

How Cognitive Skills Relate to Alaska Standards Based Assessment Questions



Reading:

Cognitive Skill	Application to SBA Questions	BrainWare Safari Exercises Developing the Skill
<p><i>Sustained Attention</i> – the ability to stay on task for a sustained period of time.</p>	<p>Reading a passage for comprehension requires sustained attention. If attention is not sustained, parts of the passage may not be processed or understood.</p>	<p>Most BrainWare Safari exercises work on sustained attention, including <i>Iguana Lookout, Jungle Labyrinth, Rhythm Ribbet, and Slithering Symbols.</i></p>
<p><i>Visual Sequential Memory</i> – the ability to recall a sequence of bits of information in the same order as originally received.</p>	<p>After reading a short passage, a question which asks, “Why were the students first surprised?”</p>	<p><i>Arrow Point Bridge, Bear Shuffle, Rhythm Ribbet and Slithering Symbols</i> are exercises that work on visual sequential memory.</p>
<p><i>Conceptual Thinking</i> – the ability to recognize a collection of features that go together to create an idea or category of ideas.</p>	<p>After reading a passage, “Which sentence from the passage best states the main idea?”</p>	<p><i>Ancient Logic and Reasoning and Llama Logic</i> help develop conceptual thinking skills.</p>

There are many cognitive skills involved in learning as well as being tested on what one has learned. This document provides examples of how the Alaska Standards Based Assessment test places demands on cognitive skills. This is not meant to provide a complete perspective on cognitive skills or a thorough analysis of the SBA test. These are simply examples for illustration. BrainWare Safari is a product of Learning Enhancement Corporation. It is a comprehensive program that develops 41 cognitive skills in a fun and entertaining video game format. For more information, contact Learning Enhancement Corporation at www.BrainWareforYou.com or 877-BRAIN-10 (877-272-4610). Examples taken from sample SBA questions grades 3-4 and Science Standards materials.

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Mathematics:

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<p>Visualization – the ability to recall an image of what has been seen and to mentally manipulate and change aspects of that image in the mind.</p>	<p>“Jeremy made a frame for a picture. The frame has 4 sides. The sides are not all the same length. What shape could the frame be?”</p>	<p>Most BrainWare Safari exercises develop visualization skills. Such exercises include Cave Comparisons, Piranha Pass, Web Weaving, and Whispering Waterfall.</p>
<p>Oculomotor – the ability to use the eyes efficiently to read and gather information from the environment.</p>	<p>Shown a diagram of children on a playground, “The children below were lined up to take a turn on the slide. Which child is fourth in line from the slide?”</p>	<p>Iguana Lookout, Jungle Labyrinth, Piranha Pass, Sky Scanning and Turtle Recall address oculomotor skills.</p>
<p>Working Memory – the ability to hold information in the mind while performing a mental operation on it.</p>	<p>“Cameron knows that 2 dogs are given 8 cups of food and 3 dogs are given 12 cups of food. How much food will be given to 5 dogs?”</p>	<p>Bear Shuffle, Cave Comparisons, Memory Mountain and Tree Tic-Tac-Toe are among the exercises that improve working memory skills.</p>

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Science:

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<p>Visual Discrimination – the ability to distinguish differences.</p>	<p>A question which asks students to “sort Alaskan plants and/or animals using physical characteristics.”</p>	<p>BrainWare Safari exercises that develop visual discrimination include Cave Comparisons, Jumping Jaguar Flash, Sky Scanning and Volcanic Patterns.</p>
<p>Reasoning – the ability to form concepts and solve problems using unfamiliar information.</p>	<p>A question in which students “identify the local limiting factors (e.g., weather, human influence, species interactions) that determine which plants and/or animals survive.”</p>	<p>Ancient Logic and Reasoning and Piranha Pass are two of the exercises that develop reasoning skills.</p>
<p>Logic – the ability to reason and think rationally and analytically.</p>	<p>A question which asks students to “analyze the potential impacts of changes (e.g., climate change, habitat loss/gain, cataclysms, human activities) within an ecosystem.”</p>	<p>Llama Logic and Tree Tic-Tac-Toe are two of the exercises that develop logic skills.</p>

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