested. It does not mean that the student got 82% of the answers correct, but that the student performed better than 82 out of 100 students being tested. **The average range on the percentile rank is between the 25th and 75th percentile.**

An important note about unexpectedly low scores: The CogAT is a timed test. Many students are used to taking untimed classroom and AzMerit tests. Some students, especially students who are determined to get everything correct, may get low scores on their ability test simply because they worked slowly and carefully and did not finish the test.