

How Cognitive Skills Relate to Michigan Educational Assessment Program Questions



Reading:

Cognitive Skill	Application to MEAP 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, “What kind of dancing did Alvin Ailey do first?”</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 short passage, a question which asks, “What is the main idea of this selection?”</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 MEAP places demands on cognitive skills. This is not meant to provide a complete perspective on cognitive skills or a thorough analysis of the MEAP. 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 MEAP released test items grades 4-5.

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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>“Which new figure can be formed by putting the rectangle and the triangle together?”</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 picture of a ruler, pinwheel, etc., “Which two items shown above can be used together to determine the direction of the wind?”</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>“Martina has a new box of 64 crayons. She drops the box and 17 crayons are broken. How many crayons are NOT broken?”</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>“Each of the 4 logs below has been cut in half. Which log has the longest half?”</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>“What factor is most responsible for the formation of sand dunes along Lake Michigan’s shoreline?”</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>“Earth is closer to the sun than the planet Mars. Which of the following is the result of this difference in distance from the sun?”</p>	<p>Llama Logic and Tree Tic-Tac-Toe are two of the exercises that develop logic skills.</p>

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