IQ tests for children: the WISC-V and WPPSI-IV at a glance

	WISC-V	WPPSI-IV
Full name	Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children, Fifth Edition (2014)	Wechsler Preschool and Primary Scale of Intelligence, Fourth Edition
Ages	6 years 0 months to 16 years 11 months	2 years 6 months to 7 years 7 months
Time	Core subtests about 60 minutes	30-45 min (2:6 to 3:11); 45-60 min (4:0 to 7:7)
Given by	A psychologist or other qualified examiner (Pearson level C), one-to-one	The same
Standardisation	2,200 US children aged 6:0 to 16:11	A US sample of children aged 2:6 to 7:7
Main scores	Full Scale IQ, five primary indexes, ancillary and complementary indexes	Full Scale IQ and primary indexes

The five WISC-V primary indexes

Index	What it measures	Typical tasks
Verbal Comprehension (VCI)	Word knowledge and verbal reasoning	How two words are alike; define words
Visual Spatial (VSI)	Seeing and building spatial relationships	Copy a design with blocks; choose puzzle pieces
Fluid Reasoning (FRI)	Reasoning with new material, finding rules	Complete a matrix; balance scales by weight
Working Memory (WMI)	Holding and working with information in mind	Repeat digits forwards, backwards, in order; recall pictures
Processing Speed (PSI)	Speed and accuracy on simple visual tasks	Code symbols against a key; find a target symbol

The Full Scale IQ comes from seven subtests: Similarities, Vocabulary, Block Design, Matrix Reasoning, Figure Weights, Digit Span and Coding. Ancillary indexes (General Ability, Cognitive Proficiency, Nonverbal, Quantitative Reasoning, Auditory Working Memory) and complementary indexes (naming speed, symbol translation, storage and retrieval) are reported when the referral question needs them.

From sciencewithshobha.com/blog/iq-test-for-kids-what-the-wisc-v-and-wppsi-iv-measure-the-score-bands-what-a-psychologists-report-shows-why-online-iq-tests-are-not-iq-tests-and-what-schools-use-instead/ · 1-on-1 online tutoring for US families, Grade 1 to AP, free 30-minute first class.

The score bands, what a report shows, and what to ask

Pearson's descriptive bands (mean 100, SD 15)

Score	Descriptor	About this share of children	Percentile
130 and above	Extremely High	2%	98th and above
120-129	Very High	7%	91st to 97th
110-119	High Average	16%	75th to 90th
90-109	Average	50%	25th to 73rd
80-89	Low Average	16%	9th to 23rd
70-79	Very Low	7%	2nd to 8th
69 and below	Extremely Low	2%	2nd and below

From Pearson's sample reports: a Full Scale IQ of 132 is at the 98th percentile (Extremely High, confidence interval 125-136); 121 at the 92nd (Very High); 111 at the 77th (High Average); 97 at the 42nd (Average, 91-103); 82 at the 12th (Low Average). The profile across the five indexes matters more than the single number.

Why an online IQ test is not one

[ ] No age norms: a 7-year-old and a 12-year-old see the same questions.
[ ] No trained examiner and no standard conditions.
[ ] No standardisation sample and no published reliability.
[ ] Not accepted by schools, psychologists or gifted programmes.

What schools use instead

Group ability screeners of 30 to 45 minutes: the CogAT (verbal, quantitative, nonverbal), the NNAT3 (nonverbal) and the OLSAT 8. Standard scores with mean 100 and SD 16, not IQ scores. An individual IQ test enters only when a gifted process requires one, in a learning-disability evaluation, or on a paediatrician's referral.

Before and after testing

Who asked for the test, and the question it should answer: _____

Which test, who gives it, how many sessions, the cost (schools evaluate at no cost on referral): _____

After: the lowest index and what the school should change because of it: _____

After: the confidence interval on the Full Scale IQ, not the single number: _____