

# Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale-IV

## DESCRIPTION OF WAIS-IV INDEXES

### **Verbal Comprehension Index**

This index reflects an individual's ability to understand, use and think with spoken language. It also demonstrates the breadth and depth of knowledge acquired from one's environment. It measures the retrieval from long-term memory of such information.

### **Perceptual Reasoning Index**

This index reflects an individual's ability to accurately interpret, organize and think with visual information. It measures nonverbal reasoning skills and taps into thinking that is more fluid and requires visual perceptual abilities.

### **Working Memory Index**

This index reflects an individual's ability to take in and hold information in immediate awareness and then perform a mental operation on that information. It also measures the mental manipulation of number operations.

### **Processing Speed Index**

This index reflects an individual's ability to process simple or routine visual information quickly and efficiently. It measures visual and motor speed.

# DESCRIPTION OF WAIS-IV SUBTESTS

## VERBAL COMPREHENSION SUBTESTS

### Similarities

The subtest consists of 18 pairs of words. The client is asked to identify the qualitative relationship between the two words. This subtest reflects:

- abstract thinking skill
- concept formation skills
- verbal reasoning

### Vocabulary

The vocabulary subtest requires the client to try to define up to 30 words. This subtest assesses the client's understanding of words and reflects:

- language development
- expressive language skills
- cultural and educational experiences
- ability to use words appropriately
- retrieval of information from long-term memory

### Information

The information subtest consists of 26 questions aimed at determining how much general knowledge the client has accumulated from their environment. The subtest reflects:

- ability to learn and recall facts
- intellectual curiosity
- quality of education
- alertness to the environment
- retrieval of information from long-term memory

## PERCEPTUAL REASONING SUBTESTS

### Block Design

This subtest consists of two-dimensional designs which the client tries to copy using three dimensional blocks. This subtest can reflect:

- visual-motor skills
- ability to analyze geometric patterns
- part-whole recognition skills

## PERCEPTUAL REASONING SUBTESTS (CONTINUED)

### Matrix Reasoning

This is a nonverbal reasoning task in which individuals are asked to identify patterns in designs. This subtest measures:

- non-verbal reasoning skills
- broad visual intelligence
- perceptual organization skills

### **Visual Puzzles**

In this subtest individuals view a completed puzzle and then select three response options that can be combined to reconstruct the puzzle. This subtest reflects:

- visual processing skills
- attention to details
- thinking with visual patterns
- fluid reasoning skills

## **WORKING MEMORY SUBTESTS**

### **Digit Span**

This test has three parts:

- Digit Span Forward (individual tries to repeat digits forward)
- Digit Span Backward (individual tries to repeat digits backward)
- Digit Span Sequencing (individual tries to repeat digits in ascending order)

This test measures:

- auditory recall
- short term memory
- working memory

### **Arithmetic**

This subtest consists of 22 timed arithmetic problems to be solved without the use of pencil and paper. This subtest measures:

- calculation skills
- problem-solving skills
- mental manipulation of number operations
- working memory

## **PROCESSING SPEED SUBTESTS**

### **Symbol Search**

The client, under time pressure, scans a search group and indicates whether one of the symbols in the target group matches. This test measures:

- processing speed
- working memory with visual stimuli

### **Coding**

In this subtest individuals are asked to record associations between different symbols and numbers within time limits. This subtest reflects:

- psychomotor speed
- ability to absorb new material
- visual motor speed
- drive for achievement

TABLE 1 — IQ LEVELS & DESCRIPTIONS

**WAIS-IV IQ LEVELS, DESCRIPTIVE CLASSIFICATION AND PERCENTILE RANK**

<b>IQ Level</b>	<b>Descriptive Classification</b>	<b>Percentile</b>
130+	Very Superior	98 - 99.9
120 to 129	Superior	91 - 97
110 to 119	High Average	75 - 90
90 to 109	Average	25 - 73
80 to 89	Low Average	9 - 23
70 to 79	Borderline	2 - 8
69 & below	Intellectual Disability	.01 - 2