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## Intelligence Testing Applied in Nigeria

*Otuoku Karl*

Dept. Of Educational Psychology, Guidance and Counselling, Isaac Jasper Boro College of Education, Sagbama, Bayelsa, State Nigeria  
Email: otuokukarl@gmail.com

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### ABSTRACT:

To enhance the understanding of our children's strengths and weaknesses, parents may consider using an intelligence test.

There are private psychologists and public school districts that offer intelligence testing. Intelligence testing is designed to measure the level of intellectual development regardless of the influence of environment factors of the social environment. An IQ test can reveal a child's strength and weaknesses, allowing parents to tailor their child's education better. However it is essential to remember that intelligence testing should not be used to determine a child's potential or future success.

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### Introduction

Need to measure intelligence arise to trap individual difference in general mental ability for a variety of purposes, such as academic classification, occupational counseling and personnel selection. intelligence test can be defined as a test to evaluate general level of cognitive functions and intellectual ability. In this context we will discuss theoretical background and evolution of intelligence test, also will present an account of some of the widely used etc.

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### Historical Perspective

Alfred Binet, a French psychologist, is often credited as one of the pioneers of intelligence testing. In the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, there was a growing interest in understanding and measuring human intelligence, particularly in the area of education.

Binet developed the first widely used intelligence test known as the Binet-Simon scale in collaboration with his colleague Theodore Simon in 1905. The Binet Simon scale aimed to access children mental abilities in comparison to their chronological age.

Binet's approach focused on identifying a child "mental age" the level of cognitive functioning typically associated with a certain chronological age. The test consisted of a series of tasks and questions of increasing difficulty, covering various cognitive domains such as memory, attention, reasoning and language, Harrington (1997).

Binet designed the test to identify children who might need special educational assistance or who might benefit from additional academic support. It was intended to address the practical need of educators in identifying children with learning difficulties and tailoring instruction accordingly.

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### Criticism

While Binet's work represented a significant advancement in the measurement of intelligence, his approach has been criticized for its potential cultural biases and limitations in assessing the full range of human abilities.

Subsequent revisions and adaptations of intelligence tests have attempted to address these concerns while building upon Binet's foundational contributions.

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### Meaning of Intelligence Testing

Intelligence testing refers to the process of identifying, quantifying and characterizing cognitive abilities by administration and scoring items designed for that purpose (Edebu, 2008). Intelligence testing is the measurement of an individual's intelligence. These tests can be provided on paper or electronically and use different techniques to measure intelligence based on a person's circumstance and ability.

Intelligence testing can be used in gathering data and conducting research. Intelligence testing is the practice of measuring a person's performance on various diagnostic measures, i.e. intelligence tests to predict future behavior for interventions and on some occasions for the diagnoses of some illnesses, such as developmental disorder Boake (2002).

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### **Intelligence Testing Applied In Nigeria**

In the measurement and evaluation of student's level of intelligence, certain testing is done to ascertain the different levels of students' understanding of the content taught. Also for students to gain admission to run a particular course, an entry examination is given like the JAMB and the POST-UTME, the essence is to ascertain the level of intelligence whether such individual is capable of running a particular course of study, Campbell (2006).

Apart from these, intelligence test could be taken to ascertain the educational needs of a child. Thus; the following are the various types of intelligence testing;

- i) Achievement tests
- ii) Aptitude tests
- iii) IQ test for adults
- iv) IQ tests for kids

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### **Achievement Tests**

An achievement test measures how an individual has learned overtime and what the individual has learned by analyzing his present performance. It also measures how a person understands and masters a particular knowledge area at the present time. With the test, you can analyze just how quick and precise an individual is in performing the tasks that they consider an accomplishment.

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### **Aptitude Tests**

An aptitude test is an examination used to determine an individual's skill or propensity to succeed in a given activity. Aptitude tests assume that individuals have inherent strengths and weaknesses and have a natural inclination toward success or failure in specific areas based on their innate characteristics.

Aptitude tests are generally used for job placement, college program entry, and to help people to get an idea of where their interests and aptitudes can take them regarding careers.

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### **IQ Test for Adult**

One of the most commonly used intelligence test is the Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale (WAIS; Wechsler, 1955). The WAIS is a battery of cognitive and neuropsychological tests. A battery is a collection of several tests administered at one time. The current (fourth) edition of the WAIS (Wechsler, 2008) consists of ten sub-tests, which measures several different areas of cognitive functioning, including verbal abilities (e.g. vocabulary and general knowledge), Visuospatial reasoning (e.g. problem-solving ability), working memory (e.g. ability to hold information for short periods of time), and processing speed (e.g. ability to complete simple tasks quickly). Completing ten sub-tests provides sufficient information to generate a full intelligence quotient (IQ) score, a general estimate of intellectual functional (Hebben and Milberg 2009).

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### **IQ Test for Kids**

The first IQ test is the Binet-Simon intelligence scale, and it was named after the psychologists Alfred Binet and Theodore Simon. This test was created in 1904 when the French government asked Binet to create a way to determine which school children would face the most challenges in their academics. So, with the help of his colleagues Theodore Simon, Binet began his research by focusing on areas like memory, attention, and critical thinking skills.

When the children took these tests, Binet observed that some would answer more advanced questions than he expected. Binet Theorized that people have a mental age that may differ from their actual age. An individual's mental age is based on how a person perform intellectually, Jensen (1998). In other words, Binet reasoned that although someone was 10 years old, they may perform at the cognitive level of a typical 15-year-old.

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### **Conclusion**

In conclusion, intelligence testing plays a significant role in various aspects of human life, including education, clinical practice, employment, research and personal development. By systematically assessing cognitive abilities and problem solving skills, intelligence tests provide valuable information that informs decision-making, intervention planning, and understanding of individual differences. Despite criticisms and controversies surrounding intelligence testing, such as cultural biases and limitations in capturing the full spectrum of human abilities, these assessments continue to evolve and

adapt to address these concerns. As our understanding of intelligence expands and new technologies emerge, intelligence testing remains an essential tool for evaluating cognitive functioning, guiding educational and vocational decisions, advancing research in psychology and neuroscience and promoting individual growth and well-being.

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