

## INFORMATION SHEET ABOUT COGNITIVE ABILITIES TESTS

### What are CATs?

The Cognitive Abilities Test (CAT) is a suite of tests that assesses a student's reasoning (thinking) abilities in key areas that support educational development and academic attainment. CAT4 is the 4<sup>th</sup> edition of the test which provide us with information about a student's ability which helps teachers plan effectively for teaching and learning.

The CAT4 batteries assess:

- Reasoning or thinking with words – Verbal reasoning
- Reasoning or thinking with numbers – Quantitative reasoning
- Reasoning or thinking with shapes – Non-verbal reasoning
- Reasoning or thinking with shape and space and manipulation of these – Spatial ability

The tests are designed specifically to minimize the role of prior learning, therefore, there is no requirement to review or prepare for tests and it is an indicator of future potential. Furthermore, results from CAT4:

- a) Provide indicators of attainment for KS3, IGCSE, AS/A level, etc.
- b) Offer a comparison between performances of different groups of students in order to better identify needs and target resources.
- c) Identify students who may be underachieving.
- d) Sets a baseline against which to assess the value added by the school.

### When are these tests taken?

Prospective students take these as a means of admission to James Hope College which occurs predominantly in January of each year. However, mid-year admissions can be done outside this period.

### How are results scores reported?

CAT4 results show students' scores in each of these areas. The raw scores are converted into Standard Ages Scores (SAS), which means they are weighted to take into account the student's age when they sat the test. The average SAS score is 100. Around two-thirds of pupils in the national age group will score between 85 and 115.

### How do the scores fit a description?

Using your child's mean SAS score, you can interpret them as follows:

Very high ability	127 or above
Above average ability	112 - 126
Average ability	89 - 111
Below average ability	74 - 88
Very low ability	Below 74

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