The OLSAT 8 at a glance

Otis-Lennon School Ability Test, Eighth Edition (Pearson, 2003). Verbal, nonverbal and quantitative abilities related to school success, kindergarten to grade 12, one form in seven levels; untimed with a 75-minute maximum that varies by level; paper at every level, online for grades 2 to 12. Scored by age as the School Ability Index (mean 100, SD 16) with percentile ranks, stanines and NCEs by age and grade, plus verbal and nonverbal part scores.

Levels by grade

Level	Grade	Given
A	Kindergarten	read aloud, paper
B	Grade 1	read aloud, paper
C	Grade 2	paper or online
D	Grade 3	paper or online
E	Grades 4 and 5	paper or online
F	Grades 6 to 8	paper or online
G	Grades 9 to 12	paper or online

The 21 question types, by cluster (Pearson's scope and sequence)

Cluster	Question types	What they ask
Verbal comprehension	Following directions, antonyms, sentence completion, sentence arrangement	Understand words and sentences: the opposite, the missing word, the right order
Verbal reasoning	Aural reasoning, arithmetic reasoning, logical selection, word/letter matrix, verbal analogies, verbal classification, inference	Reason with words and numbers read aloud or in print: which does not belong, which completes the analogy, what follows
Pictorial reasoning	Picture classification, picture analogies, picture series	The same reasoning with pictures (early levels)
Figural reasoning	Figural classification, figural analogies, pattern matrix, figural series	With abstract shapes: the odd one out, the analogy, the missing cell, the next in a series
Quantitative reasoning	Number series, numeric inference, number matrix	With numbers: what comes next, what rule links them, what completes the grid

Arithmetic reasoning, figural analogies, pattern matrix and figural series appear at every level from A to G; antonyms, sentence completion and verbal analogies from the middle levels; the picture types only in the early levels.

From sciencewithshobha.com/blog/olsat-test-explained-olsat-8-levels-a-to-g-by-grade-the-verbal-nonverbal-and-quantitative-question-types-the-school-ability-index-and-how-to-prepare/ · 1-on-1 online tutoring for US families, Grade 1 to AP, free 30-minute first class.

Scores, the three screeners side by side, and a plan

School Ability Index to percentile and stanine

SAI	About the percentile	Stanine
84	16th	3
92	31st	4
100	50th	5
108	69th	6
116	84th	7
124	93rd	8
128	96th	9
132	98th	9
140	99.4th	9

OLSAT 8, CogAT, NNAT3

	OLSAT 8	CogAT	NNAT3
Content	Verbal, nonverbal and quantitative in one test	Three batteries: verbal, quantitative, nonverbal	Nonverbal only
Language load	High at upper levels; read aloud at A and B	High on the verbal battery	Almost none
Score	SAI (mean 100, SD 16), verbal and nonverbal parts	SAS per battery and composite (mean 100, SD 16)	NAI (mean 100, SD 16)
Length	Untimed, up to 75 min	About 30-45 min per battery	48 items in 30 min
Suits	A verbal child; one score wanted	A profile across three areas	English learners; a quick screen

Three weeks before the test

[ ] Formats: an analogy has a rule; a series continues; 'which does not belong' has one answer; the youngest levels are read aloud once, so listening matters.

[ ] Read together every day: the verbal half rewards vocabulary and listening.

[ ] Mental arithmetic for five minutes a day: arithmetic reasoning is at every level.

[ ] Shapes on squared paper: odd one out, what comes next, the missing cell.

[ ] No drilling of look-alike items: the score rises, the ability does not.

The district's process

Grade screened; every child or nominated children?_____

Cut-off, and on which score (total, verbal, nonverbal):_____

Second step, and whether a private report is accepted:_____

Re-test rules; what the programme does differently:_____