

TEST 04 - READING 02

NAME:.....

Reading Passage 2

You should spend about 20 minutes on Questions 14–27, which are based on Reading Passage 2 on the following pages.

Questions 14–19

Reading Passage 2 has eight paragraphs A–H.

Choose the correct heading for paragraphs B and D–H from the list of headings below.

Write the correct number, i–xi, in boxes 14–19 on your answer sheet.

List of Headings

- i Testing acquired knowledge
- ii The way future performance is forecast through testing
- iii The Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory
- iv Software tools in research explained
- v The use of a five-point scale in testing
- vi A test used to obtain a summary score of an individual's intelligence
- vii The method most widely used by psychologists in various situations
- viii Subjective interests employed to predict future behaviour
- ix The different classes of standardized tests
- x The importance of prior learning in tests
- xi Information gathered by self-reporting

Example	Answer
Paragraph A	iv

14 Paragraph B

Example	Answer
Paragraph C	i

15 Paragraph D

16 Paragraph E

17 Paragraph F

18 Paragraph G

19 Paragraph H

A The software tools of research are typically more abundant than hardware tools in the social sciences. Software is usually thought of as meaning computer programs that tell the hardware what to do, but any tool not related to a physical device can be considered software. Included in this category are published tests and questionnaires.

B Often researchers want to gather information related to a general area such as personality or intelligence. For these instances, the use of a standardized test may be the best choice. With already published tests you can be sure of both validity and reliability and can save a lot of time that might otherwise be spent on test construction. Standardized tests can be classified into five main categories: achievement, aptitude, interest, personality, and intelligence.

C Achievement tests are designed specifically to measure an individual's previously learned knowledge or ability. They are available for many topic areas related to psychology, education, business, and other fields. Achievement tests require that prior learning take place and that this learning be demonstrated in order to pass.

D Aptitude tests attempt to predict an individual's performance in some activity at some point in the future. They do not require any specific prior learning although basic knowledge related to reading and writing is usually required and some preparation, such as studying up on math formulas or sentence structure, can be helpful. A well-known example of this type is the Scholastic Achievement Test (SAT), designed to predict future college performance.

E Interest inventories also require only general knowledge but no preparation is needed. These tests look at an individual's subjective interests in order to make predictions about some future behavior or activity. Perhaps the most used interest inventory is the Strong Interest Inventory, which compares interests related to specific careers in order to help guide an individual's career path. Endorsed interests are compared with the interests of successful individuals in various fields and predictions are made regarding the test-taker's fit with the various career fields.

F Typically designed to assess and diagnose personality and mental health related disorders, personality tests are used extensively by psychologists in clinical, educational, and business related settings. By far the most widely used test of this type is the Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory, Second Edition (MMPI-2), which compares an individual's responses on a series of true-false items to those suffering from various mental disorders such as depression, schizophrenia, and anxiety. The theory behind the test argues that if you endorse items similar to the items endorsed by those with depression, for example, then the chances that you are also depressed increases.

G Intelligence tests could be classified as aptitude tests since they are sometimes used to predict future performance. They could also be classified as personality tests since they can be used to diagnose disorders such as learning disabilities and mental retardation. However, because of their limited scope, we will place them in their own category. The purpose of an intelligence test is to attain a summary score or intelligence quotient (IQ) of an individual's intellectual ability. Scores are compared to each other and can be broken down into different subcategories depending on the intelligence test used. The most commonly used tests of this type are the Wechsler Scales, including the Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale (WAIS), the Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children (WISC), and the Wechsler Preschool and Primary Scale of Intelligence (WPPSI).

H Self-response questionnaires are a great way to gather large amounts of information in a relatively short amount of time. A questionnaire, similar to a survey you might see on a web page, allows subjects to

respond to questions, rate responses, or offer opinions. Their responses can then be used to place them in specific categories or groups or can be compared to other subjects for data analysis. A concern with self-report, however, is the accuracy of the responses. Unlike direct observation, there is no way of knowing if the subject has told the truth or whether or not the question was understood as intended. There are several different methods for gathering information on a questionnaire or survey, including a Likert scale, the Thurstone technique, and the semantic differential. The Likert scale is a popular method used in surveys because it allows the researcher to quantify opinion based items. Questions are typically grouped together and rated or responded to based on a five-point scale. This scale typically ranges in order from one extreme to the other, such as (1) very interested; (2) somewhat interested; (3) unsure; (4) not very interested; and (5) not interested at all. Items that might be rated with this scale representing the subject's level of interest could include a list of careers or academic majors, for example.

Questions 20–23*Choose the correct letter A, B, C or D.**Write your answers in boxes 20–23 on your answer sheet.***20** Tests that are already on the market

- A** need some form of reconstruction.
- B** fail to ensure validity and reliability.
- C** guarantee validity and reliability.
- D** waste large amounts of time.

21 Some knowledge of reading and writing

- A** is commonly not necessary in aptitude tests.
- B** is normally a requirement in aptitude tests.
- C** is less important in aptitude tests than other tests.
- D** is as important as prior learning in aptitude tests.

22 With interest inventories, subjective interests are examined to

- A** test people's general knowledge.
- B** help people change their career.
- C** compare individual's backgrounds.
- D** forecast future behaviour or activity.

23 Intelligence tests could come under aptitude tests

- A** because they can be used to forecast future performance.
- B** since they are not used very widely.
- C** as they can be broken down into different sub-groups.
- D** because they are sometimes used to diagnose learning disabilities.

Questions 24–26*Do the following statements agree with the claims of the writer in Reading Passage 2?**In boxes 24–26 on your answer sheet, write*

YES if the statement reflects the claims of the writer
NO if the statement contradicts the claims of the writer
NOT GIVEN if it is impossible to say what the writer thinks of this

24 The Wechsler Scales are the only type of intelligence test now used.**25** Where large quantities of data need to be collected fairly quickly self-response questionnaires work well.**26** The Likert Scale ensures greater accuracy than other techniques.**Question 27***Choose the correct letter A, B, C or D.**Write your answer in box 27 on your answer sheet.***27** Which of the following is the most suitable heading for Reading Passage 2?

- A** Different types of intelligence test
- B** How personality can be tested
- C** The importance of aptitude tests
- D** The various software tools of research

Before you check your answers to Reading Passage 2, go on to page 111.

Further practice for Reading Passage 2

Paragraph headings

In questions with paragraph headings, it is important to understand how to interpret the headings themselves.

Question 14

Look at paragraph heading ix.

Which of the following are synonyms of the word *classes*?

stages
categories
types
kinds

Question 15

Look at paragraph heading ii.

1 Which words are synonyms of the word *way*?

method
how ...
cause
means

2 Which words are synonyms of the word *forecast*?

predict
assume
project
anticipate
estimate

Question 16

Look at paragraph heading viii.

What nouns can you make from the verbs in 15.2 above?

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.....
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Question 17

Look at paragraph heading vii.

Which words are related to the word *method*?

means
technique
test
examination
theory

Question 18

Look at paragraph heading vi.

Is it possible to give a synonym for the word *intelligence*?

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Question 19

Look at paragraph heading xi.

Is it possible to give a synonym for the word *self-reporting*?

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Now check your answers to these exercises. When you have done so, decide whether you wish to change any of your answers to Reading Passage 2. Then check your answers to Reading Passage 2.