

How Cognitive Skills Relate to Washington Assessment of Student Learning Questions



Reading:

Cognitive Skill	Application to WASL 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>“How do the narrator’s feelings toward the bear at the beginning of the story compare to the narrator’s feelings toward the bear at the end of the story? Include two details from the story in your answer.”</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, “Which sentence best summarizes what this story is about?”</p>	<p><i>Ancient Logic and Reasoning</i> and <i>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 WASL places demands on cognitive skills. This is not meant to provide a complete perspective on cognitive skills or a thorough analysis of the WASL. 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 Washington Department of Education released and sample 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>Shown a chalkboard with a pattern of pictures on it, “Casey’s teacher puts a pattern on the board each day. Here is today’s pattern. Casey drew the missing pictures to complete the pattern. What pictures did he draw?”</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 number line with numbers corresponding with various shapes, “Mary is making a puzzle. She can only use triangles. At what numbers on the number line will Mary find pieces for her puzzle?”</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>“Elgin’s class is going on a field trip to the zoo. There are 23 students in the class. The students will ride in vans. Each van can hold 6 students and one driver. What is the fewest number of vans they will need to take everyone on the field trip?”</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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Visual Discrimination – the ability to distinguish differences.	A question which asks students to read and interpret a chart would test visual discrimination.	BrainWare Safari exercises that develop visual discrimination include Cave Comparisons , Jumping Jaguar Flash , Sky Scanning and Volcanic Patterns .
Reasoning – the ability to form concepts and solve problems using unfamiliar information.	After a description of an experiment, “Based on the results of Margo’s investigation, what might happen to a stream ecosystem if people removed all the plants from a hillside next to the stream?”	Ancient Logic and Reasoning and Piranha Pass are two of the exercises that develop reasoning skills.
Logic – the ability to reason and think rationally and analytically.	After reading the description of an experiment, “Which of the following parts of soil would most likely be carried into the clear round pans by the poured water the fastest?”	Llama Logic and Tree Tic-Tac-Toe are two of the exercises that develop logic skills.

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