

How Cognitive Skills Relate to Nevada Criterion Referenced Test Questions



Reading:

Cognitive Skill	Application to CRT 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>“According to the passage, which of these should you do <i>first</i>?”</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 poem, “What is the main idea of the poem?”</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 Nevada Criterion Referenced Test places demands on cognitive skills. This is not meant to provide a complete perspective on cognitive skills or a thorough analysis of the Nevada CRT. 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 released and sample CRT items, grades 3 and 5 (Reading, Math) and Nevada K-4 Science Standards Materials (Washoe County).

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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 pair of shapes below could you put together without overlapping to make this shape?”</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>“The pictures below show the number of apples Mary and Sam each picked from a tree and put into a box. How many more apples did Sam pick than Mary?”</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>“A movie started at 7:15 pm. It lasted 1 hour and 45 minutes. At what time did the movie end?”</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:

Cognitive Skill	Application to Nevada Science Standards	BrainWare Safari Exercises Developing the Skill
<p>Visual Discrimination – the ability to distinguish differences.</p>	<p>A question which asks students to “investigate, compare, and contrast identifiable structures of plants and animals.”</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>“Identify observable patterns and predict future events based on those patterns (e.g. seasonal weather patterns.)”</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>“Demonstrate that when parts are put together, they can do things together they couldn’t have done by themselves.”</p>	<p>Llama Logic and Tree Tic-Tac-Toe are two of the exercises that develop logic skills.</p>

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