



Cranbrook
School

Cranbrook School Year 9 Entrance Examination

For September 2020 entry and onwards the Cranbrook School Year 9 Entrance Examination will consist of a paper based GL Assessment age appropriate Cognitive Abilities Test (CAT4).

CAT 4 comprises of four test batteries, each of which contains two tests, and which take 8 to 10 minutes each. The tests access the main types of mental processing which play a substantial role in human thought. Together, they provide a comprehensive understanding of the core abilities related to learning.

The test batteries are as below:

VERBAL REASONING BATTERY – Thinking With Words

The Verbal Reasoning Battery assesses reasoning ability with words representing objects or concepts. Whilst the test battery requires some reading ability, CAT4 limits the reading requirements to a modest level throughout and the vocabulary demands have been kept as low as possible. The background knowledge needed to answer the verbal questions is that which all pupils will have encountered in school or everyday life, rather than including topics that may only be familiar to certain socioeconomic or cultural groups.

QUANTITATIVE REASONING BATTERY –Thinking with Numbers

The Quantitative Reasoning Battery assesses reasoning ability with numbers. The test battery has been designed to be minimally reliant on mathematical knowledge. The Number Analogies test requires only basic arithmetical knowledge, and parallels the analogy tests in the Verbal and Non-Verbal Reasoning Batteries. The Number Series test focuses as far as possible on the identification of relationships between the elements of the questions, though basic arithmetical knowledge is required too.

In this way, the Quantitative Reasoning Battery will give a genuine indication of most pupils' ability to think with numbers, with the exception of children with particularly low arithmetic skills.

NON-VERBAL REASONING BATTERY – Thinking With Shapes

The Non-Verbal Reasoning Battery assesses the ability to think and reason with non-verbal material and measures something distinct from the Spatial Ability Battery. The materials used are still shapes but the difficulty in the task lies not in creating, maintaining and mentally manipulating precise images, but in reasoning with easily distinguishable shapes and designs.

SPATIAL ABILITY BATTERY – Thinking With Shape & Space

The Spatial Ability Battery assesses how well pupils can create and retain mental images of precise shapes and objects, and then manipulate these in their minds. This ability is critical to effective working in many 'spatial' disciplines and careers (for example engineering, physical sciences, mathematics and architecture).

As spatial tests make no demands on verbal ability, they can be highly effective indicators of potential in pupils with poor verbal skills, as well effectively identifying the weaker abilities of those who have verbal strengths. This then provides a more comprehensive picture of the pupils concerned.

GL Assessment information for parents can be accessed via:

<https://www.gl-assessment.co.uk/support/cat4-product-support/cat4-information-for-parents/>.